

USING THE KEYS

Two main keys are given below, one for the genera LOCUSTELLA and ACROCEPHALUS combined, the other for the genus HIPPOLAIS. Before using them it is therefore necessary to be sure to which genus one's bird belongs, and to facilitate this decision an introductory key to all the genera has been provided. It will also help the user if he bears in mind that *in general* the tail is much more rounded in LOCUSTELLA than in the streaked ACROCEPHALI (though *melanopogon* is an exception); and that the tail is almost square in most HIPPOLAIS. The monotypic genera LUSCINIOLA and PHRAGAMATICOLA are here included with ACROCEPHALUS (see p. 9).

Because the plumage differences between species, in many cases, are less marked than the variations within species due to age or season, geographical distribution and even individual variation, it has been necessary to base the keys primarily on structural characters, particularly wing-formula. In some cases the distinctions are very fine, and always the greatest possible care must be taken in measuring. Even so there are undoubtedly a few cases (e.g. young REED- and MARSH-WARBLERS, perhaps small GRASSHOPPER- and large LANCEOLATED WARBLERS) for which the keys will not work.

Because of the fine degrees of difference usually involved I have often cited several characters (in order of usefulness) where such exist; nevertheless, it is necessary to warn the user that *no bird should be determined from the keys alone*. When an opinion has been formed on the basis of the keys, the user must turn to the appropriate species in the text and check the result against the wider range of information available there.

KFY to the genera CETTIA, LOCUSTELLA, ACROCEPHALUS and HIPPOLAIS

A. Tail with ten rectrices	.. .. .	CETTIA
B. Tail with twelve rectrices		
B.1 Upper parts streaked or mottled		
No head-pattern, supercilium indistinct	.. .. .	LOCUSTELLA
Pronounced head-pattern, supercilium well-marked	.. .. .	ACROCEPHALUS
B.2 Upper parts uniformly some shade of brown or olive		
Outer and penultimate rectrices with white spots	., .. .	HIPPOLAIS
Outer and penultimate rectrices without white spots		
Bend of wing with yellow	.. .. .	HIPPOLAIS
Bend of wing without yellow	.. .. .	ACROCEPHALUS

KEY to the genera LOCUSTELLA and ACROCEPHALUS

A. Uniformly dark-brown or olive-brown upper parts			
3rd-4th (sometimes also 5th) pp. emarginate			
Wing longer than 70			
Bill slender, 22-25, 1st p. minute; tail 84-96% of wing-length	..	..	<i>stentoreus</i> races
Bill robust, 17-20; 1st p. very long; tail 102-114% of wing-length	..	..	<i>aedon</i>
Wing shorter than 70			
Supercilium slight; notch inner web 3rd p. = 8th/10th	..	..	<i>dumetorum</i>
Supercilium prominent; notch inner web 3rd p. = ss. tips			
2nd p. = 5th/8th; 6th p. not emarginate	..	..	<i>agricola</i>
2nd p. = 8th/10th; 6th p. sometimes emarginate	..	..	<i>concinens</i>
3rd p. only emarginate			
Wing longer than 75			
Throat feathers with pale brown streaks			
Notch inner web 2nd p. = 6th/8th; legs brownish	..	..	<i>arundinaceus</i> , <i>zarudnyi</i>
Notch inner web 2nd p. = 8th/ss. tips; legs bluish-grey	..	..	<i>orientalis</i>
Throat feathers without brown streaks			
Tail markedly rounded, 22-25	..	..	<i>fasciolata</i>
Tail slightly rounded, 5-9	..	..	<i>griseldis</i>
Wing shorter than 75			
2nd p. = 5th/6th	..	..	<i>pleskei</i>
2nd p. = 3rd/5th			
Notch inner web 2nd p. higher than 8th	..	..	<i>scirpaceus</i> , <i>fuscus</i>
Notch inner web 2nd p. lower than 8th	..	..	<i>palustris</i>
pp. not emarginate			
Under tail-coverts buff-brown tipped white; throat mottled dark brown	..	..	<i>fluviatilis</i>
Under tail-coverts whitish tipped buff; throat uniformly white	..	..	<i>luscinioides</i> , <i>fusca</i>

