

Iberian Grey Shrike (Lanius meridionalis)

Size: Body length, 24 - 25 cm Weight: 48 - 93 g Habitat: Dry, warm, sunny lowlands

Surviving number: Estimated at 744,300 - 1,312,300 mature individuals



Photographed by Eduardo Blanco

WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

A warning or a gift? Both aims are achieved when the Iberian grey shrike impales prey on thorns or barbed wire. These grim displays mark territory and are also a pair bonding gift from the male to the female. Once their chicks have hatched, both parents hunt to provide for the family, searching out insects and small vertebrates like lizards and mice. But agricultural development is removing the trees and shrubs it needs, while also introducing herbicides and pesticides, which kill the shrike's main prey.

As Canon sees it, images have the power to raise awareness of the threats facing endangered species and the natural environment, helping us make the world a better place.



