



Species account key

Quick reference section:

Important information for use in the field.
Skull = Earliest date of full skull ossification.
Page numbers for the primary regional ageing and sexing reference guide and popular regional bird watching guides.

Moult legend:

Each colour represents a different plumage cycle with darker colour shades indicating a greater probability of the feather or tract being included in the preceding moult.

Ageing and sexing summaries:

An overview of the when, how and the reliability of the best available features.

Ageing and sexing features

Focussed on just the most reliable features and where necessary the most useful features.

Ageing stars:

An estimate of the difficulty of determining age for different sexes. More stars = Easier.

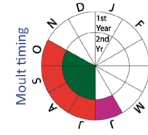
American Bushtit

Psaltriparus minimus

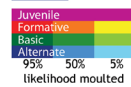
Account #: 7430



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

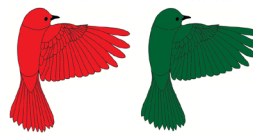


Moult



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

Formative ♂☆☆☆☆☆
Formative ♀☆☆☆☆☆
Definitive Basic ♂☆☆☆☆☆
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

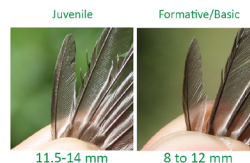
♀ ★☆☆☆☆

♂ ★☆☆☆☆

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

8 to 12 mm

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



Species #:

A proxy for page number, use in the field to organise your species accounts.

Moult timing:

The range of possible timings of each moult during the first two years of a bird's life.

Moult stars:

An estimate of the difficulty of differentiating the feathers resulting from the previous moult from previous plumages. More stars = Easier.

Moult diagrams:

Illustrates all the different plumage generations which contribute to the current plumage and the extensiveness of the preceding moult.

Sexing stars:

An estimate of the difficulty of determining the sex for different plumages. More stars = Easier.