

268 Eagle Owl

Eagle Owl. Adult (02-VIII).

EAGLE OWL (*Bubo bubo*)**IDENTIFICATION**

66-71 cm. Buff plumage, streaked dark; brown wings with buff transversal streaks; white throat; dark bill; feathered legs; orange eyes and long ear-tufts.



Eagle Owl. Pattern of head and wing.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**

This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. **Females** usually bigger than **males**, but wing length is not an useful character due to overlap.

AGEING

5 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile without moult limits on wings and tail; primary coverts orange with three/five blackish bars, the last near the tip; primaries dark brown or blackish on the tip, which is pointed, with the last bar near the tip; central secondaries with the last blackish bar near the tip; tertials with bars arrow shape reaching both sides of the feather; central tail feathers with bars reaching both sides of the feather; outermost tail feathers with blackish bar near the tip.

2nd year autumn/3rd year spring with **juvenile** flight feathers, but with some primaries or secondaries changed contrasting with worn neighbors (**CAUTION:** some birds moult only tertials); usually is changed only the central pair of tail feathers but sometimes are moulted more feathers.

3rd year autumn/4th year spring have moulted 2/3 outer primaries with their primary coverts and most of the secondaries (sometimes 1 or 2 juveniles still retained), so there are one generation of juvenile feathers and two with adult pattern.

4th year autumn moult all juvenile feathers so only can be recognized meanwhile these remain unmoulted.

Adult with several generation of feathers, but all with adult pattern; primary coverts dark, usually with no distinct transversal bars, the last far from the tip; primaries dark on the tip with the last bar far from the tip, which is square shaped; central secondaries with the last blackish bar far from the tip; tertials with incomplete bars no reaching both sides of feather; central tail feathers have some incomplete bars no reaching both sides of feathers; outermost tail feathers with blackish bar far from tip.

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Eagle Owl. Ageing. Pattern of primary coverts: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Eagle Owl. Ageing. Pattern of secondaries: left adult; right juvenile.



Eagle Owl. Ageing. Pattern of primaries: top adult; bottom juvenile.

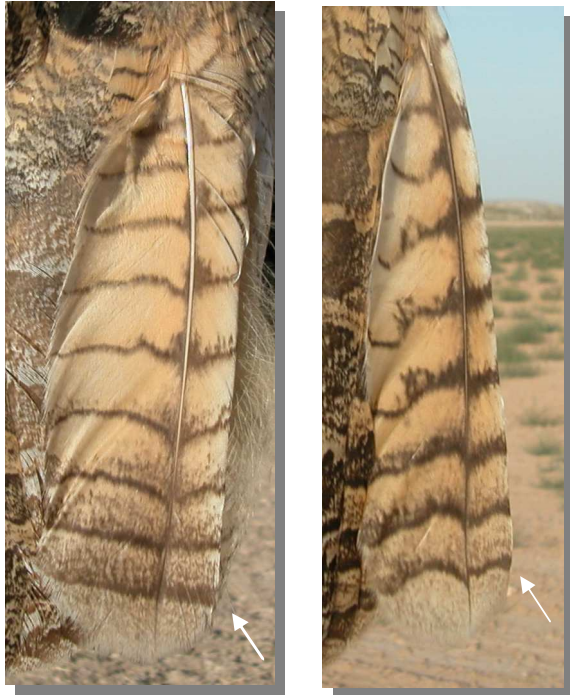


Eagle Owl. Ageing. Pattern of central tailfeather: left adult; right juvenile.



Eagle Owl. Ageing. Pattern of tertials: left adult; right juvenile.

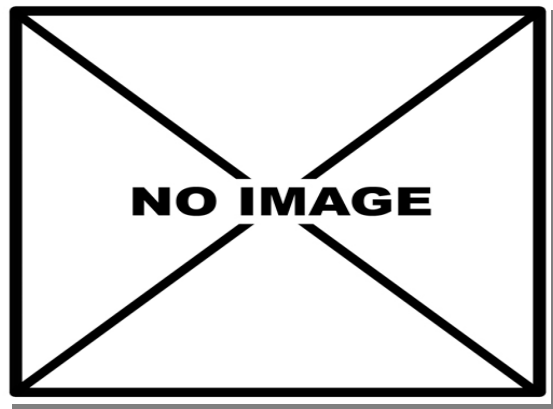
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Eagle Owl. Ageing. Pattern of the outermost tailfeather: left adult; right juvenile.



Eagle Owl. 4th year autumn oño (12-X).



Eagle Owl. 3rd year autumn ().

