

126 Golden Eagle



Golden Eagle. Adult (12-XI).

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

IDENTIFICATION

76-89 cm. **Adult** with dark brown plumage; golden colour on head and nape; tail with transversal bands. **Juveniles** with white base on primaries and secondaries; white tail with dark terminal band.



Golden Eagle. Adult.
Pattern of head and tail.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

In **adult** birds, **male** usually with darker throat, nape and underparts than **female**, which is bigger: **male** with wing shorter than 595 mm; **female** with wing longer than 630 mm. **Juvenile** with plumage of both sexes alike.

AGEING

6 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh plumage; brown lesser coverts; pointed flight feathers; inner part of central primaries and in some secondaries white on underwing (**CAUTION**): no all specimens show this character); tail always white with a dark terminal band; dark underparts and underwing coverts; dark brown iris.

2nd year autumn/3rd year spring with limit between retained and moulted lesser coverts; most or all the greater coverts worn; three to five inner primaries moulted contrasting with neighbors; moulted only one or two, sometimes none, secondaries; usually moulted the central pair of tail feathers; juvenile underparts with some fresh buff feathers; juvenile underwing coverts; dark brown iris.

3rd year autumn/4th year spring with fresh and dark lesser and median coverts; with some pale retained feather; greater coverts with admixed fresh and old feathers related with changed or retained secondaries; juvenile outermost primaries; secondaries with two moult centres, fresh feathers with greyish base and dark tip; underparts paler on breast; lesser and median underwing coverts buff contrasting with darker greater underwing coverts; most of tail feathers have been moulted but new ones have juvenile pattern, pale with terminal dark band; pale brown iris.

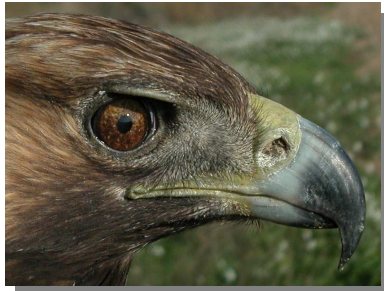
4th year autumn/5th year spring with worn lesser and median coverts; fresh central greater coverts; some juvenile central secondaries and outer primaries, very worn, can be retained; if white colour underwing there are two white patches between new primaries with adult pattern; tail with juvenile pattern, whitish with dark terminal band, although some 3rd generation feather can show barred pattern.

5th year autumn/6th year spring with fresh lesser and median coverts; worn central greater coverts; flight feathers with three generations or four in birds with moulted secondaries; if white patches on underwing are confined to base of some primaries and secondaries; black and white tail feathers, with dark barred in terminal band.

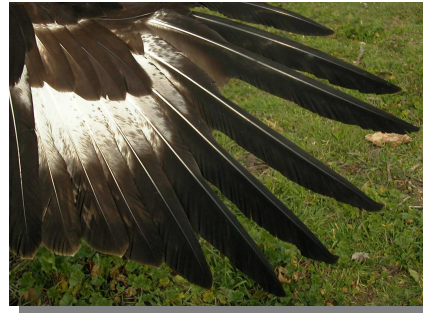
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Adult with grey flight feathers with broad subterminal band and barred base; without white patches on underwing and tail; amber or pale brown iris. **CAUTION:** some adults have white patches on underwing and tail during several moults.



Golden Eagle. Ageing. Colour of iris: top adult; bottom juvenile.



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



Golden Eagle. Ageing. Pattern of tail feathers: left adult; right juvenile.



Golden Eagle. Ageing. Pattern of tops of secondaries: top adult; bottom juvenile.

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MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, spending two years in change all body and flight feathers; moult period is between March and October. Duration of **postjuvenile** moult is 4 to 5 years; body feathers, three or four inner primaries, some tertials and tail feathers are partially moulted in **2nd year**; half of secondaries, tail feathers and median primaries are moulted in **3rd year**; outermost primaries and rest of secondaries are moulted in **4th year**, although outermost primary and some median secondaries can be retained; moult period is between April and November.



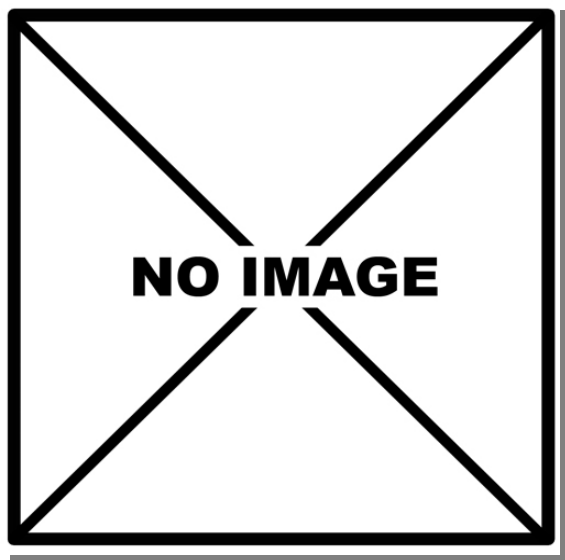
Golden Eagle. 4th year autumn (28-XII).