B. Streaked or mottled blackish-brown on upper parts		
3rd-6th pp. emarginate, 1st p. at least 5 + p.c.		
Mantle rufous-brown	.. .. .	<i>melanopogon</i>
Mantle olive-brown	.. .. .	<i>nimica</i>
3rd-5th pp. emarginate; 1st p. less than 5 + p.c.; black 'eye-brow'		
Mantle yellowish-brown, streaked as head and nape	.. .. .	<i>sorgophilus</i>
Mantle dark olive-brown, not streaked as head and nape		
Tail 81-96% of wing-length	.. .. .	<i>bistrigicep</i>
Tail 94-106% of wing-length	.. .. .	<i>tangorum</i>
3rd (sometimes also 4th) pp. emarginate		
Supercilium prominent, creamy or buff		
Crown with buffish median band	.. .. .	<i>paludicola</i>
Crown without buffish band	.. .. .	<i>schoenobaenus</i>
Supercilium indistinct or absent		
Mantle with obscure dark mottling	.. .. .	<i>ochotensis</i>
Mantle with prominent dark streaking		
Tail with white spots; rump rufous	.. .. .	<i>certhiola races</i>
Tail without white spots; rump brown		
Mantle olive-brown to grey-brown; tail well rounded, 16-21; wing under 60	.. .. .	<i>straminea</i>
Mantle dark olive-brown		
2nd p. 6-9 less than wing-point; wing usually under 60	.. .. .	<i>lanceolata</i>
2nd p. 10-12 less than wing-point; wing usually over 60	.. .. .	<i>naevia</i>

KEY to the genus HIPPOLAIS

- A. Outer and penultimate tail-feathers with white tips; no yellow at bend of wing
- pp. 3rd-4th emarginate
- 2nd p. = 4th/5th; notch on inner web 2nd p. = 8th/10th; wing 82-90. *olivetorum*
- 2nd p. = 5th/7th; notch on inner web 2nd p. falls below ss. tips; wing 72-79. *languida*
- pp. 3rd-5th emarginate
- Bill strong, 15-19; wing 62-72.
- 2nd p. = 6th/7th, bill-width at nostrils 4-5½ *elaieca, pallida*
- 2nd p. = 7th/8th, bill-width at nostrils 5-6½ *opaca*
- Bill weak, 12-14; wing 57-64 *caligata, rama*
- B. Outer and penultimate tail-feathers without white tips; yellow at bend of wing
- Tail 65-73% of wing-length; 2nd p. = 3rd/5th; 1st p. less than 3 + p.c. *icterina*
- Tail 74-83% of wing-length; 2nd p. = 6th/8th; 1st p. more than 3 + p.c. *polyglotta*

KEY TO THE GENUS PHYLLOSCOPUS

- A. No wing-bars. Not emarginated 6th p.:
- Rump much yellower than mantle *bonelli* (some),
orientalis
- Rump nearly uniform with mantle:
- Greyish above, whitish below, bright green edges
to wing *bonelli* (1st w.)
- Olive above, some yellow below:
- Supercilium broad, reaching to nape .. *borealis* (worm adults)
- Supercilium narrow, not reaching to nape:
- Tail short, 62-69% of wing; 1st p.—p.c. *sibilatrix*
- Tail long, 72-80% of wing; 1st p.+p.c. *trochilus, acredula*
- Brownish above, whitish suffused buff below *acredula, yakutensis*
- B. No wing-bars. Emarginated 6th p.:
- Upper parts brown without olive, under parts without yellow:
- Brown mantle contrasting with yellow rump *bonelli* (adults)
- No trace of green or yellow in plumage:
- Goldcrest-like, flanks creamy *neglectus*
- Chiffchaff-like, flanks fulvous *fuscatus, weigoldi*
(adults)
- Trace of greenish on lesser coverts:
- Rump more greenish than mantle *tristis*
- Rump uniform with mantle:
- 2nd p.=7th/9th pp. *lorenzii*
- 2nd p.=9th/10th pp. *sindianus*
- Upper parts brown without olive, under parts with yellow:
- Yellow confined to streaks on throat .. *armandii*
- Yellow not in streaks:
- Supercilium orange before, yellow behind
eye; axillaries rusty-buff *griseolus*
- Supercilium whitish before, rusty behind
eye; axillaries fulvous-white *fuscatus, weigoldi*
(1st w.)
- Supercilium uniformly bright yellowish-
buff; axillaries same *subaffinis*
- Supercilium ill-defined, dusky yellowish;
axillaries deep olive tinged yellowish .. *fulgiventor, tibetanus*
(1st w.)
- Upper parts with olive, under parts with yellow or buff:
- Supercilium long, reaching to nape:
- Bill stout; 1st p. 9-14+p.c. *schwarzi*
- Bill long and thin; 1st p. 5-9+p.c. .. *tyleri*

