

Fred Tomaselli
Guide for Spring Molt and Courtship Display

Requires: 3 double-sided sheets

OLD WORLD WARBLERS

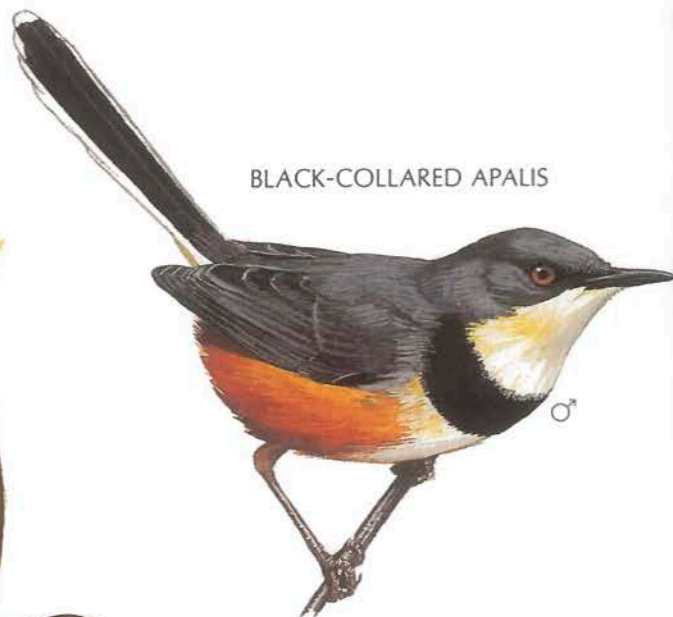
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ASHY PRINIA



winter



BLACK-COLLARED APALIS

♂



MOUSTACHED GRASS-WARBLER

♂



LONG-TAILED TAILORBIRD

♂ at nest

race brachyura
"Green-backed
Camaroptera"



BLEATING CAMAROPTERA

race brevicaudata
"Gray-backed
Camaroptera"



race brachyura



YELLOW-BELLIED
EREMOMELA



SOUTHERN TIT-WARBLER



race carnapi

NORTHERN CROMBEC

FRED TOMASELLI GUIDE FOR SPRING MOLT AND COURTSHIP DISPLAY

OLD WORLD WARBLERS

1/ ASHY PRINIA

Prinia socialis

RANGE: Indian subcontinent and W Burma
HABITAT: scrub, grassland, grain fields, open forest, reedbeds, stream banks, mangroves
SIZE: 5 in (12.5 cm)

This long-tailed bird is a common sight in the scrublands of southern Asia, where it can be found on hills up to 4,000 ft (1,200 m). Its range of habitats is typical of the tropical prinias.

It is a very nervous bird and, when seen, it is usually hopping restlessly through the foliage cocking its tail. It feeds on insects gleaned from low vegetation and also takes nectar from flowers.

In the northern race *P.s. stewarti*, there is a marked difference between summer and winter plumages, and the tail is longer in winter.

The purselike nest is built in a bush and the 3–5 eggs are incubated by both adults for 12 days.

2/ BLACK-COLLARED APALIS

Apalis pulchra

RANGE: Africa, from Cameroon to Sudan and Kenya
HABITAT: undergrowth in highland forest
SIZE: 5 in (12.5 cm)

The *Apalis* warblers are mainly forest-dwellers of slender build with long, thin, graduated tails and gray, green or brown plumage.

The Black-collared Apalis is a noisy, lively resident of mountain and upland forests in central Africa. In areas where it is common, it can often be seen sidling up and down plant stems with its tail cocked up and wagging from side to side. It feeds mainly on insects picked out of the ground vegetation. The male has a brief, warbling song.

This species occasionally adopts the nests of other birds but, if it has to, it will build a purse-shaped nest of its own, using moss and lichens with a lining of soft feathers.

3/ BLEATING CAMAROPTERA

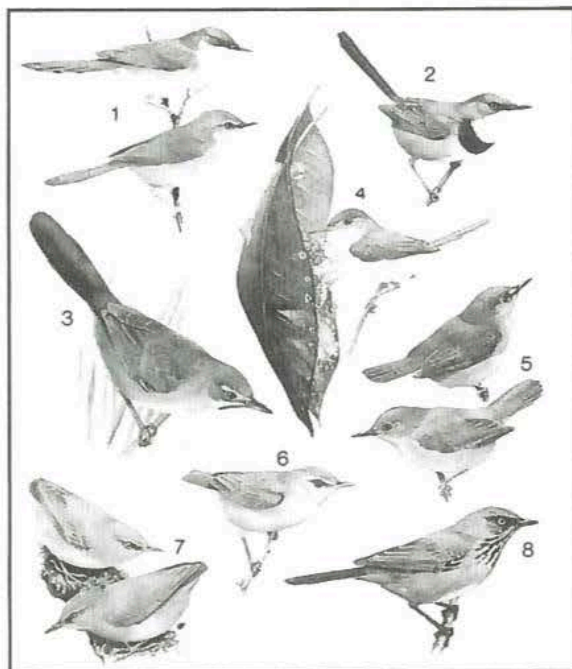
Camaroptera brachyura

RANGE: sub-Saharan Africa
HABITAT: woodland thickets, forest edge, riverine bush, parks, gardens
SIZE: 5 in (12.5 cm)

Of the half dozen or so camaropteras found in Africa, this is the most common. There are 2 groups: a green-backed group of races, including *C.b. brachyura*, which occurs mostly down the eastern edge of Africa, from Kenya south to South Africa, and a gray-backed group, *C.b. brevicaudata*, which is widespread elsewhere. This is often regarded as a separate species, the Gray-backed Camaroptera *C. brevicaudata*. The green-backed birds prefer moist evergreen forests, whereas the gray-backed ones favor dry thornveld and open broad-leaved woodlands.