PHENOLOGY

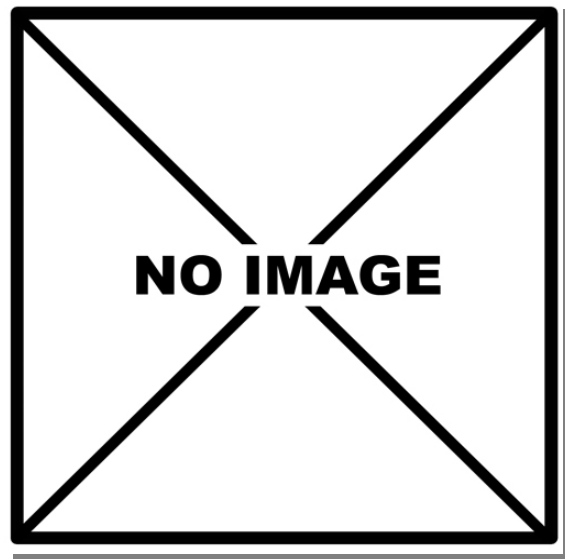
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident. Widely distributed throughout the Region, absent only from areas without right places to nest.

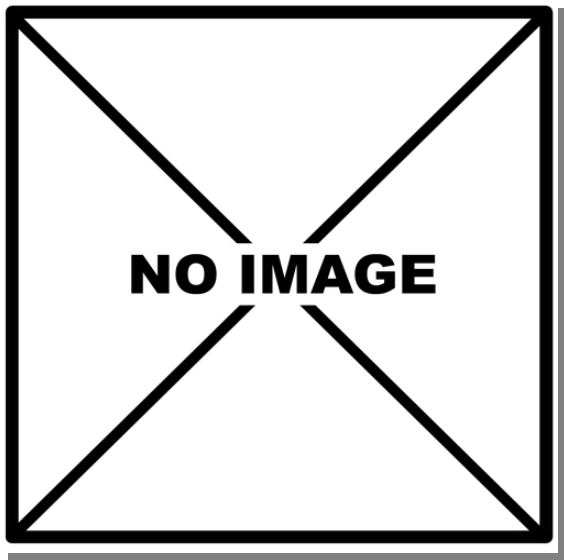


Golden Eagle. 5th year autumn ()



Golden Eagle. 3rd year autumn ().

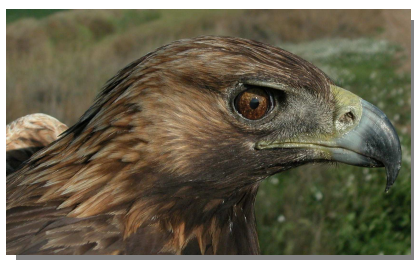
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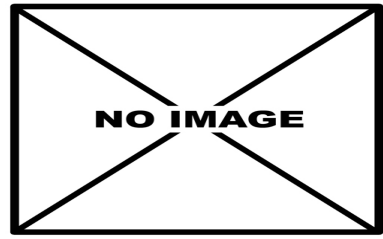
Golden Eagle. 2nd year autumn ().



Golden Eagle. Juvenile (14-II).



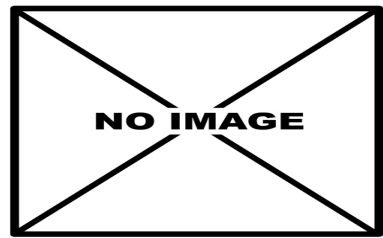
Golden Eagle. Adult: head pattern and iris colour (12-XI).



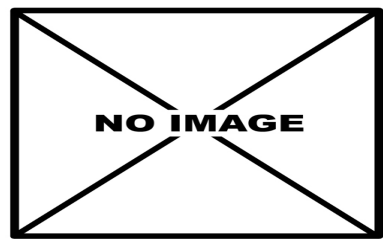
Golden Eagle. 5th year autumn: head pattern and iris colour ().



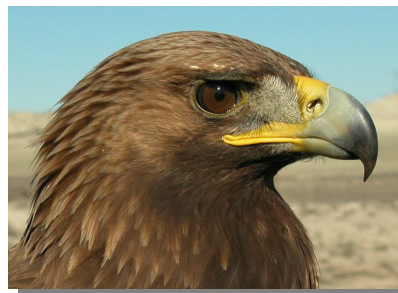
Golden Eagle. 4th year autumn: head pattern and iris colour (28-XII).