MOULT

Partial **postbreeding** moult, changing each year part of body feathers and wing coverts; it is necessary between 6-12 years to moult all flight feathers changing 5-9 by year; moult period is between June to October. **Postjuvenile** moult takes place during 4 years; body feathers and part of wing coverts are changed in their first year, but no primary coverts and tail and flight feathers; in their second year are moulted three central secondaries and the central tail feathers; in their third year change 2-3 primaries with their primary coverts; in their fourth year all juvenile feathers are changed.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident, scarcely distributed throughout the Region

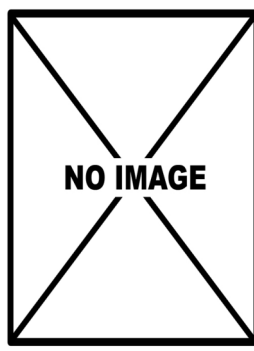


Eagle Owl. 2nd year autumn (18-X).

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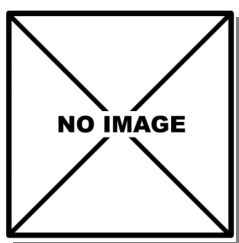
Eagle Owl. Juvenile (10-VIII).



Eagle Owl. Breast pattern: top left 3rd year autumn (); top right 2nd year autumn (18-X); left juvenile (10-VIII).



Eagle Owl. Head pattern: left adult (02-VIII); right 4th year autumn (12-X).



Eagle Owl. Head pattern: top left 3rd year autumn (); top right 2nd year autumn (18-X); left juvenile (10-VIII).

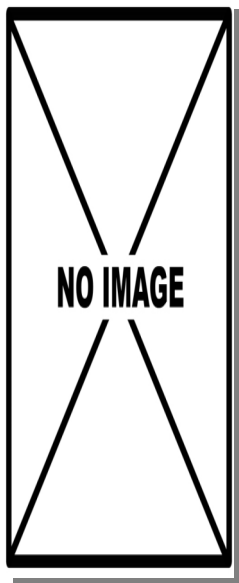


Eagle Owl. Upperpart pattern: left adult (02-VIII); right 4th year autumn (12-X).



Eagle Owl. Breast pattern: left adult (02-VIII); right 4th year autumn (12-X).

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Eagle Owl. 4th year autumn: pattern of tail (12-X).



Eagle Owl. Upperpart pattern: top left 3rd year autumn (); top right 2nd year autumn (18-X); left juvenile (10-VIII).



Eagle Owl. 3rd year autumn: pattern of tail (03-XI).



Eagle Owl. Adult: pattern of tail (10-X).



Eagle Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of tail (1 juvenile feather; 2 feathers with adult pattern) (18-X)

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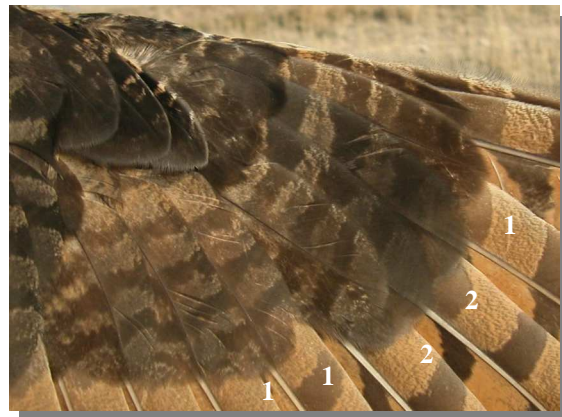
Eagle Owl. Juvenile: pattern of tail (10-VIII).



Eagle Owl. 3rd year autumn: pattern of primary coverts (1 juvenile feathers; 2 adult feathers)(10-X).



Eagle Owl. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (02-VIII).



Eagle Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of primary coverts (1 juvenile feathers; 2 adult feathers) (18-X).



Eagle Owl. 4th year autumn: pattern of primary coverts (1 juvenile feather) (12-X).



Eagle Owl. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (10-VIII).

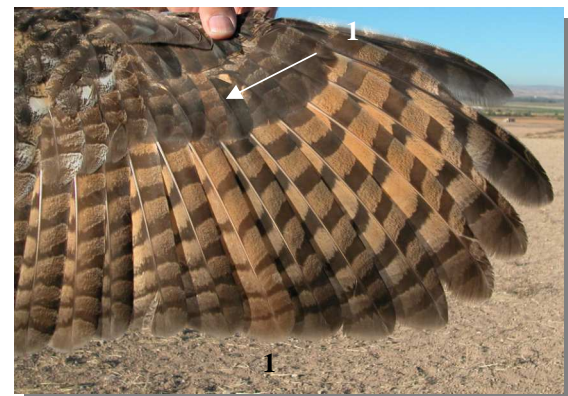
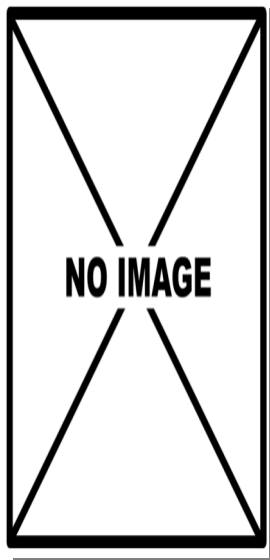
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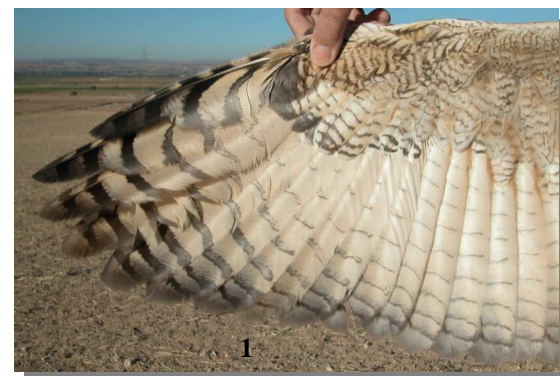
Eagle Owl. Pattern of tertials: left adult (02-VIII); right 4th year autumn (12-X).



