

# 03100 Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)

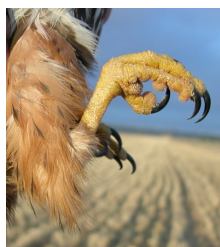


Hobby. Adult. Male (18-VI).

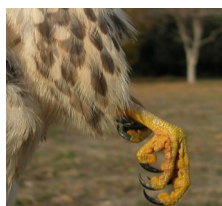
## EURASIAN HOBBY (*Falco subbuteo*)

### 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

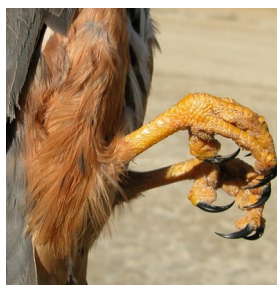
It's possible to sex the smallest **males**, with a wing shorter than 245 mm. (**CAUTION:** birds with longer wings belong to both sexes). In **adults**, **male** usually tends to have deep blue grey upperparts; thighs and undertail coverts unstreaked or with poorly marked streaks; deep reddish underparts. **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).



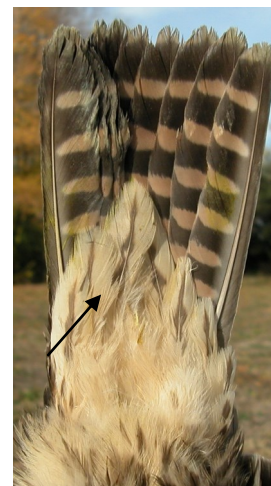
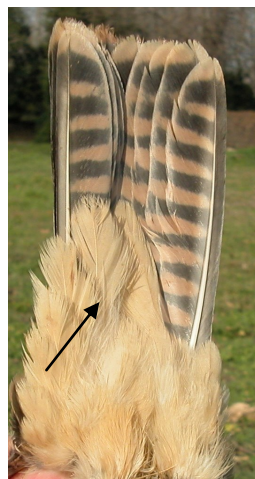
Hobby. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of upperparts: left male; right female.



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:

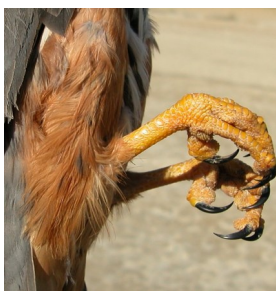
**Juvenile** with feathers of wing and upperparts black-brown with rufous edge; undertail coverts and thighs pale buffish; central pair of tail feathers with rufous tips, rest of tail feathers barred and tipped rufous; greater and primary coverts tipped rufous; grey bluish cere and ocular ring.

**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

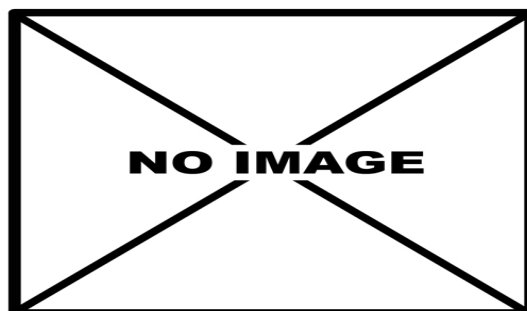

Hobby. Adult. Female (06-VIII).



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



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



Hobby. Juvenile. Male ().



Hobby. Juvenile. Female (29-XI).

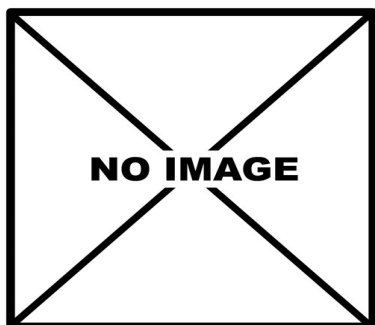

 Hobby. Adult.  
 Head pattern:  
 top male (18-  
 VI); bottom  
 female (06-  
 VIII).



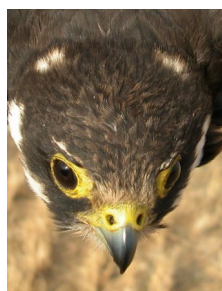
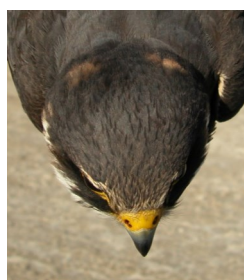
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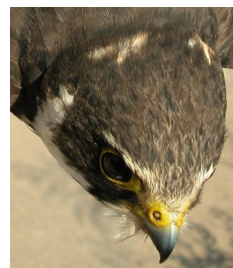
Hobby. 2nd year. Head pattern: top male (30-IV); bottom female (19-IX).



