

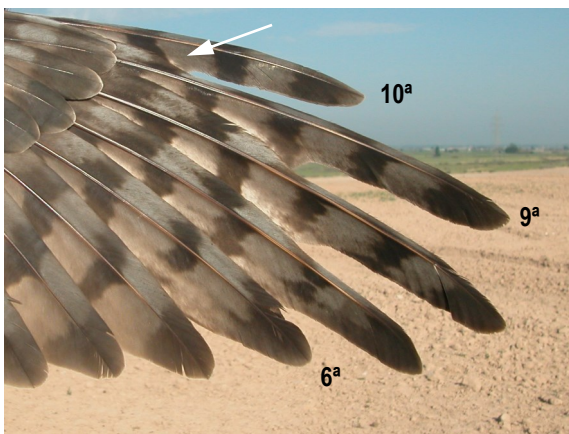


Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Male (25-IV).

MONTAGU'S HARRIER
(*Circus pygargus*)

IDENTIFICATION

41-46 cm. **Adult male** with grey head and upperparts; underparts grey on breast and white on vent; black primaries and secondaries with a black band; grey tail; pale rump. **Adult female** with dark brown upperparts; underparts light brown with dark streaked; white rump poorly defined; dark barred tail and wings. **Juvenile** similar to **female**, but with unstreaked reddish underparts. Length of 10th primary similar to 6th; the beginning of emargination of 9th primary is not hidden by primary coverts.



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Female. Wing formula: emargination of 9th primary not hidden by primary coverts; length of 10th primary similar to 6th.



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Male: pattern of wing.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Adult **male** similar to male of **Hen Harrier**, with bigger white rump and without a dark wing bar and without streaks on flanks and vent. **Females** of **Hen Harrier** have whiter rump and haven't a band just below the wing coverts; length of 10th primary between 5th and 6th; the beginning of emargination of 9th primary hidden by primary coverts. **Female** and **juveniles** of **Marsh Harrier** have a pale patch on head and throat.



Marsh Harrier. Juvenile.



Hen Harrier. Male.



Hen Harrier. Female.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult starting in breeding places, suspended during migration and finished in wintering sites. **Postjuvenile** moult starts in **1st winter** involving body feathers, some wing coverts and sometimes some tail feathers; the first complete moult takes place in autumn of the **2nd year** at the same time as **adults**.

AGEING/SEXING

4 age groups can be recognized in **females** and 5 in **males**:

Juvenile with ochre unstreaked underparts but sometimes with thin dark streaked on upperbreast; upperwing coverts edged with intense ochre; secondaries deeply dark above and below; fresh plumage without moult limits. **Male** with grey iris and underside of outer primaries with dark spotted; **female** with dark brown iris and underside of outer primaries with dark barred.

2nd year male with dark yellow iris; breast tinged grey; if central tail feathers are moulted, then uniformly grey; underwing coverts richly patterned with chestnut red mottled.

2nd year female with dark brown iris; upperbreast streaked but belly still juvenile and unstreaked; if tail feathers are moulted, then dark brown and banded.

CAUTION: both sexes with all flight feathers **juvenile** but in autumn, when moult has started, with a mix of fresh **adult** and old **juvenile** flight feathers.

3rd year male similar to **adults** but upperparts and wing coverts dull grey with brownish tinge; sometimes with some retained brown **juvenile** feathers on head or rump; outer tail feathers with broad and chestnut red mottled; lower breast with broad and lanceolated streaks; underwing coverts quite patterned with chestnut red mottled, covering more of the white ground colour than in **old males**.

3rd year female usually with brown or amber iris; dark upperparts; head dark with contrasted pattern like **juveniles**; central tail feathers brownish rather than grey, with inconspicuous barring; outer tail feathers with pale chestnut red bars; wing feathers quite similar to **adult female**; underbody light ochre with rusty brown streaks on breast.

4th year only in some **males** with a slight brown tinge on nape.

Adult male with bright yellow iris; without brown feathers on nape or rump; upperparts and wing coverts uniform ashy-grey; secondaries and inner primaries grey; outer primaries black; central tail feathers silver-grey; outer tail feathers with slightly marked bars; upper breast unstreaked grey, lower with narrow streaked; underwing coverts slightly patterned with chestnut red mottled.

Adult female with yellow iris; upperparts pale grey-brown; pale and uniformly streaked head; primaries and central tail feathers with grey tinge and distinct barring; from below, secondaries with the same pattern than primaries and distinct barred; underparts pale ochre with dark brown streaks on breast.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Resident
- Wintering
- On passage



Montagu's Harrier. Sexing in juveniles. Pattern of barred on underside of outer primaries and iris colour: top male (10-VII); bottom female (06-IX).