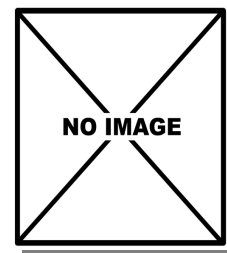
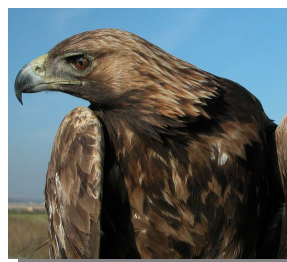
Golden Eagle. 3rd year autumn: head pattern and iris colour ().



Golden Eagle. 2nd year autumn: head pattern and iris colour ().

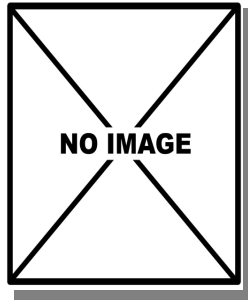
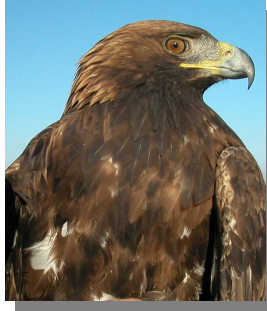


Golden Eagle. Juvenile: head pattern and iris colour (14-II).

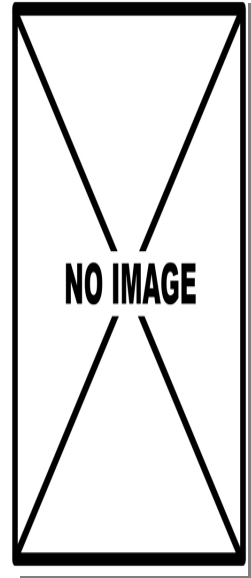


Golden Eagle. Breast pattern: left adult (12-XI); right 5th year autumn ().

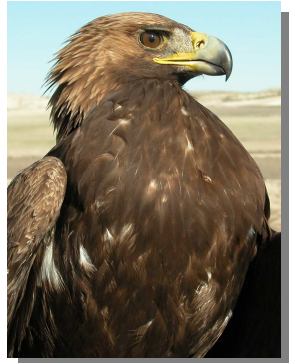
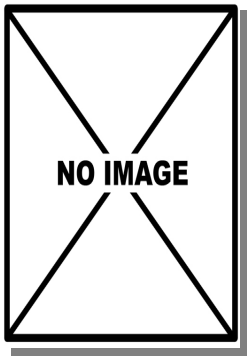
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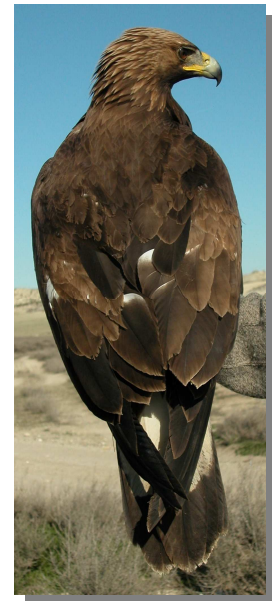
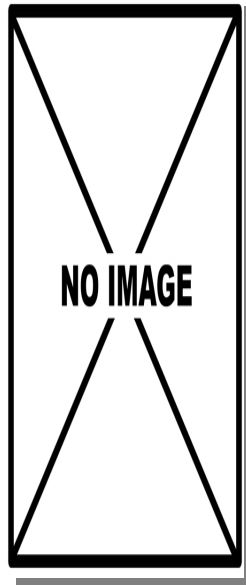
Golden Eagle. Breast pattern: left 4th year autumn (28-XII); right 3rd year autumn ()



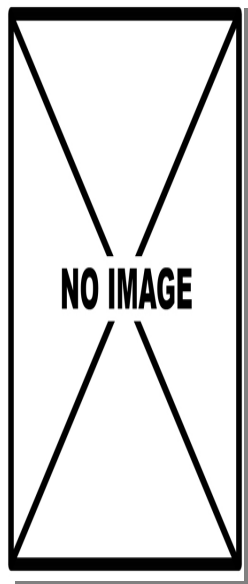
Golden Eagle. Upperpart pattern: left 4th year autumn (28-XII); right 3rd year autumn ()



Golden Eagle. Breast pattern: left 2nd year autumn (); right juvenile (14-II)



Golden Eagle. Upperpart pattern: left 2nd year autumn (); right juvenile (14-II)

