

# 111 Short-toed Snake Eagle

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Short-toed Eagle. Adult (14-VIII)

## SHORT-TOED SNAKE EAGLE (*Circaetus gallicus*)

### IDENTIFICATION

63-68 cm. Buff upperparts; tail with four transverse dark bands; dark throat and breast; white underparts buff streaked; bluish scaly legs; yellow iris.



Short-toed Eagle. Pattern of legs, breast and colour of iris.



### AGEING

4 age groups can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with fresh plumage, without moult limits; wing without grey subterminal band; secondaries with ill-defined bands; all bands of central tail feathers with similar width.

**2nd year** with all **juvenile** plumage in **spring** before moult; in **autumn** with two ages of feathers with brownish and worn **juvenile** feathers contrasting with darker and fresh moulted ones.

**3rd year** as long as they retain some unmoulted **juvenile** flight feathers; retained **juvenile** secondaries are paler and with bands ill-defined.

**Adult** with several generations of feathers, all with **adult** pattern; broad and contrasted bands on secondaries with broader subterminal band; bands of central tail feathers with different width, the last one wider (**CAUTION**: the number of tail bars varies individually).



Short-toed Eagle. Ageing. Pattern of central tail feather: left adult; right juvenile.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

### SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike



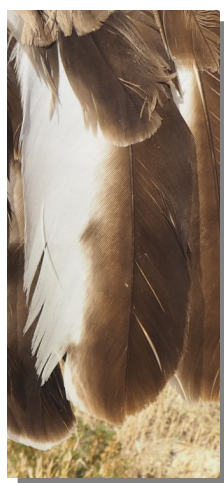
Short-toed Eagle. Ageing. Pattern of upperside of inner primaries: left adult; right juvenile.

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Short-toed Eagle. Ageing. Pattern of underside of inner primaries: left adult; right juvenile.



Short-toed Eagle. Ageing. Pattern of upper side of secondaries: left adult; right juvenile.



Short-toed Eagle. Ageing. Pattern of underside of secondaries: left adult; right juvenile.

## MOULT

Incomplete **postbreeding** moult, between May and October, since all tail and flight feathers are not changed in one year. **Postjuvenile** moult starts in spring of **2nd year** retaining some unmoulted outer primaries and central secondaries.

## PHENOLOGY

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

## STATUS IN ARAGON

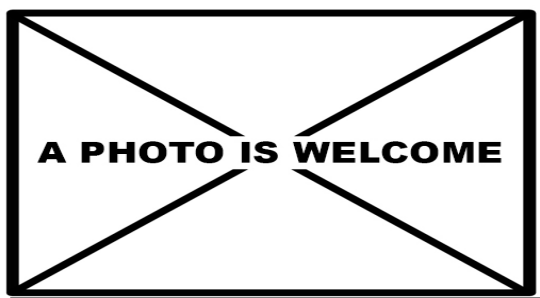
Summer visitor. Widely distributed throughout the region, absent in the most deforested areas.



Short-toed Eagle. 3th year (06-VIII).



Short-toed Eagle. 2nd year (14-VIII)

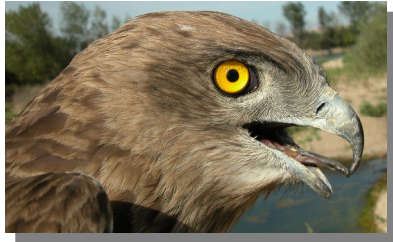


Short-toed Eagle. Juvenile ()



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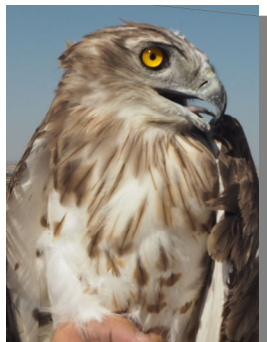
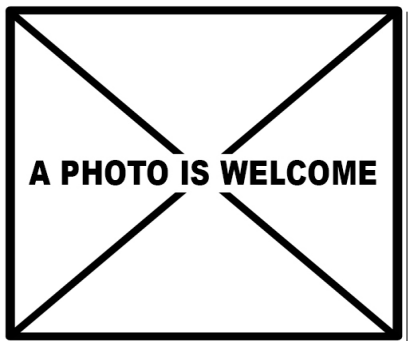
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Short-toed Eagle. Head pattern and iris colour: top adult (14-VIII); bottom 3rd year (06-VIII).



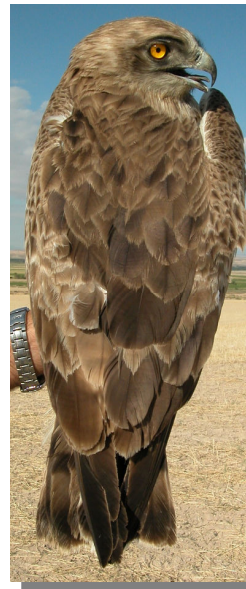
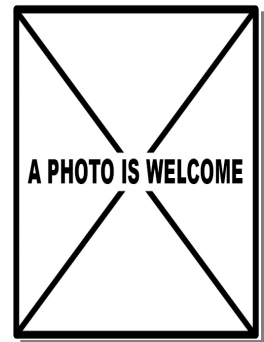
Short-toed Eagle. Head pattern and iris colour: top 2nd year (14-VIII); bottom juvenile ().