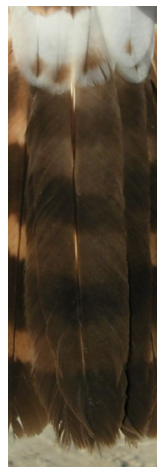
02630 Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)



Montagu's Harrier. Ageing. Female. Pattern of breast: left adult; right juvenile.



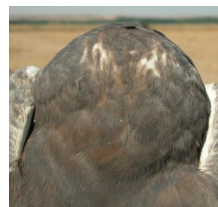
Montagu's Harrier. Ageing. Female. Colour of iris: top adult; middle 3rd year; bottom 2nd year.



Montagu's Harrier. Ageing. Female. Pattern of the central tail feather: left adult; middle 3rd year; right juvenile.



Montagu's Harrier. Ageing. Male. Pattern of head: top left adult; top right 3rd year; left 2nd year.



Montagu's Harrier. Ageing. Male. Pattern of nape: top left adult; top right 4th year; left 3rd year.



Montagu's Harrier. Ageing. Male. Pattern of the outermost tail feather: left adult; middle 3rd year; right juvenile.

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Montagu's Harrier. Ageing. Male. Pattern of the underwing coverts: top adult; bottom 3rd year.



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Female (30-V).



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Female (14-V).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Male (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 4th year. Male (13-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Female (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Male (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Male (10-VII).

02630 Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)



Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Female (06-IX).



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Head pattern and iris colour: top male (26-VI); bottom female (30-V).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Head pattern and iris colour: top male (26-VI); bottom female (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Head pattern and iris colour: top male (25-IV); bottom female (14-V).



Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Head pattern and iris colour: top male (10-VII); bottom female (06-IX).



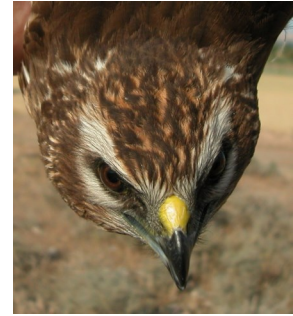
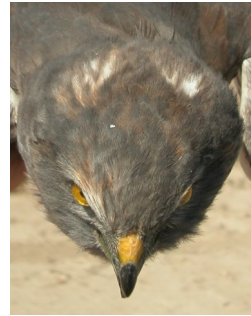
Montagu's Harrier. 4th year. Male: head pattern and iris colour (13-VI).



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Montagu's Harrier. Nestling. Head pattern and iris colour: top male (24-VII); bottom female (24-VII).



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Crown pattern: left male (26-VI); right female (30-VI).



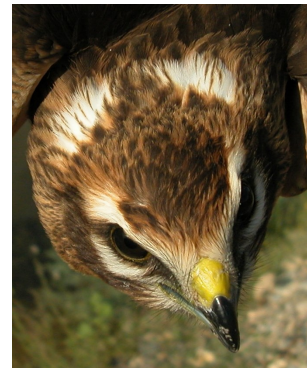
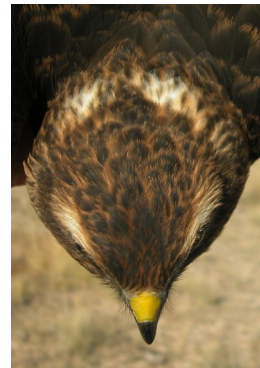
Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Crown pattern: left male (26-VI); right female (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (25-IV); right female (14-V).



Montagu's Harrier. 4th year. Male: crown pattern (13-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Crown pattern: left male (10-VII); right female (06-IX).

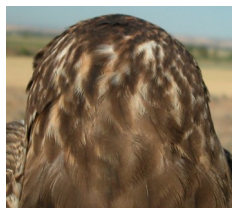
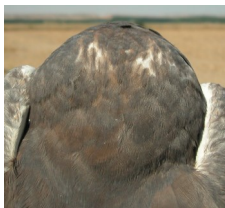
02630 Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Nape pattern: left male (25-IV); right female (14-V).



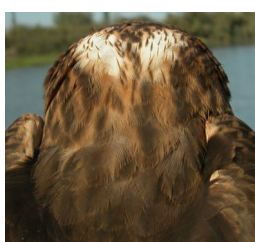
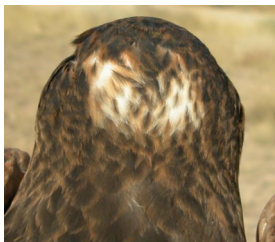
Montagu's Harrier. 4th year. Male: nape pattern (13-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Nape pattern: left male (26-VI); right female (30-V).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Nape pattern: left male (26-VI); right female (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Nape pattern: left male (10-VII); right female (06-IX).



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (25-IV); right female (14-V).



Montagu's Harrier. 4th year. Male: breast pattern (13-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd. Breast pattern: left male (26-VI); right female (30-V).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Breast pattern: left male (26-VI); right female (26-VI).

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Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (10-VII); right female (06-IX).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Flank pattern: top male (26-VI); bottom female (26-VI).