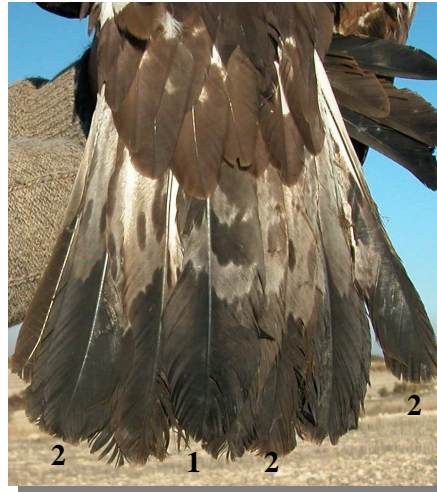


Golden Eagle. Upperpart pattern: left adult (12-XI); right 5th year autumn ()

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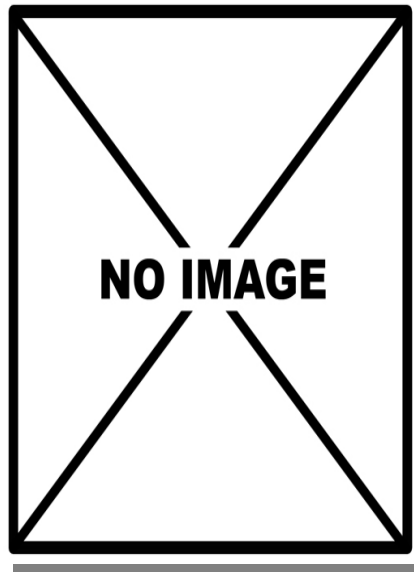
Golden Eagle. Adult. Male: tail pattern with white patches (09-II).



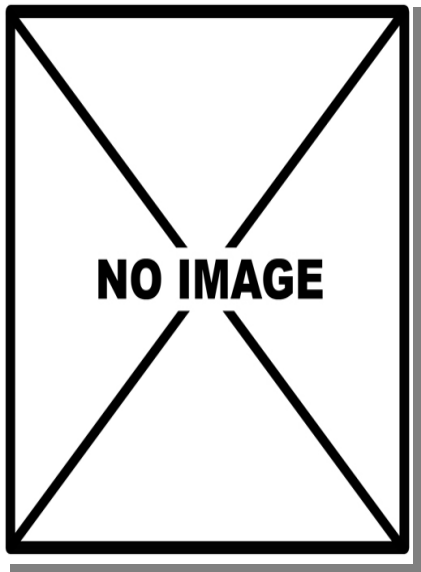
Golden Eagle. 4th year autumn: tail pattern (1 adult feather, 2 subadult feather) (28 - XII).



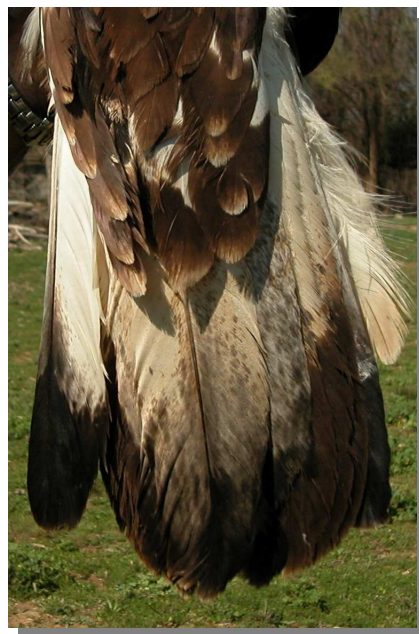
Golden Eagle. Adult. Female: tail pattern (12-XI).



Golden Eagle. 3rd year autumn: tail pattern ().



Golden Eagle. 5th year autumn: tail pattern ().



Golden Eagle. 3rd year spring: tail pattern (23-III).

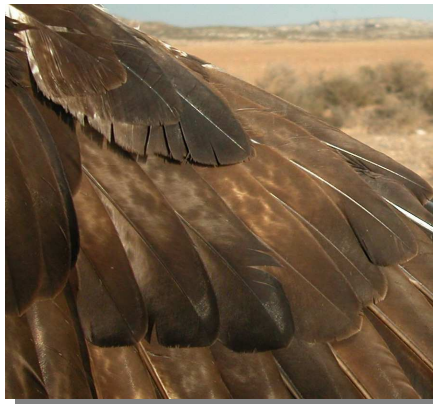
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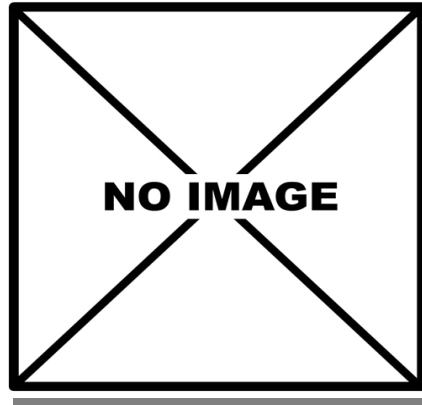
Golden Eagle. Juvenile: tail pattern (14-II).