Skulking by habit, these birds are not always easy to see as they forage among the vegetation, but their alarm call is quite distinctive, like the bleating of a lamb. Another equally curious call sounds like stones being tapped together.

Its soft, downy nest is made within a frame formed from the broad leaves of a single twig or spray, with more leaves added to make a roof.



4/ LONG-TAILED TAILORBIRD

Orthotomus sutorius

RANGE: Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia to Java, S China; up to 5,250 ft (1,600 m) in Southeast Asia
HABITAT: thickets, scrub, bamboo, gardens
SIZE: 4¾ in (12 cm); breeding male 6 in (15.5 cm)

Widespread and familiar throughout southern Asia, the Long-tailed Tailorbird is often seen hopping about in bushes and around verandas in search of insects and spiders. It has a habit of carrying its tail high over its back and jerking it up and down. The tail is usually longest in the breeding male.

Its name is derived from its astonishing nest-building technique. Taking 1 or 2 large leaves on a low bush or branch, it uses its bill as a needle to perforate the edges and sew them together using individual stitches of cottony plant material or the silk from spiders' webs or insect cocoons. The nest itself, made of soft plant fibers, is formed inside this pocket. The 2–3 eggs are incubated by both of the parents.

5/ MOUSTACHED GRASS-WARBLER

Melocichla mentalis

RANGE: From W Africa to Ethiopia in the N, down to Angola and across to Zambezi River in the S
HABITAT: edges of mountain evergreen forest with coarse grass and scattered trees, marshy land along streams
SIZE: 7–8 in (18–20 cm)

This is a stoutly built species which looks more like a bulbul (pp. 250–53) than a warbler. Only the male sports the black cheek stripe that gives the species its name.

Its alarm note is a rasping call, but the male has an attractive, thrushlike song and will sometimes sing or sunbathe on top of a tuft of grass. In general, though, it is a solitary, stealthy species which often skulks behind vegetation. It feeds mainly on insects, especially grasshoppers and beetles. It lays 2 pinkish-white eggs, marbled with red, in a bowl-shaped nest built in a tussock.

GUIDE FOR SPRING MOLT and COURTSHIP DISPLAY

You will need a sharp #1 X-acto knife, a thin cutting surface, and some clear glue.

- 1/ Slip the cutting surface between the bird page and the outerwear page.
- 2/ Carefully cut out the birds but leave all parts of the legs and vegetation intact.
- 3/ Leftover bird bodies can be glued onto the template on the back of the outerwear page.

Or for gallery installation only, pin the excess birds to the wall. Multicolored map pins have been provided - use any color of pin that is desired.

- 1/ Pin the first page of the leftover birds onto a wall in the exact positions dictated by the template. Using two map pins per bird, insert one through the eye and the other through the tail.
- 2/ As more bird bodies are generated, pin them to the wall with their heads pointed towards the center and tails radiating outwards. Crowd them as much as possible, with birds touching each other but not overlapping.
- 3/ Try to keep the resulting accumulation of birds in a roughly circular format.
- 4/ The accumulation will grow to its final size on the last day of the exhibition.

6/ YELLOW-BELLIED EREMOMELA

Eremomela icteropygialis

RANGE: Africa from Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia S through Kenya and Tanzania to Zimbabwe and Transvaal
HABITAT: woodland, bushveld, scrub
SIZE: 4–4½ in (10–11 cm)

This pert, short-tailed warbler is common in many parts of its range, although in dry areas it tends to be nomadic. It is usually seen in pairs or family parties, busily seeking insects among the twigs and branches of trees, especially acacias.

Its nest is a thin-walled cup of dry grass, bound together with spiders' silk and sited in a bush. The hen bird usually lays a clutch of 2–3 white, chocolate-spotted eggs.

7/ NORTHERN CROMBEC

Sylvietta brachyura

RANGE: widespread across the S Sahel zone from Senegal in the W to Somalia in the E; thence through Uganda and Kenya to Tanzania
HABITAT: acacia woodland, dry scrub, coastal bush
SIZE: 3½ in (9 cm)

The Northern Crombec is a plump little warbler with an extremely short tail. Its habit of running along branches and climbing through the foliage of thorn trees in search of insects has earned it the alternative name Nuthatch Warbler.

Usually seen in pairs, they are common birds in many parts of Africa. The Northern Crombec is one of 9 species of crombec, all African. There are about 6 races. In contrast to the others, such as *S. b. brachyura* of Senegal to Ethiopia, *S. b. carnapi* of Cameroon and Central African Republic has distinctive chestnut underparts.

Charcoal Heather

Red

Black

NEW

Snow cuffs

Waterproof/
breathable
insert

FRED TOMMASI, GUIDE FOR SPRING MOLL AND COURTSHIP DISPLAY

Chili

New! Cobalt

New! Sunburst

Red

Dart

Sun
Orange

Classic Navy

Sun Orange

Charcoal Heather

Red

Black

Coba