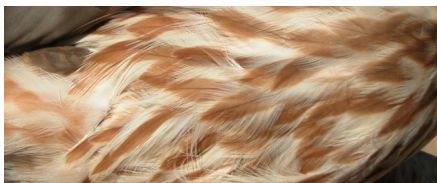
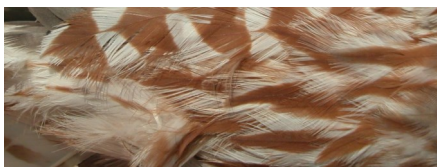
Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Flank pattern: top male (25-IV); bottom female (14-V).



Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Flank pattern: top male (10-VII); bottom female (06-IX).



Montagu's Harrier. 4th year. Male: flank pattern (13-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Flank pattern: top male (26-VI); bottom female (30-V).



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (25-IV); right female (14-V).

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Montagu's Harrier. 4th year. Male: upperpart pattern (13-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Upperpart pattern: left male (26-VI); right female (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Upperpart pattern: left male (26-VI); right female (30-V).



Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Upperpart pattern: left male (10-VII); right female (06-IX).

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Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Rump pattern: left male (25-IV); right female (14-V).



Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Rump pattern: left male (10-VII); right female (06-IX).



Montagu's Harrier. 4th year. Male: rump pattern (13-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Male: tail pattern (25-IV).



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Rump pattern: left male (26-VI); right female (30-V).



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Female: tail pattern (14-V).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Rump pattern: left male (26-VI); right female (26-VI).

02630 Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)



Montagu's Harrier. 4th year. Male: tail pattern (13-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Male: tail pattern (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Male: tail pattern (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Female: tail pattern (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Female: tail pattern (30-V).



Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Male: tail pattern (10-VII).

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Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Female: tail pattern (06-IX).



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Pattern of primary coverts: top male (25-IV); bottom female (14-V).



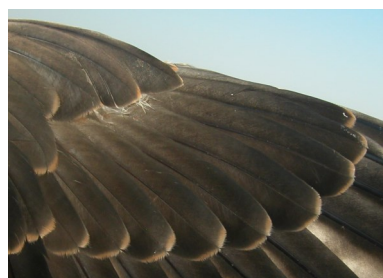
Montagu's Harrier. 4th year. Male: pattern of primary coverts (13-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Pattern of primary coverts: top male (26-VI); bottom female (30-V).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Pattern of primary coverts: top male (26-VI); bottom female (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Pattern of primary coverts: top male (10-VII); bottom female (06-IX).



02630 Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Pattern of underwing coverts: top male (25-IV); bottom female (14-V).



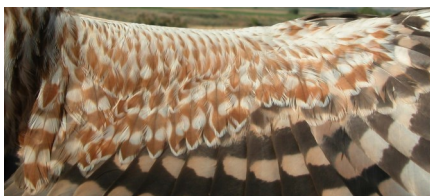
Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Pattern of underwing coverts: top male (10-VII); bottom female (06-IX).



Montagu's Harrier. 4th year. Male: pattern of underwing coverts (13-VI).



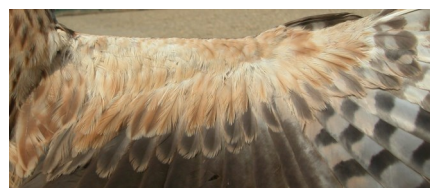
Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Pattern of underwing coverts: top male (26-VI); bottom female (30-V).



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (25-IV).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Pattern of underwing coverts: top male (26-VI); bottom female (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (14-V).



Montagu's Harrier. 4th year. Male: pattern of primaries (13-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Female: pattern of primaries (30-V).



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Male: pattern of primaries (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primaries (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primaries (26-VI).

Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Female: pattern of primaries (06-IX).



Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Male: pattern of primaries (10-VII).

Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries (25-IV).



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries (14-V).



Montagu's Harrier. 4th year. Male: pattern of secondaries (13-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Male: pattern of secondaries (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Female: pattern of secondaries (30-V).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Male: pattern of secondaries (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Female: pattern of secondaries (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Male: pattern of secondaries (10-VII).



Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Female: pattern of secondaries (06-IX).

02630 Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (25-IV).



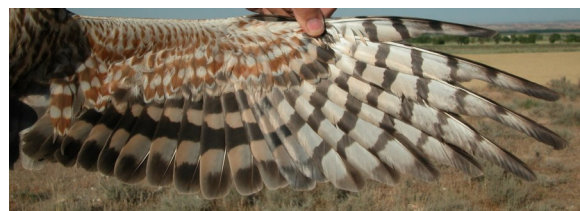
Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (14-V).



Montagu's Harrier. 4th year. Male: pattern of wing (13-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Male: pattern of wing (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 3rd year. Female: pattern of wing (30-V).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (26-VI).



Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Male: pattern of wing (10-VII).



Montagu's Harrier. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing (06-IX).