

# 03100 Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)



Hobby. Adult. Male (18-VI).

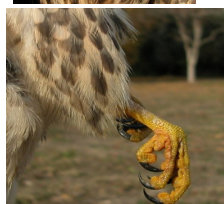
## EURASIAN HOBBY (*Falco subbuteo*)

### IDENTIFICATION

30-35 cm. **Adult** with slate grey upperparts; pale underparts; dark moustache; vent and thighs reddish; grey tail; pale underwing feathers. **Juveniles** dark brown and streaked; lacking red thighs.



Hobby. Adult: pattern of breast, thighs and upperparts.



Hobby. Juvenile: pattern of breast, thighs and upperparts.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

**Adult** can be separated from the other small falcons for its moustache and reddish underparts; **juvenile** recalls a **Peregrine Falcon** (38-45 cm) which is bigger and with greyer upperparts.



Peregrine Falcon.  
Juvenile.



### SEXING

It's possible to sex the smallest **males**, with a wing shorter than 245 mm. (**CAUTION:** birds with longer wings belong to both sexes). In **adults**, **male** usually tends to have deep blue grey upperparts; thighs and undertail coverts unstreaked or with poorly marked streaks; deep reddish underparts. **Female** usually tends to have dull blue grey upperparts; thighs and undertail coverts streaked; underparts with duller reddish (**CAUTION:** sexing sometimes difficult due to overlap). In **juveniles**, **male** usually with marks on undertail coverts small and unfrequent; the ochre on underparts with a pitch of orange; on 3rd-5th tail feathers the light band proximal to the subterminal band is usually interrupted at the shaft by a fine dark stripe. **Female** usually with marks on undertail coverts large and frequent; the ochre on underparts without orange tinge; on 3rd-5th tail feathers the light band proximal to the subterminal band is usually interrupted at the shaft by a broad dark stripe. Pattern of the 3rd-5th tail feathers is useful to sex the **2nd year** birds if **juvenile** rectrices have been retained (**CAUTION:** sexing of **juveniles** and **2nd year** birds are not always possible due to overlap of some characteristics, so only extreme birds must be sexed and only when have all described patterns).

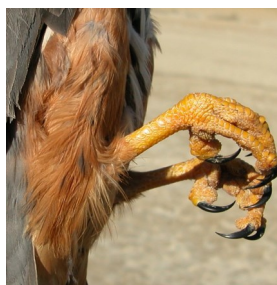
**03100 Eurasian Hobby** (*Falco subbuteo*)



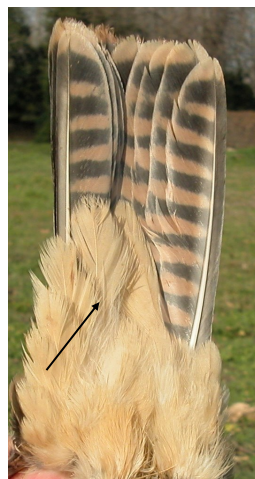
Hobby. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of upperparts: left male; right female.



Hobby. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male; right female.



Hobby. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of thighs: left male; right female.



Hobby. Juvenile. Sexing. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male; right female.



Hobby. Juvenile. Sexing. Pattern of the pale band next to the dark subterminal in the 3rd tail feather: left male; right female.



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## AGEING

4 age groups can be recognized:

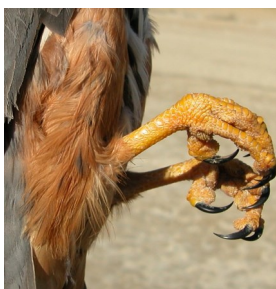
**Juvenile** with feathers of wing and upperparts black-brown with rufous edge; undertail coverts and thighs pale buffish; central pair of tail feathers with rufous tips, rest of tail feathers barred and tipped rufous; greater and primary coverts tipped rufous; grey bluish cere and ocular ring.

**2nd year** with plumage similar to **adult** or with some mixed **juvenile** brown feathers; tail usually with both **adult** and **juvenile** feathers; greater coverts and flight feathers **juvenile** (in summer sometimes with some **adult** feathers just moulted).

**Adult** with feathers of upperparts blue-grey; undertail coverts and thighs reddish; central pair of tail feathers without rufous tips; tail feathers tipped greyish; greater and primary coverts without rufous tips; yellow cere and ocular ring. **CAUTION:** some **adult** birds can retain secondaries with **adult** pattern but never have **juvenile** wing coverts.



Hobby. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right juvenile.



Hobby. Ageing. Pattern of thighs: left adult; right juvenile.



Hobby. Ageing. Pattern of undertail coverts: left adult; right juvenile.



Hobby. Ageing. Pattern of tips of tail feathers: left adult; right juvenile.



Hobby. Ageing. Pattern of tips of primary coverts: top adult; bottom juvenile.

**03100 Eurasian Hobby** (*Falco subbuteo*)**MOULT**

Complete **postbreeding** moult, starting in breeding sites, suspended during migration and finished in winter quarters. Partial **postjuvenile** moult in winter, involving part of body feathers and, sometimes, some tail feathers and wing coverts.


**PHENOLOGY**

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

 Summer visitor

 Resident

 Wintering

 On passage


Hobby. Adult. Female (06-VIII).



Hobby. 2nd year. Male (30-IV).



Hobby. 2nd year. Female (19-IX).

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

Hobby. Juvenile. Male ().



Hobby. Juvenile. Female (29-XI).