Golden Eagle. 4th year autumn: pattern of primary coverts (28 - XII).



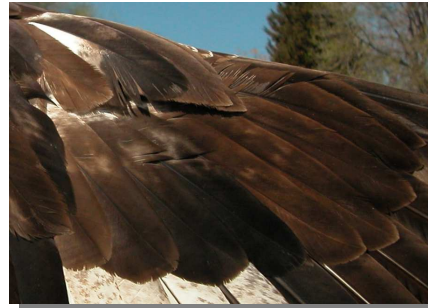
Golden Eagle. Adult. Male: pattern of primary coverts (09-II).



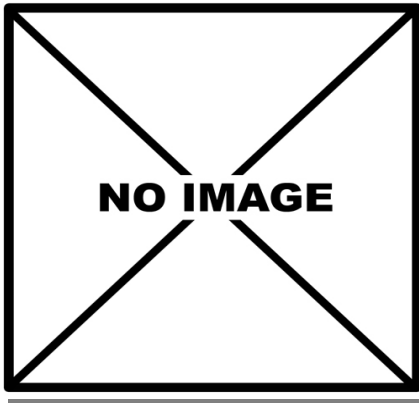
Golden Eagle. 3rd year autumn: pattern of primary coverts ().



Golden Eagle. Adult. Female: pattern of primary coverts (12-XI).



Golden Eagle. 3rd year spring: pattern of primary coverts (23-III).



Golden Eagle. 5th year autumn: pattern of primary coverts ().

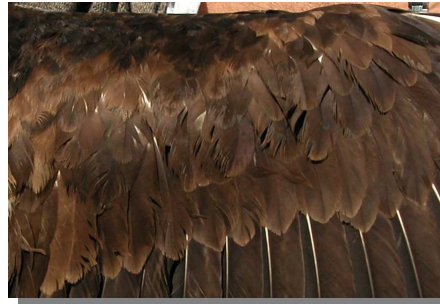


Golden Eagle. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (14-II).

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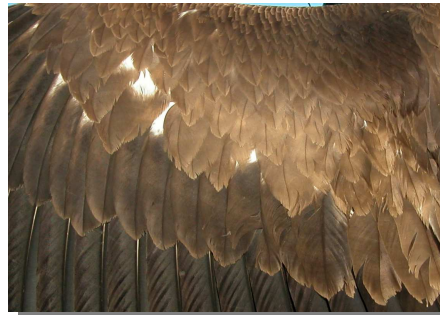
Golden Eagle. Adult. Male: pattern of wing coverts (09-II).



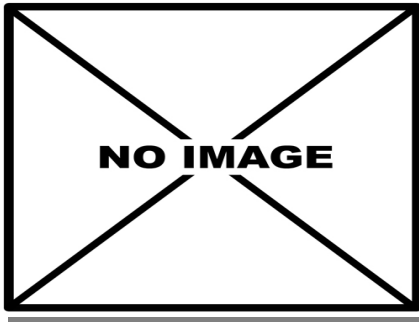
Golden Eagle. 3rd year spring: pattern of wing coverts (23-III).



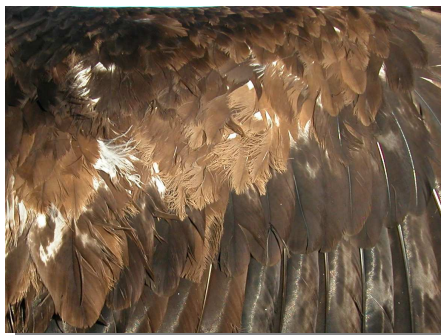
Golden Eagle. Adult. Female: pattern of wing coverts (12-XI).



Golden Eagle. Juvenile: pattern of wing coverts (14-II).



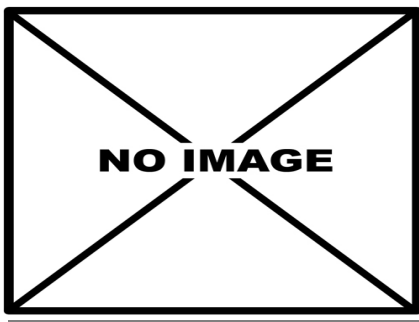
Golden Eagle. 5th year autumn: pattern of wing coverts ().



Golden Eagle. 4th year autumn: pattern of primary coverts (28-XII).

