

# 02990 Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*)



Bonelli's Eagle. Adult (14-III).

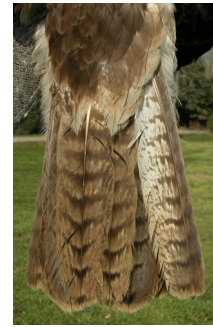
## BONELLI'S EAGLE (*Aquila fasciata*)

### IDENTIFICATION

66-74 cm. **Adult** with dark upperparts; white underparts with dark streaks; tail pale grey, with broad dark bands; wings with darker upperwing and paler underwing; yellow legs. **Juvenile** with pale brown colours.



Bonelli's Eagle. Adult: pattern of head, breast and tail.



Bonelli's Eagle. Juvenile: pattern of head, breast and tail.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

In hand, this species is unmistakable due to its long tail, strong claws, feathered tarsi and plumage pattern.

### AGEING

3 age groups can be safely recognized:

**Juvenile** with dark brown upperparts, sometimes with some white speckling; pale brown head; chestnut underparts; with only one age of wing and tail feathers; underwing with chestnut coverts; secondaries pale grey with regular barring; tail feathers pale brown, with 8-9 dark bars without broad dark subterminal band; dark iris.

**2nd year autumn/3rd year spring** with upperpart quite similar to **adult**; underparts white-yellowish; flight feathers, and usually tail, with moult limit between retained **juvenile** feathers and moulted with **adult** pattern.

**Adult** with dark grey-brown upperparts, sometimes white spotted; crown and ear coverts darker than rest of head; white underparts with dark streaked; underwing with dark grey coverts; secondaries dark grey and unbarred; if there are moult limits, then all feathers have adult pattern; grey tail feathers, with fine bars and broad dark subterminal band; pale iris.

**CAUTION:** during some years, **subadult** birds have a mix of adult and juvenile pattern (underparts tinged buff, barred secondaries ...), but it is not possible to give an exact age using these characteristics due to variation in the period needed to acquire the typical **adult** plumage.

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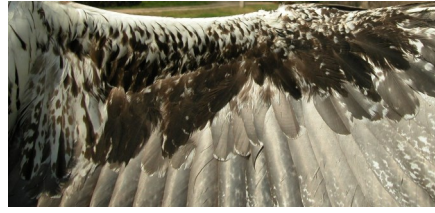
Bonelli's Eagle. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Bonelli's Eagle. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult; right juvenile.



Bonelli's Eagle. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right juvenile.



Bonelli's Eagle. Ageing. Pattern of underwing coverts: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Bonelli's Eagle. Ageing. Pattern of underside of secondaries: left adult; right juvenile.



Bonelli's Eagle. Ageing. Pattern of central tail feather: left adult; right juvenile.

## SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike, although **adult male** is on average whiter and more finely streaked below than **female** of similar age. **Juveniles** and **adults** can be sexed by size in extreme birds: **male** with wing shorter than 468 mm. **Female** with wing longer than 510 mm.

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**MOULT**

Complete **postbreeding** moult, but not all flight feathers can be moulted every year; starts usually in July-August to be finished in January. **Postjuvenile** moult starts in the **2nd year**, leaving some flight feathers and sometimes part of the tail unmoulted, which will be changed in the **3rd year**.

**PHENOLOGY**

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

- Summer visitor
- Resident
- Wintering
- On passage



Bonelli's Eagle. Subadult (05-XII).



Bonelli's Eagle. 2nd year (05-XII).



Bonelli's Eagle. Juvenile (05-XII).



Bonelli's Eagle. Head pattern: top adult (14-III); bottom subadult (05-XII).



Bonelli's Eagle. Head pattern: top 2nd year (05-XII); bottom ju-

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Bonelli's Eagle. Breast pattern: left adult (14-III); right subadult (05-XII).



Bonelli's Eagle. Breast pattern: left 2nd year (05-XII); right juvenile (14-III).



Bonelli's Eagle. Upperpart pattern: left adult (14-III); right subadult (05-XII).