Short-toed Eagle. Breast pattern: left adult (14-VIII); right 3rd year (06-VIII).



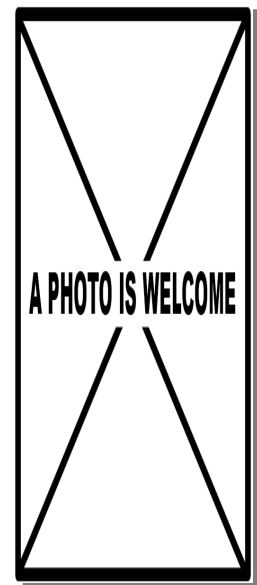
Short-toed Eagle. Breast pattern: left 2nd year (14-VIII); right juvenile ().



Short-toed Eagle. Upperparts pattern: left adult (14-VIII); right 3rd year (06-VIII).



Short-toed Eagle. Upperparts pattern: left 2nd year (14-VIII); right juvenile ().





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Short-toed Eagle. Adult: pattern of tail (14-VIII).



Short-toed Eagle. Juvenile: pattern of tail (08-IX).



Short-toed Eagle. 3rd year: pattern of tail (06-VIII).



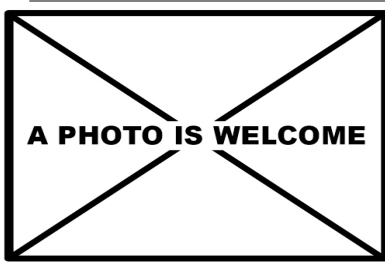
Short-toed Eagle. Pattern if primary coverts: top adult (14-VIII); bottom 3rd year (06-VIII).



Short-toed Eagle. 2nd year: pattern of tail (1 juvenile feathers; 2 adult feathers) (14-VIII).



Short-toed Eagle. Pattern of primary coverts: top 2nd year (14-VIII); bottom juvenile ().





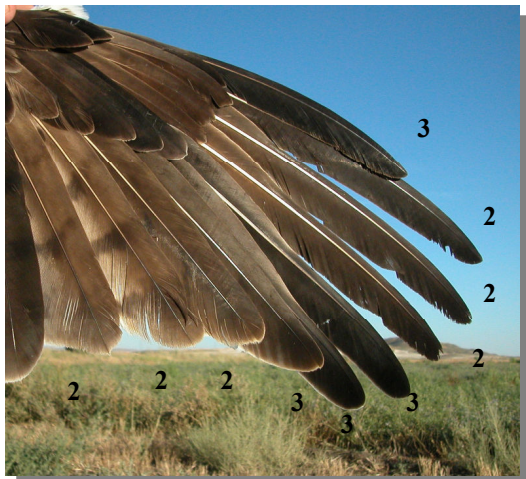
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Short-toed Eagle. Adult: pattern of primaries (20-VIII).

Short-toed Eagle. 2nd year: pattern of primaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers) (14-VIII).



Short-toed Eagle. 3rd year: pattern of primaries (2 2nd year feathers; 3 3rd year feathers) (06-VIII).

Short-toed Eagle. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (08-IX).



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Short-toed Eagle. Adult: pattern of secondaries (14-VIII).

Short-toed Eagle. 2nd year: pattern of secondaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers) (14-VIII).



Short-toed Eagle. 3rd year: pattern of secondaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers; 3 3rd year feathers) (06-VIII).

Short-toed Eagle. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (08-IX).



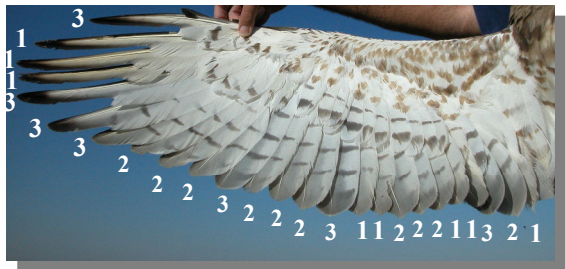
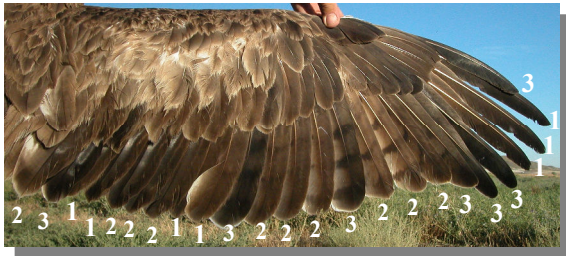
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Short-toed Eagle. Adult: pattern of wing (14-VIII).

Short-toed Eagle. Juvenile: pattern of wing (08-IX).



Short-toed Eagle. 3rd year: pattern of wing (1 juvenile feather; 2 2nd year feather; 3 3rd year feather) (06-VIII).



Short-toed Eagle. 2nd year: pattern of wing (15-VIII).