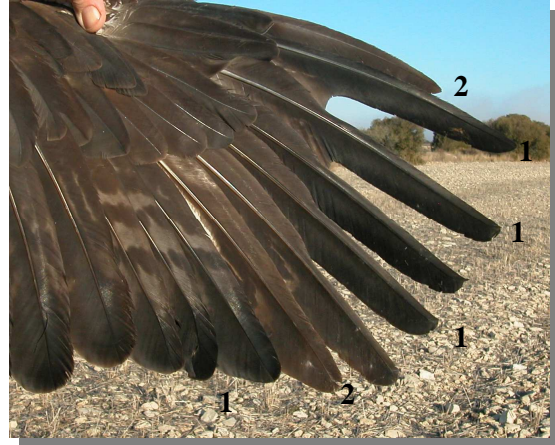


Golden Eagle. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (09-II).



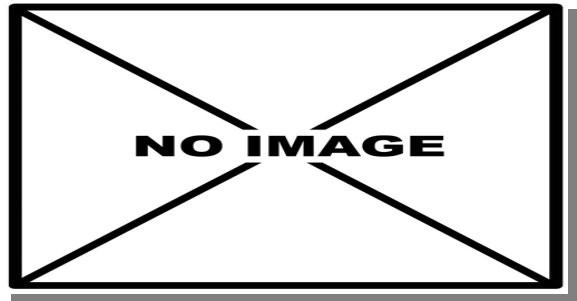
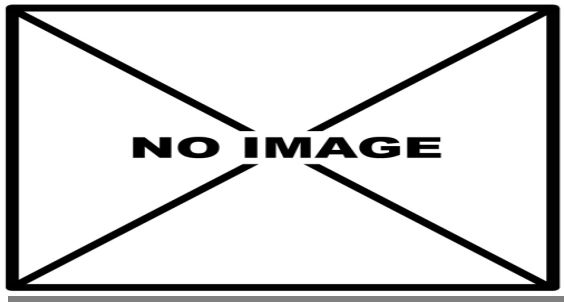
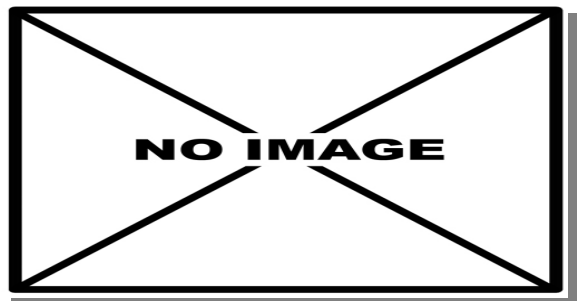
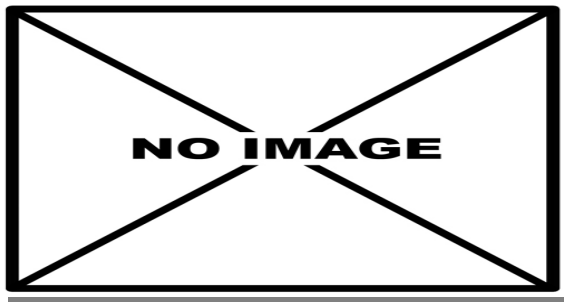
Golden Eagle. 3rd year autumn: pattern of wing coverts ().

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Golden Eagle. 4th year autumn: pattern of primaries (1 adult feather, 2 subadult feather) (28-XII).

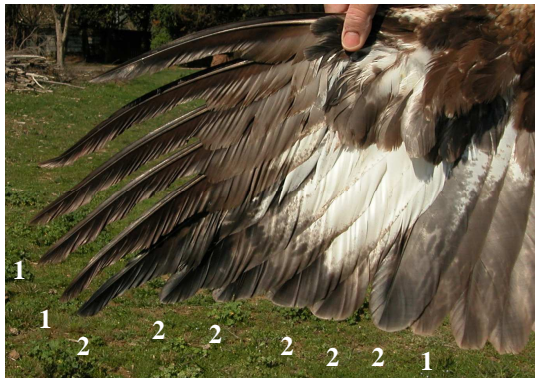
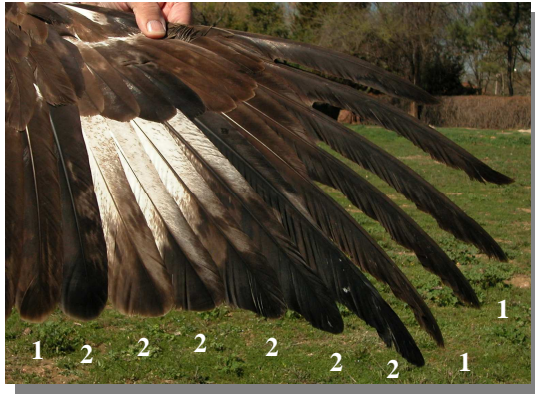
Golden Eagle. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (12-XI).



Golden Eagle. 5th year autumn: pattern of primaries ().