Bonelli's Eagle. Upperpart pattern: left 2nd year (05-XII); right juvenile (05-XII).



Bonelli's Eagle. Rump pattern: left adult (14-III); right subadult (05-XII).

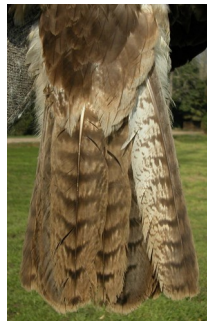
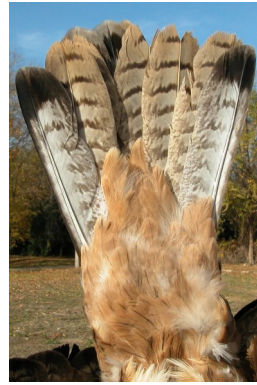


Bonelli's Eagle. Rump pattern: left 2nd year (05-XII); right juvenile (14-III).

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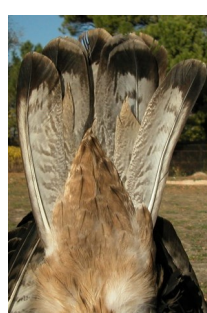
Bonelli's Eagle. Tail pattern: left adult (14-III); right subadult (05-XII).



Bonelli's Eagle. Tail pattern: left 2nd year (1 juvenile feather; 2 feather of 2nd year) (05-XII); right juvenile (14-III).



Bonelli's Eagle. Pattern of primary coverts: top adult (14-III); bottom subadult (05-XII).

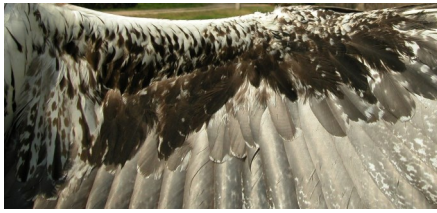


Bonelli's Eagle. Undertail pattern: left adult (14-III); right subadult (05-XII).



Bonelli's Eagle. Pattern of primary coverts: top 2nd year (05-XII); bottom juvenile (14-III).

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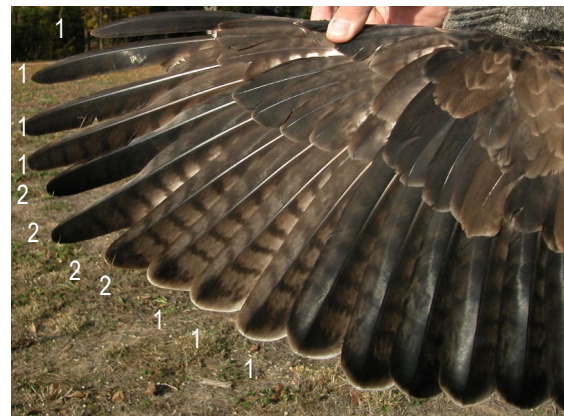
Bonelli's Eagle. Pattern of underwing coverts: top adult (14-III); bottom subadult (05-XII).



Bonelli's Eagle. Pattern of underwing coverts: top 2nd year (05-XII); bottom juvenile (14-III).



Bonelli's Eagle. Subadult: pattern of primaries (05-XII).



Bonelli's Eagle. Adult: pattern of primaries(14-III).



Bonelli's Eagle. 2nd year: pattern of primaries (1 juvenile feather; 2 feather of 2nd year) (05-XII).



Bonelli's Eagle. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (14-III).



Bonelli's Eagle. Adult: pattern of secondaries (14-III).



Bonelli's Eagle. Subadult: pattern of secondaries (05-XII).



Bonelli's Eagle. 2nd year: pattern of secondaries (05-XII).

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Bonelli's Eagle. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (14-III).



Bonelli's Eagle. Subadult: pattern of wing (05-XII).



Bonelli's Eagle. 2nd year: pattern of wing (05-XII).



Bonelli's Eagle. Adult: pattern of wing (14-III).



Bonelli's Eagle. Juvenile: pattern of wing (14-III).