

# 105 Red Kite

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Red Kite. Adult (30-XII)

## RED KITE (*Milvus milvus*)

### IDENTIFICATION

59-66 cm. Rufous neck and upperparts; reddish and streaked underparts; whitish and streaked head and nape; rufous wings with a large white patch underwing; forked and reddish tail; dark bill; yellow cere; pale yellowish iris.



Red Kite. Adult: pattern of head, breast and tail.



### SIMILAR SPECIES

The only raptor with forked tail is **Black Kite**, with darker plumage and lacking reddish on tail.



Black Kite

### SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. **Males** usually smaller than **females**, but much overlap makes size an useless character to sex individual specimens.

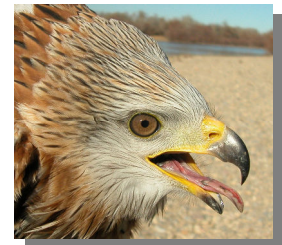
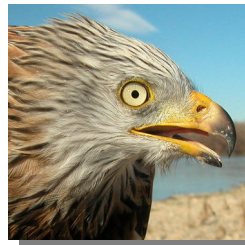
### AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with fresh plumage, without moult limit; wing coverts tipped pale; primary coverts with narrow pale tips; breast feathers with narrow dark streak, pale margin and off-white tip; brownish and barred tail; dark bill; yellowish grey iris. **CAUTION:** late **spring** some specimens have **adult** body feathers.

**2nd year autumn/3rd year spring** only in specimens with retained **juvenile** flight feathers (mainly secondaries); sometimes can be retained some **juvenile** body feathers.

**Adult** with wing coverts lacking pale tips; primary coverts without pale tips; breast feathers with broad dark streak, bordered dark rufous buff; yellowish bill; pale yellow iris; reddish and usually unbarred tail.



Red Kite. Ageing. Pattern of head and iris colour: left adult; right juvenile.



Red Kite. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult; right juvenile.

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Red Kite. Ageing. Pattern of tail: left adult; right juvenile.

## STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident, with contribution of wintering European birds. Breeds in forest in Northern part of the Region.



Red Kite. 2nd year autumn (7-XII).



Red Kite. Ageing. Pattern of primary coverts: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Red Kite. 2nd year spring (05-I).

## MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, starting in April and finished between September and October. **Postjuvenile** moult starts in some birds with body feathers in October (others don't moult anything); feathers of tail and wing start their moult in March-April of **2nd year**, being usually a complete moult in most birds; some specimens can retain **juvenile** flight feathers and underwing coverts with pale tips.



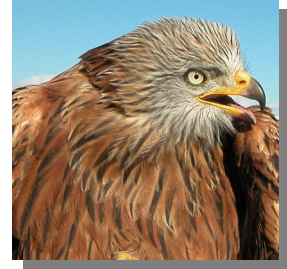
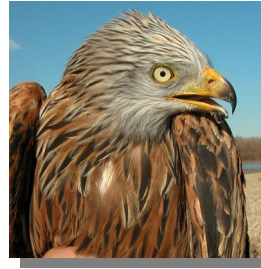
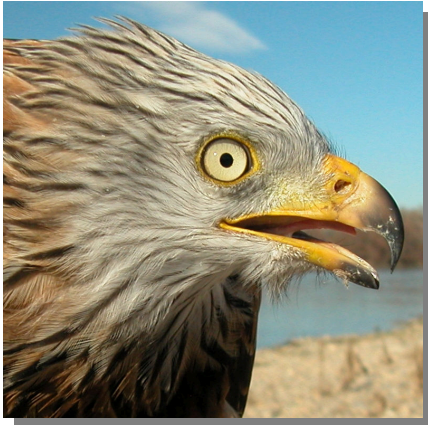
Red Kite. 1st year (30-XII).

## PHENOLOGY

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

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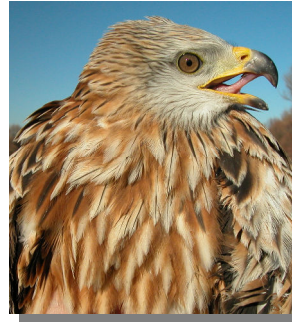
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Red Kite. Breast pattern: top left adult (30-XII); top right 2nd year autumn (07-XII); left 2nd year spring (05-I); bottom 1st year (30-XII).



Red Kite. Pattern of head and iris colour. From top to bottom: adult (30-XII); 2nd year autumn (07-XII); 2nd year spring (05-I); 1st year (30-XII).

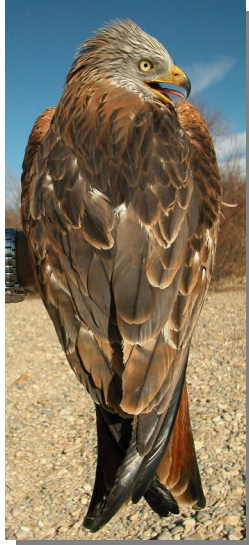


Red Kite. Pattern of undertail coverts: top adult (30-XII); bottom 1st year (30-XII).



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Red Kite. Upperpart pattern: left adult (30-XII); right 2nd year autumn (07-XII).



Red Kite. Tail pattern: left 2nd year spring (05-I); right 1st year (30-XII).



Red Kite. Upperpart pattern: left 2nd year spring (05-I); right 1st year (30-XII).



Red Kite. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (30-XII).



Red Kite. Tail pattern: left adult (30-XII); right 2nd year autumn (07-XII).



Red Kite. 2nd year autumn: pattern of primary coverts (07-XII).

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Red Kite. 2nd year spring: pattern of primary covers (05-I).



Red Kite. 2nd year autumn: pattern of primaries (07-XII).

Red Kite. 1st year: pattern of primary covers (20-XII).



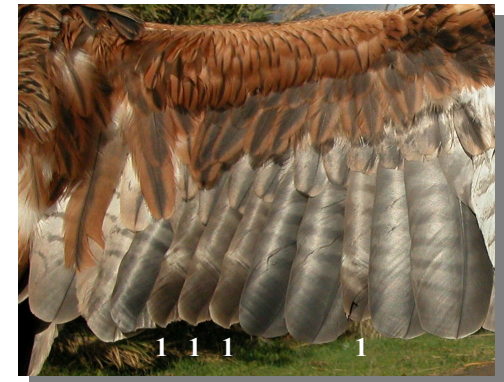
Red Kite. 2nd year spring: pattern of primaries (05-I).



Red Kite. Adult: pattern of primaries (30-XII).

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Red Kite. 1st year: pattern of primaries (20-XII).

Red Kite. 2nd year autumn: pattern of secondaries (1 juvenile feathers) (07-XII).



Red Kite. Adult: pattern of secondaries (30-XII).

Red Kite. 2nd year spring: pattern of secondaries (05-I).

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Red Kite. 2nd year autumn: pattern of wing (1 juvenile feather) (07-XII)



Red Kite. 1st year: pattern of secondaries (20-XII).



Red Kite. 2nd year spring: pattern of wing (05-I)



Red Kite. Adult: pattern of wing (30-XII)



Red Kite. 1st year: pattern of wing (30-XII)