

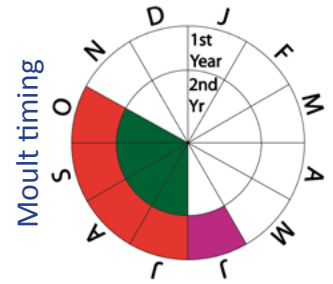
American Bushtit

Psaltriparus minimus

Account #: 7430



Species code: BUSH
 Band size: OA
 Skull: 15 Aug (Dark skin may impede viewing)
 Pyle: p349
 Sibley: p379



Moult

Juvenile	95%
Formative	50%
Basic	5%
Alternate	

likelihood moulted

10 primaries
 (10th reduced)
 9 secondaries
 12 tail feathers

Formative



Definitive Basic



Sexing

Juvenile ★☆☆☆☆ Formative ★★★★★ Basic ★★★★★

Birds exhibiting black in the face may be sexed as males. All juveniles of *dimorphicus* & some *plumbeus* subspecies can be sexed as male if there is black in the face.

Iris colour

Iris colour is initially dark in both sexes. After the preformative moult all females have a pale iris. Thus, males cannot be positively identified before.



Dark = male or female before formative plumage. In formative and after, dark = male.



Pale = female in all plumages. Colour may vary between white, grey and lemon yellow

Ageing

♀ ★☆☆☆☆

♂ ★☆☆☆☆

No differences are known between formative and definitive basic plumages. Some suggest that the size and shape of the 10th primary can be used to separate juvenile plumage from subsequent plumages. This needs further study.

P10 length & Shape

Shape

P10 is more rounded in juveniles.



11.5-14 mm

Formative/Basic



8 to 12 mm

Length

Distance from tip of the primary coverts to the tip of P10 is greater in juveniles

a Bird in the Hand.org

References: Pyle 1997.
 Images: David Hodkinson.

