

119 Common Buzzard

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Common Buzzard. Adult (02-XII).

COMMON BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo*)

IDENTIFICATION

51-56 cm. Species with very variable plumage since dark to very pale pattern; usually with brown upperparts; pale streaked or crossbarring underparts; dark upperwing and paler underwing with primaries tipped black; dark and barred tail; dark bill; brown eye



Common Buzzard. Adult . Pattern of head and breast.



SIMILAR SPECIES

Quite similar to **Honey Buzzard**, with orange or yellow iris. **Booted Eagle** lacks dark patch on underwing and has feathered legs. **Red Kite** and **Black Kite** have forked tails.



Honey Buzzard



Booted Eagle



Black Kite



Red Kite

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. **Male** usually with smaller size than **female**, but there is so much overlap that it is not a valid characteristic for individual birds.

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AGEING

4 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh plumage or uniformly worn; wing coverts brown with pale tips and edges; underparts with vertical streaks; tail feathers with dark subterminal band narrow and similar in width to the other tail bars; pale brown iris.

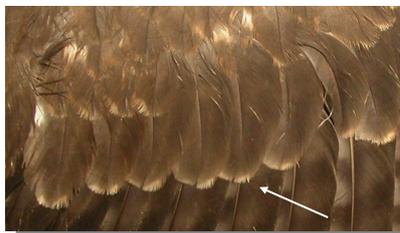
2nd year autumn/3rd year spring with plumage like **adult** if moult has been complete but then distinguishable by iris colour intermediate between light brown of **juvenile** and dark brown of **adult** and often bicolour; if moult has been incomplete, usually with 2 to 5 outer primaries and some **juvenile** secondaries retained, shorter, more pointed and bleached than neighbouring feathers; sometimes with one or several tail feathers retained; generally underparts with **adult** pattern but sometimes with **juvenile** streaks mixed with bars of **adult** type.

3rd year autumn/4th year spring only in rare birds with some retained **juvenile** outermost primaries, which will be strongly worn and bleached.

Adult without **juvenile** feathers on body and wings; wing coverts uniform dark brown; underparts horizontally cross-banded; tail feathers with dark subterminal band broader than the other tail bars; iris uniformly dark brown.



Common Buzzard. Ageing. Pattern of greater coverts: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Common Buzzard. Ageing. Pattern of tail feathers: left adult; right juvenile.



Common Buzzard. Ageing. Colour of iris: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Common Buzzard. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult; right juvenile.

MOULT

Usually complete **postbreeding** moult but sometimes incomplete with some primaries and secondaries retained; generally finished in October. **Postjuvenile** moult begins with body feathers in November; tail and wing feathers begin their moult since March-April in **2nd year** retaining unmoulted two to five outer primaries and some secondaries; some **3rd year** birds retain one or two outermost primaries till moult in **4th year**.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident, with contribution of wintering European birds: Widely distributed throughout the Region, absent only from the most deforested areas.

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Common Buzzard. 4th year autumn (11-IX)



Common Buzzard. 3rd year spring (09-II)



Common Buzzard. 2nd year autumn (26-X)



Common Buzzard. Juvenile (25-VIII)



Common Buzzard. Head pattern and iris colour. From top to bottom: adult (02-XII); 4th year autumn (11-IX); 3rd year spring (09-II); 2nd year autumn (26-X); juvenile (25-VIII).

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Common Buzzard. Breast pattern: left adult (02-XII); right 4th year autumn (11-IX).



Common Buzzard. Breast pattern: top left 3rd year spring (09-II); top right 2nd year autumn (26-X); left juvenile (25-VIII).



Common Buzzard. Upperpart pattern: top left 3rd year spring (09-II); top right 2nd year autumn (26-X); left juvenile (25-VIII).



Common Buzzard. Upperpart pattern: left adult (02-XII); right 4th year autumn (11-IX).



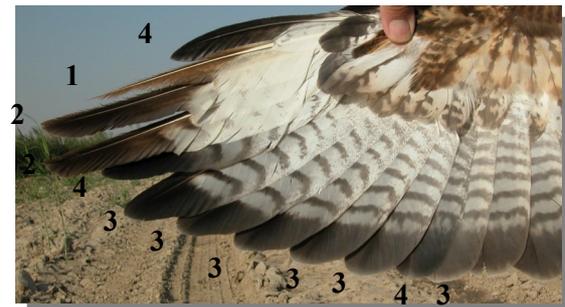
Common Buzzard. Tail pattern: left adult (02-XII); right 4th year autumn (11-IX).

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Common Buzzard. Tail pattern: top left 3rd year spring (09-II); top right 2nd year autumn (26-X); left juvenile (25-VIII).



Common Buzzard. 4th year autumn: pattern of primaries (1 juvenile feather; 2 feathers of 2nd year; 3 feathers of 3rd year; 4 feathers of 4th year) (11-IX).



Common Buzzard. Adult: pattern of primaries (02-XII).

Common Buzzard. 3rd year spring: pattern of primaries (1 juvenile feathers) (09-II).

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Common Buzzard. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (29-XII).

Common Buzzard. 4th year autumn: pattern of secondaries (2 feathers of 2nd year; 3 feathers of 3rd year; 4 feathers of 4th year) (11-IX).



Common Buzzard. Adult: pattern of secondaries (02-XII).

Common Buzzard. 3rd year spring: pattern of secondaries (1 juvenile feathers) (09-II).

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Common Buzzard. 4th year autumn: pattern of wing (11-IX).

Common Buzzard. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (29-XII).



Common Buzzard. 3rd year spring: pattern of wing (09-II).



Common Buzzard. Adult: pattern of wing (02-XII).



Common Buzzard. Juvenile: pattern of wing (29-XII).