Eagle Owl. Adult: pattern of primaries (04-XII).

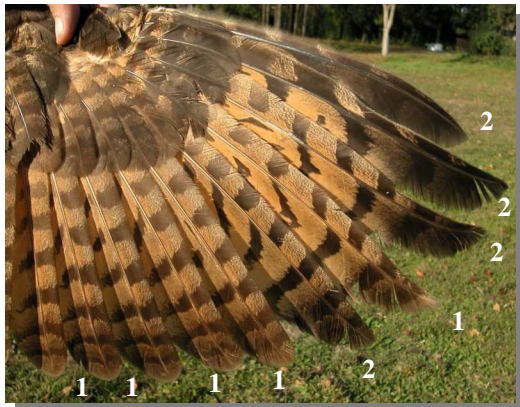


Eagle Owl. Pattern of tertials: top left 3rd year autumn (); top right 2nd year autumn (18-X); left juvenile (10-VIII).



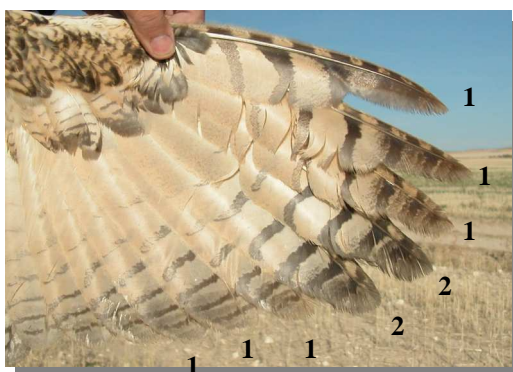
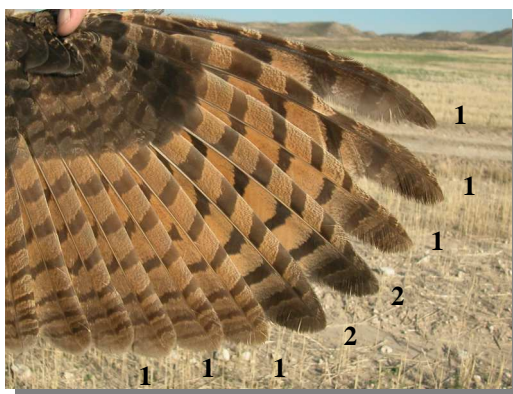
Eagle Owl. 4th year autumn: pattern of primaries (1 juvenile feather) (12-X).

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Eagle Owl. 3rd year autumn: pattern of primaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 adult feathers) (10-X).

Eagle Owl. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (10-VIII).



Eagle Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of primaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 adult feathers) (18-X).

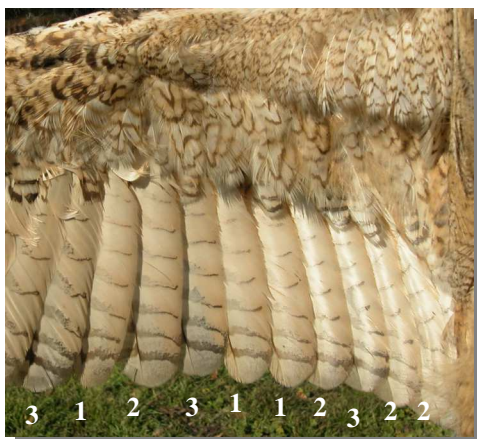
Eagle Owl. Adult: pattern of secondaries (04-XII).

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Eagle Owl. 4th year autumn: pattern of secondaries (all feathers with adult pattern) (12-X).

Eagle Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of secondaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 adult feathers) (18-X).



Eagle Owl. 3rd year autumn: pattern of secondaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers; 3 adult feathers)(03-XI).

Eagle Owl. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (10-VIII).

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Eagle Owl. Adult: pattern of wing (04-XII).

Eagle Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of wing (2 adult feathers) (18-X).



Eagle Owl. 4th year autumn: pattern of wing (1 juvenile feather) (12-X).

Eagle Owl. Juvenile: pattern of wing (10-VIII).



Eagle Owl. 3rd year autumn: pattern of wing (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers; 3 adult feathers) (03-XI).