

02350 Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)



Black-winged Kite. Adult (03-IX).

BLACK-WINGED KITE (*Elanus caeruleus*)

IDENTIFICATION

31-36 cm. **Adult** with pale head; grey upperparts; white underparts; grey wings, with black band; red iris. **Juvenile** with chestnut breast and neck; feathers on upperparts with white tips.



Black-winged Kite. Adult.
Pattern of head and upperparts.



SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike.

AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with rusty streaked crown; greyish upperparts with white edged feathers; tail feathers with grey patch on outer webs; greater and primary coverts with white tips.

2nd year autumn/3rd year spring only in some birds which may retain a variable number of outer **juvenile** primaries and their primary coverts.

Adult without rusty streaked crown; grey upperparts without white edged feathers; white tail feathers with only the central pair grey; greater and primary coverts without white tips.



Black-winged Kite. Ageing.
Pattern of crown: left adult; right juvenile.



Black-winged Kite. Ageing.
Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right juvenile.



Black-winged Kite. Ageing. Pattern of greater coverts: left adult; right juvenile.

02350 Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)

Black-winged Kite. Ageing. Pattern of tail feathers: left adult; right juvenile.



Black-winged Kite. Pattern of head and iris colour: top adult (03-IX); bottom juvenile (10-VIII).

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Generally a complete **postjuvenile** moult, but some birds may retain some **juvenile** outer primaries; breeding season is very large so birds with **juvenile** plumage can be found throughout the year.

PHENOLOGY

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

■ Summer visitor ■ Resident
■ Wintering ■ On passage



Black-winged Kite. Crown pattern: left adult (03-IX); right juvenile (10-VIII).



Black-winged Kite. Juvenile (10-VIII).



Black-winged Kite. Breast pattern: left adult (03-IX); right juvenile (10-VIII).

02350 Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)



Black-winged Kite. Upperpart pattern: left adult (03-IX); right juvenile (10-VIII).



Black-winged Kite. Juvenile: pattern of tail (10-VIII).



Black-winged Kite. Adult: pattern of tail (03-IX).



Black-winged Kite. Pattern of scapulars: top left adult (03-IX); top right 2nd year (27-V) (Photo: Domingo Rivera); left juvenile (10-VIII).



Black-winged Kite. 2nd year: tail pattern (27-V)



Black-winged Kite. Adult: Pattern of primary coverts (03-IX).



Black-winged Kite. 2nd year: pattern of primary coverts (27-V) (Photo: Domingo Rivera).



Black-winged Kite. Juvenile: Pattern of primary coverts (10-VIII).



Black-winged Kite. Adult: Pattern of wing coverts (03-IX).



Black-winged Kite. 2nd year: pattern of wing coverts (27-V) (Photo: Domingo Rivera).



Black-winged Kite. Juvenile: Pattern of wing coverts (10-VIII).



Black-winged Kite. Adult: Pattern of primaries (03-IX).



Black-winged Kite. 2nd year: pattern of primaries (27-V) (Photo: Domingo Rivera).



Black-winged Kite. Juvenile: Pattern of primaries (10-VIII).



Black-winged Kite. Adult: Pattern of secondaries (03-IX).



Black-winged Kite. 2nd year: pattern of secondaries (27-V) (Photo: Domingo Rivera).



Black-winged Kite. Juvenile: Pattern of secondaries (10-VIII).



Black-winged Kite. Adult: Pattern of wing (03-IX).



Black-winged Kite. 2nd year: pattern of wing. Wing with two ages of feathers: the innermost greater coverts with white tips (1); two outermost primaries (2) with their primary coverts (3) and some secondaries brownish (4) juvenile; resot of wing feathers postjuvenile (27-V) (Photos: Domingo Rivera).

02350 **Black-winged Kite** (*Elanus caeruleus*)



Black-winged Kite. Juvenile: Pattern of wing (10-VIII).