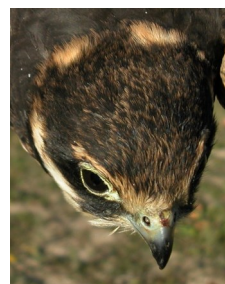
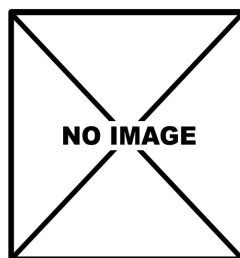
Hobby. Juvenile. Head pattern: top male (); bottom female (29-XI).



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).



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

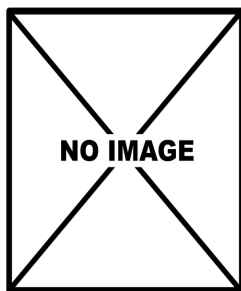


Hobby. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).



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

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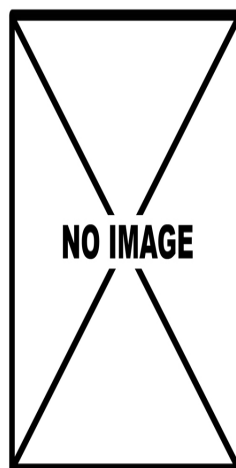
Hobby. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (); right female (29-XI).



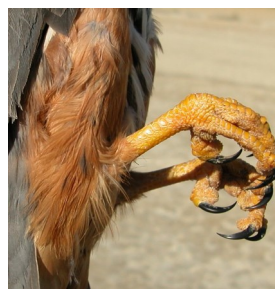
Hobby. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).



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



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



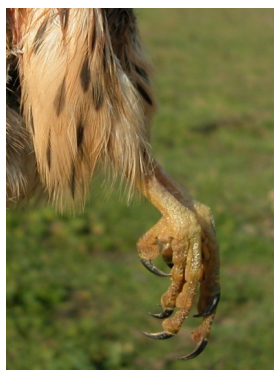
Hobby. Adult. Pattern of thighs: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).



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).



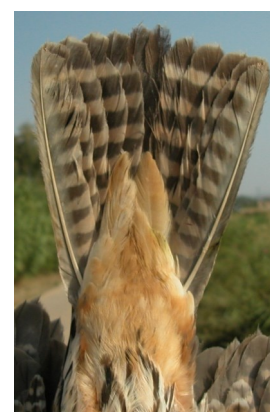
Hobby. Adult. Rump pattern: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).



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).

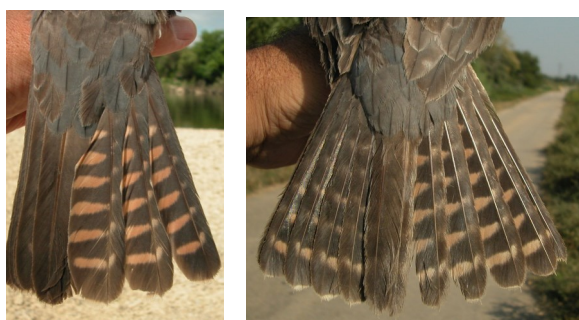




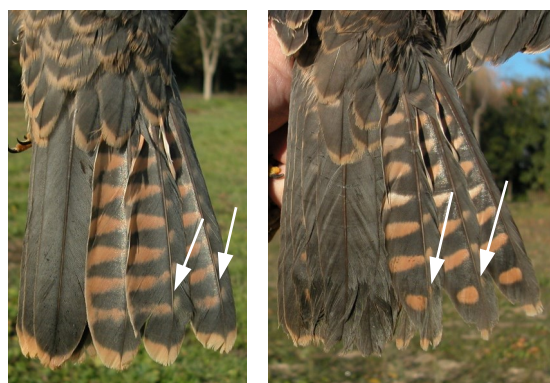
Hobby. Juvenile. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (10-IX); right female (15-X).



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).

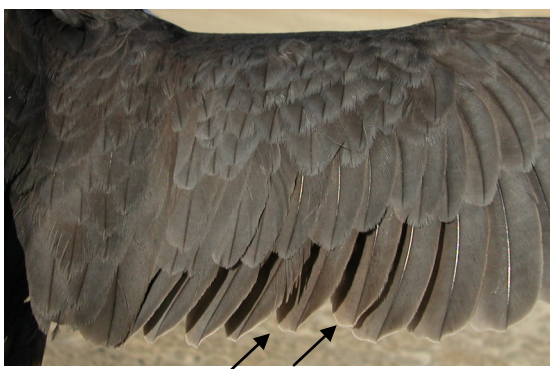




Hobby. 2nd year autumn. Female: pattern of primaries (19-IX).



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).