- Supercilium of moderate length:
 Tail over 85% of wing; 2nd p. shorter than
 10th *canariensis, exsul*
 Tail under 85% of wing; 2nd p. = 7th/9th *collybita* (western
 races)
- Tail narrowly bordered white on inner webs
 of 3 outer feathers *affinis*
- C. Single or double wing-bars. Not emarginated 6th p.:
- Upper parts brown, under parts whitish .. *tenellipes* (some)
- Upper parts with olive, under parts with yellow:
- Head-pattern of dark coronal bands with pale
 crown-stripe *coronatus* (some)
- Head darker than mantle but no definite pattern:
- Under parts with a little pale yellow .. *borealis, kennicotti*
 Under parts fairly uniformly bright yellow *xanthodryas*
- D. Single or double wing-bars. Emarginated 6th p.
- Pale yellow edges and tips to tertiaries:
- Head-pattern of dark coronal bands and pale crown-stripe:
- Rump yellower than mantle but not a pronounced band
- Supercilium and face bright yellow .. *subviridis*
 Supercilium and face whitish *mandellii*
- Rump with a pronounced yellow band:
- White in 3 outer tail feathers:
- Wing-bars orange, throat yellow .. *pulcher*
 Wing-bars pale yellow, throat grey .. *maculipennis*
- No white in tail:
- Bright greenish above; golden face; base
 of bill yellow; 2nd p. = 7th/9th pp. .. *proregulus*
- Yellowish-green above; yellowish face;
 2nd p. = 9th/ss. *simlaensis*
- Greyish-green above; pale yellow face;
 base of bill dark *chloronotus*
- No definite head-pattern but sometimes a pale crown-stripe:
- Wing-bars and supercilium yellow .. *inornatus*
 Wing-bars and supercilium buffish-white *humei*
- No pale edges and tips to tertiaries:
- Coronal bands blackish or sooty, crown-stripe and supercilium bright
 yellow:
- Breast and belly uniformly bright yellow *ricketti*
 Breast yellow contrasting with white belly *cantator*

Coronal bands dusky olive, crown-stripe and supercilium pale yellow or whitish:

Single pale yellow wing-bar *coronatus* (some)

Double pale yellow wing-bars:

Outer 2 tail feathers largely white .. *davisoni*

Outer 3 tail feathers edged white on inner webs *reguloides*

Outer 2 tail feathers edged white and a white apical spot on 3rd *occipitalis*

Head darker than mantle but no definite coronal bands etc.:

Upper parts brown, under parts white .. *tenellipes* (some)

Upper parts greenish, under parts with yellow:

2nd p. = 6th/7th *ijimae*

2nd p. = 8th/ss. *trochiloides*

Head uniform with mantle:

Double yellowish wing-bar, 2nd p. = 7th/9th pp. *plumbeitarsus*

Single yellowish wing-bar (perhaps with indication of upper bar in fresh dress):

Bill long and robust, hooked tip; rictal bristles strongly developed *magnirostris*

Bill long and thin, rictal bristles weak .. *tyleri* (rarely)

Bill of moderate size, not hooked:

Bright green above, yellow beneath; 2nd p. = 6th/7th pp. *nitidus*

Greyish-green above, little yellow beneath; 2nd p. = 7th/9th pp. *viridanus*

NOTE: Forms of *Ph. trivirgatus* and *Ph. olivaceus* (islands of S.E. Asia) are not included in this key.

KEY TO THE GENUS SYLVIA

A. Tertiaries *with* contrasting broad rufous or sandy fringes

6th p. emarginate

Middle tail-feathers as tertiaries Desert (p. 38)

Middle tail-feathers *not* as tertiariesWing/tail ratio more than 110 Dartford, Marmora's
(pp. 61, 64)Wing/tail ratio less than 110 Spectacled, Tristram's
(pp. 55, 58)6th p. *not* emarginate Common Whitethroat
(p. 18)B. Tertiaries *without* contrasting broad rufous or sandy fringes

7th p. emarginate Arabian (p. 36)

7th p. *not* emarginate

Sides and flanks orange-buff to terracotta

Notch on inner web 2nd. p. falls opposite
9th-10th pp. Subalpine (p. 50)Notch on inner web 2nd p. falls well below
ss. tips Ménétries's (p. 49)Sides and flanks *not* orange-buff to terracotta

1st p. shorter than p.c.

Under tail-coverts barred Barred (p. 30)

Under tail-coverts *not* barred

Crown with some black Rüppell's (p. 42)

Crown entirely without black Garden (p. 15)

1st p. longer than p.c.

Without white in tail Blackcap (p. 10)

With white in tail

Wing well over 70 mm. Orphean (p. 32)

Wing well under 70 mm.

Throat mottled with black Cyprus (p. 43)

Throat *not* mottled with blackLegs bluish or lead, tail rounded
5-8 Lesser Whitethroat
(p. 24)

Legs brownish or flesh, tail rounded

9-14 Sardinian, Ménétries's
(pp. 45, 49)