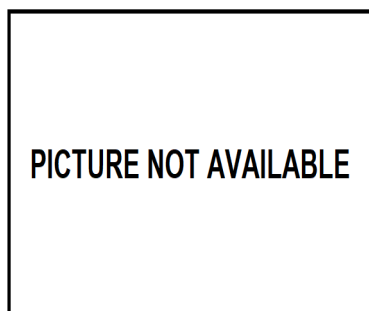
Hobby. Adult.  
 Head pattern:  
 top male (18-  
 VI); bottom  
 female (06-  
 VIII).



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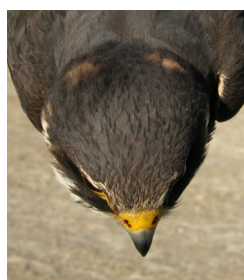


Hobby. 2nd year. Head pattern: top male (30-IV); bottom female (19-IX).

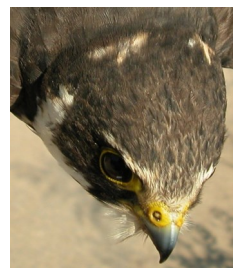


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Hobby. Juvenile. Head pattern: top male (); bottom female (29-XI).



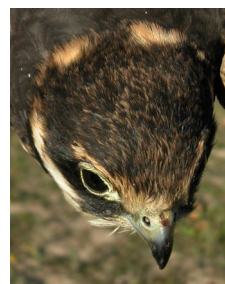
Hobby. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).



Hobby. 2nd year. Crown pattern: left male (30-IV); right female (19-IX).



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Hobby. Juvenile. Crown pattern: left male (); right female (29-XI).



Hobby. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).



Hobby. 2nd year. Breast pattern: left male (30-IV); right female (19-IX).

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Hobby. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (); right female (29-XI).



Hobby. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).

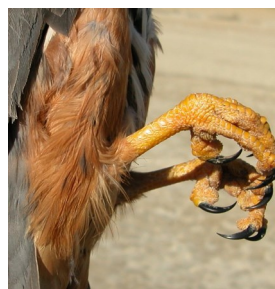


Hobby. 2nd year. Upperparts pattern: left male (30-IV); right female in autumn (19-IX).

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Hobby. Juvenile. Upperparts pattern: left male (); right female (29-XI).



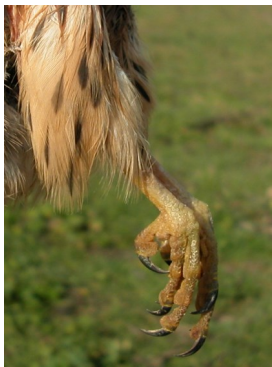
Hobby. Adult. Pattern of thighs: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).



Hobby. 2nd year. Pattern of thighs: left male (30-IV); right female (19-IX).



**03100 Eurasian Hobby** (*Falco subbuteo*)



Hobby. Juvenile. Pattern of thighs: left male (10-IX); right female (15-X).



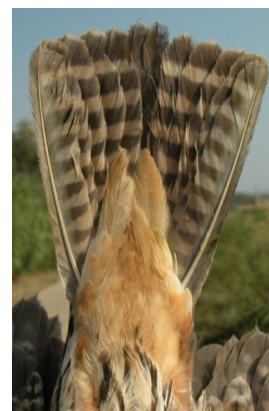
Hobby. Adult. Rump pattern: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).



Hobby. 2nd year. Rump pattern: left male (30-IV); right female (19-IX).



Hobby. Adult. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).



Hobby. 2nd year. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (30-IV); right female (19-IX).





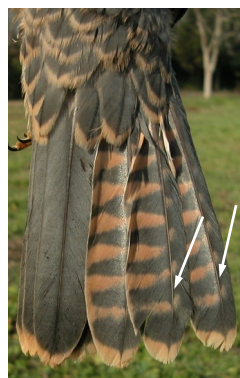
Hobby. Juvenile. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (10-IX); right female (15-X).



Hobby. Adult. Pattern of 3rd to 5th tail feathers: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).



Hobby. 2nd year. Pattern of 3rd to 5th tail feathers: left male (30-IV); right female (19-IX).



Hobby. Juvenile. Pattern of 3rd to 5th tail feathers: left male (10-IX); right female (15-X).



Hobby. Adult. Male: pattern of primary coverts (18-VI).



Hobby. Adult. Female: pattern of primary coverts (06-VIII).





Hobby. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primary coverts (30-IV).



Hobby. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primary coverts (19-IX).



Hobby. Juvenile. Male: pattern of primary coverts (10-IX).



Hobby. Juvenile. Female: pattern of primary coverts (29-XI).



Hobby. Adult. Pattern of scapulars and tertials: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).





Hobby. 2nd year. Pattern of scapulars and tertials: left male (30-IV); right female (19-IX).



Hobby. Juvenile. Pattern of scapulars and tertials: left male (10-IX); right female (29-XI).



Hobby. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (18-VI).



Hobby. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (06-VIII).



Hobby. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primaries (05-V).



Hobby. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primaries (19-IX).





Hobby. 2nd year autumn. Female: pattern of primaries (19-IX).



Hobby. Juvenile. Female: pattern of primaries (29-XI).



Hobby. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries with retained feathers (18-VI).



Hobby. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries (06-VIII).



Hobby. 2nd year. Male: pattern of secondaries (05-V).



Hobby. 2nd year. Female: pattern of secondaries (19-IX).



Hobby. Juvenile. Male: pattern of secondaries (10-IX).





Hobby. Juvenile. Female: pattern of secondaries (29-XI).



Hobby. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (18-VI).



Hobby. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (06-VIII).



Hobby. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (30-IV).



Hobby. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (19-IX).



Hobby. Juvenile. Male: pattern of wing (10-IX).





Hobby. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing (29-XI).