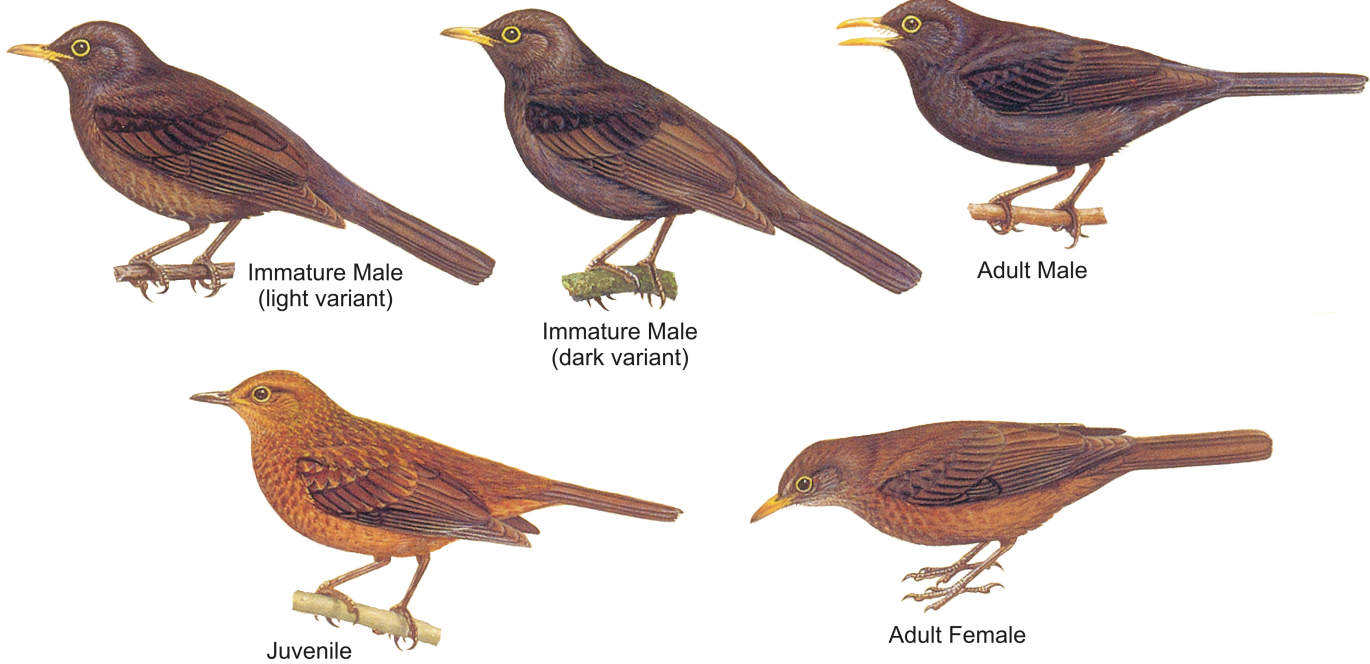


Common Blackbird *Turdus merula* **Species No.: 991** **Band size: 06**



Morphometrics:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
THL:	51.0 – 55.3 mm	51.6 – 54.2 mm
Wing:	126 – 132 mm	118 – 119 mm
Tail:	103 – 110 mm	92 – 107 mm
Weight:	80.5 – 120 g	87.5 – 110.5 g

Ageing:

	Adult Male (2+)	Adult Female (2+)	Immature (2-) or (1)	Juvenile (J)
Bill:	yellow;	yellowish-brown;	yellow with dark tip;	blackish or dark grey;
Upperparts:	black;	greyish-brown tinged olive, tail brown;	male – dark brown; female – as for adult;	rufous-brown;
Underparts:	black;	dirty rufous, streaked with brown;	male – brown, dark brown to black; female – as for adult;	rufous, mottled with buff rosethorns
Secondary coverts	black;	dark brown;	inner – dark brown, outer – brown;	rufous-brown;

Juveniles undergo a partial moult within the first few months of fledging; Immatures retain the outer 2–5 juvenile rufous-brown greater secondary coverts, sometimes with remnants of worn buff rosethorn tips and the replaced greater secondary coverts are dark brown; Moult to full adult plumage commences when the bird is about 1 year old and is completed over the next several months. Thus adult plumaged birds are at least well into their second year and should thus be aged (2+)

Sexing :

See descriptions in Ageing above;
Immatures and adults are sexually dimorphic on plumage and males average larger than females;
Female alone incubates.