Golden Eagle. 3rd year autumn: pattern of primaries ().

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Golden Eagle. 3rd year spring: pattern of primaries (1 juvenile feather; 2 2nd year feather) (23-III).

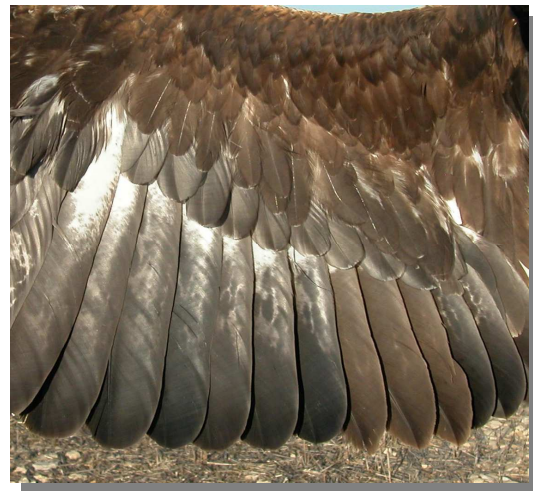
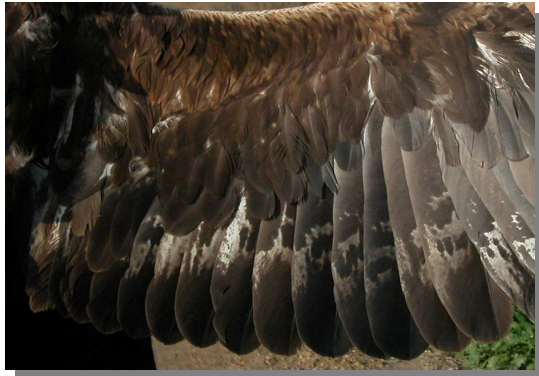
Golden Eagle. Juvenile: pattern of primaries with small white patch (14-II).



Golden Eagle. Juvenile: pattern of primaries with large white patch (4-I).

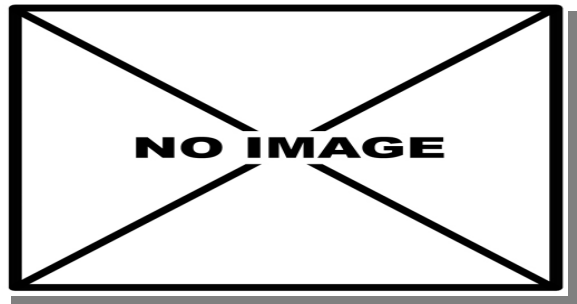
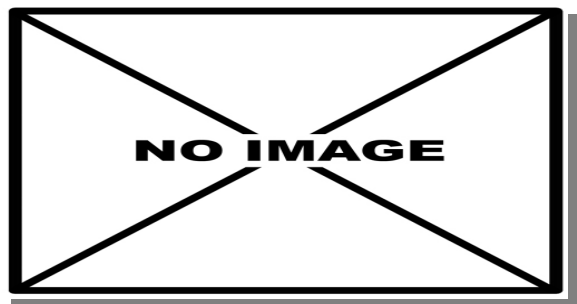
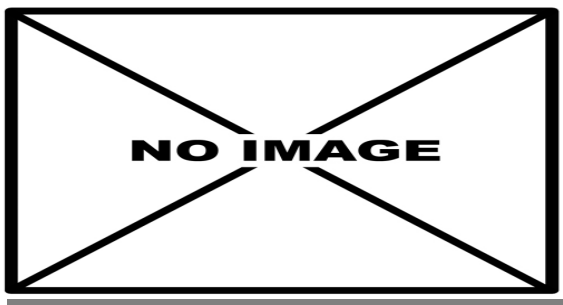
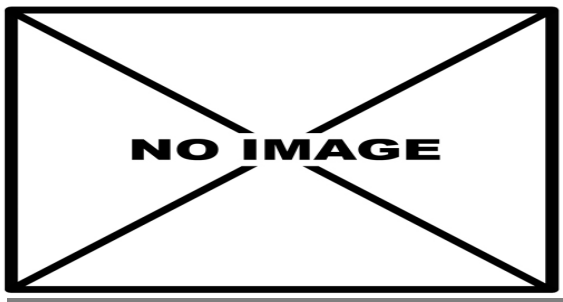
Golden Eagle. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries (09-II).

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Golden Eagle. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries (12-XI).

Golden Eagle. 4th year autumn: pattern of secondaries (1 juvenile feather, 2 subadult feather) (28-XII).



