

# 06610 Black-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles orientalis*)



Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Adult. Male (28-VI)  
(Photo: Arnau Guardia Povedano).

## IDENTIFICATION

33-35 cm. **Male** with grey upperparts mottled with yellow; grey head and neck; throat reddish-chesnut; wing coverts rufous with yellowish edges. **Female** with dark barred buff upperparts; yellowish head and neck, with black transverse stripes; rufus wing coverts with dark edging. Both sexes have black belly.

## SIMILAR ESPECIES

Rather similar to Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, which has white underparts.



Photo: Jean-Claude Qualité.

## SEXING

In **adults**, **male** with grey head and breast; throat and face with an orange patch, with a narrow black bar across lower throat; upperparts grey, with large yellow-buff patches; lesser and median wing coverts grey with yellow patches; greater coverts golden-yellow; primaries and primary covers blue-grey. **Female** with head, neck and breast pale buff, with dark mottling; throat cream, with a narrow black bar across lower throat; upperparts buff with brownish black barring; lesser and median coverts buff, barred and spotted brown-black, barred at tips of feathers V-shaped; greater coverts golden-yellow on the outer web; primaries and primary covers brown-grey.

## AGEING

3 age groups can be recognised:

**Juvenile** resembles **female**, but with fresh plumage; grey primaries and primary coverts with rufous-buff edges vermiculated black.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** similar to **adult**, but with some outermost **juvenile** primaries and their primary coverts unmoulted; retained primaries more bleached and worn than the neighbouring feathers; retained primary coverts light-tipped.

**Adults** with pattern described in **SEXING**; all wing feathers of a single generation, without moult limits; primary coverts not distinctly tipped.

## MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Quite complete **postjuvenile** moult, including all feathers except some outermost primaries and their primary coverts; usually finished in October.

## PHENOLOGY

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

■ Summer  
■ Winter

■ Resident  
■ On passage



Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Adult. Female (20-VII)  
(Photo: Arnau Guardia Povedano).

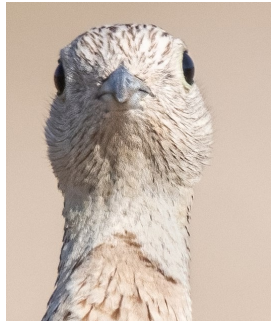
**06610 Black-bellied Sandgrouse** (*Pterocles orientalis*)



Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Adult. Head pattern: top male (28-VI); bottom female (20-VII) (Photos: Arnau Guardia Povedano).



Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Adult. Breast pattern: top left male (28-VI); top right female (20-VII) (Photos: Arnau Guardia Povedano); left juvenile (Photo Uge Fuertes).



Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Adult. Chin pattern: left male (28-VI); right female (20-VII) (Photos: Arnau Guardia Povedano).



Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Adult. Pattern of upperparts and wing coverts: top male (28-VI); bottom female (20-VII) (Photos: Arnau Guardia Povedano).

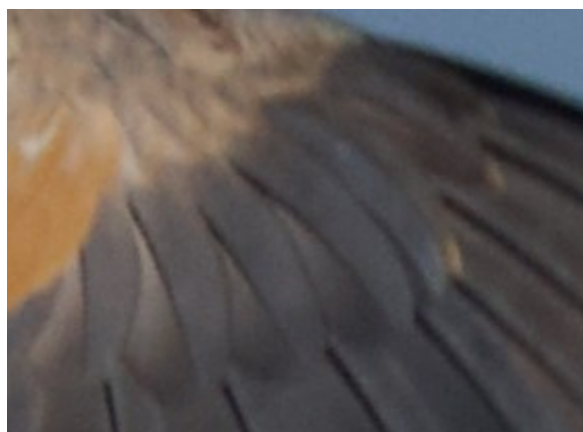
**06610 Black-bellied Sandgrouse** (*Pterocles orientalis*)



Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Adult. Male: pattern of primary coverts (25-X) (Photo Uge Fuertes).



Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Adult in active moult. Female: pattern of primary coverts (06-VIII).



Black-bellied Sandgrouse. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primary coverts (06-VIII) (Photo: Eduard Villar Leonard).



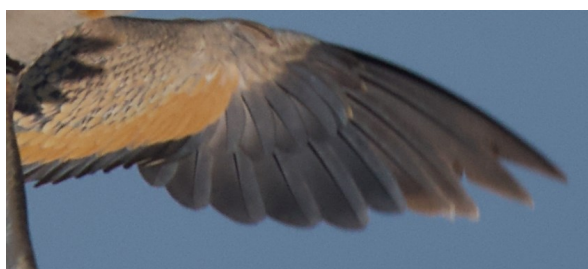
Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (25-X) (Photo: Álvaro Gajón Bazán).



Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Adult. Male: wing pattern (25-X) (Photo Uge Fuertes).



Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Adult in active moult. Female: wing pattern (06-VIII).



Black-bellied Sandgrouse. 2nd year. Male: wing pattern (06-VIII) (Photo: Eduard Villar Leonard).



Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Juvenile: wing pattern (25-X) (Photo Uge Fuertes).