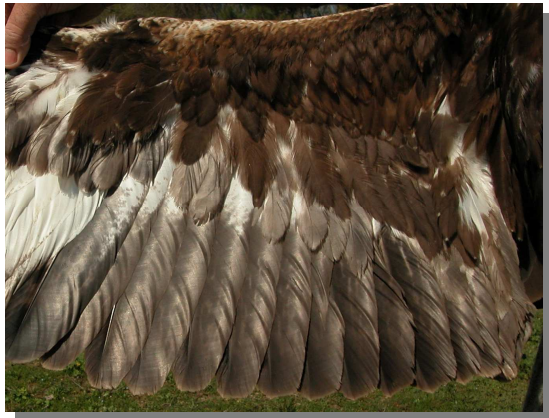
Golden Eagle. 5th year autumn: pattern of secondaries ().

Golden Eagle. 3rd year autumn: pattern of secondaries ().

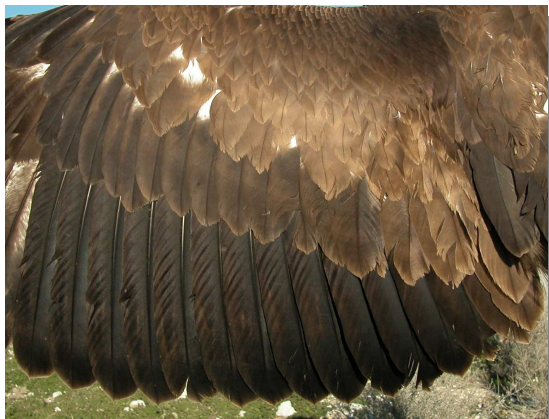
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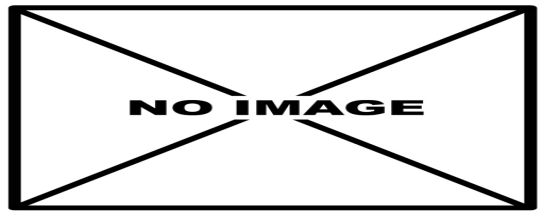
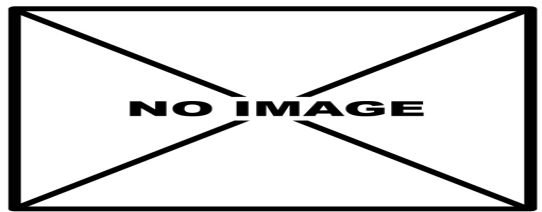
Golden Eagle. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (09-II).



Golden Eagle. 3rd year spring: pattern of secondaries (23-III).



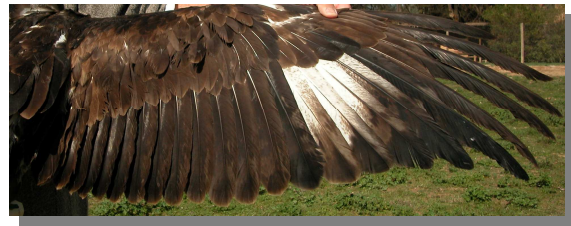
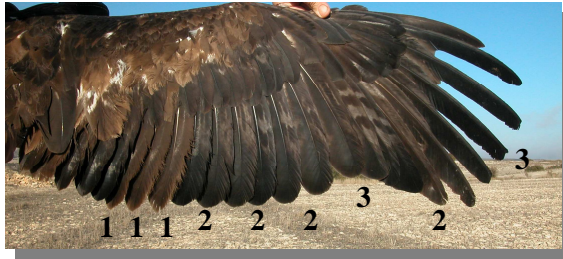
Golden Eagle. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (12-XI).



Golden Eagle. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (14-

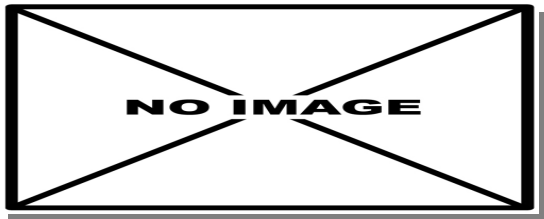
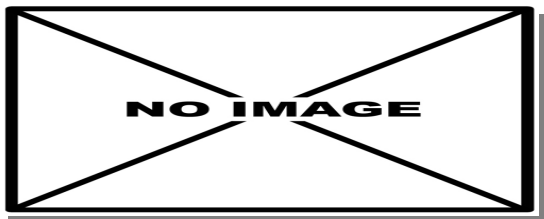
Golden Eagle. 5th year autumn: pattern of wing ().

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Golden Eagle. 4th year autumn: pattern of wing (1 juvenile feather, 2 subadult feather; 3 adult feather) (28-XII).

Golden Eagle. 3rd year spring: pattern of wing (23-III).



Golden Eagle. 3rd year autumn: pattern of wing ().

Golden Eagle. Juvenile: pattern of wing (14-II).