



Barn Owl. Male (26-l).

WESTERN BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*)

IDENTIFICATION

33-39 cm. Brown golden upperparts, with grey feathers; white or buff underparts; white flight feathers at the base and like on the back in the upperwing; white and heart-shape face; dark eyes.



Barn Owl. Pattern of head and facial mask

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

Male lacks, or has only a little, spots on breast and underwing coverts; usually has a pale band with variable width on neck; dark tinge on upperparts pale. **Female** usually with very spotted breast and underwing coverts; with a small or without a pale band on neck; dark tinge on upperparts usually dark. **Juveniles** can be sexed with the same characters than **adults**. (**CAUTION:** many birds cannot be sexed due to overlap, so it is necessary to have the three exposed characters for a confident sexed).



Barn Owl. Sexing. Pattern of the white band on neck: left male; right female.



Barn Owl. Sexing. Pattern of spotted on breast: left male; right female.



Barn Owl. Sexing. Pattern of spotted on underwing coverts: top male; bottom female.

AGEING

4 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh feathers and without moult limit.

2nd year autumn/3rd year spring with some outer primaries and some inner secondaries moulted, so that there will be two generations of feathers; usually moulted the central pair of tail feathers.

3rd year autumn/4rd year spring with another group of outer primaries and secondaries, so that there will be three generations of feathers: outer and innermost **juveniles**, which will be very worn, and those changed in the next two years.

Adult with three generations of feathers, but all with **adult** pattern.

CAUTION: pattern on flight feathers in **adult** and **juvenile** is very similar, being very difficult to find differences.

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MOULT

Partial **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults. Moults of primaries and secondaries is always in small groups according to the pattern explained in **AGEING**.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor ■ Resident
- Wintering ■ On passage



Barn Owl. Female (26-I).



Barn Owl. Adult. Pattern of the white band on neck: left male (20-XI); right female (20-XI).



Barn Owl. Juvenile. Pattern of the white band on neck: left male (10-II); right female (25-VI)



Barn Owl. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (25-VI); right female (13-X).



Barn Owl. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (10-II); right female (26-I).

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Barn Owl. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (20-XI); right female (20-XI).



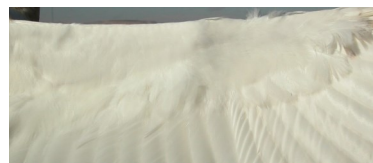
Barn Owl. Juvenile. Pattern Upperpart pattern: left male (10-II); right female (25-VI)



Barn Owl. Tail pattern: left adult (25-VI); right 4th year spring (03-I).



Barn Owl. Tail pattern: left 2nd year autumn (20-XI); right juvenile (21-VI)



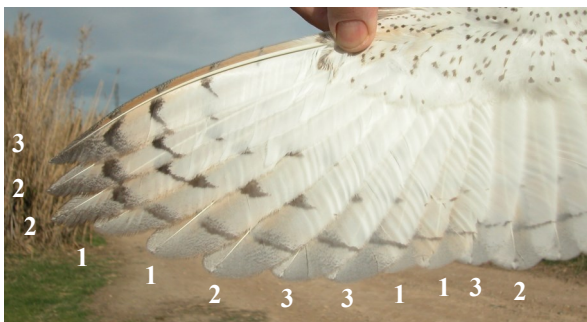
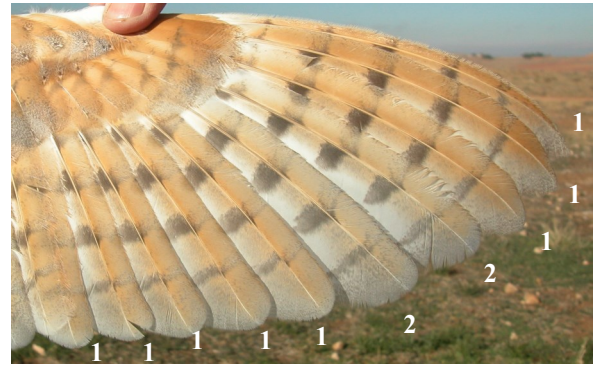
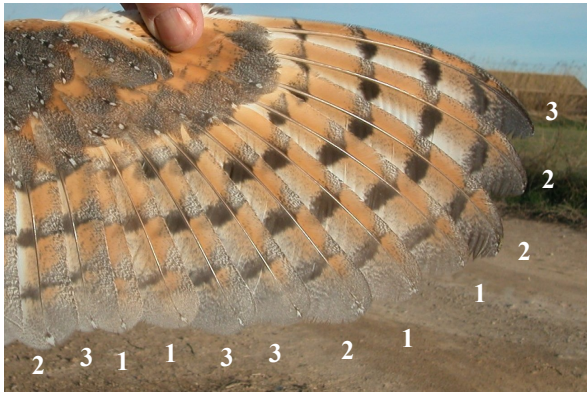
Barn Owl. Adult. Pattern of mottled on underwing covers: top male (20-XI); bottom female (20-XI)



Barn Owl. Juvenile. Pattern of mottled on underwing covers: top male (26-I); bottom female (18-VI)

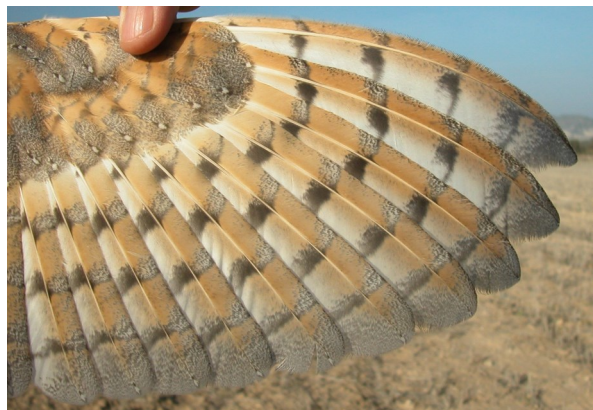
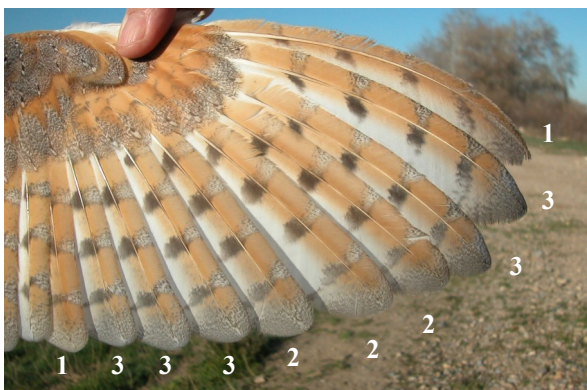


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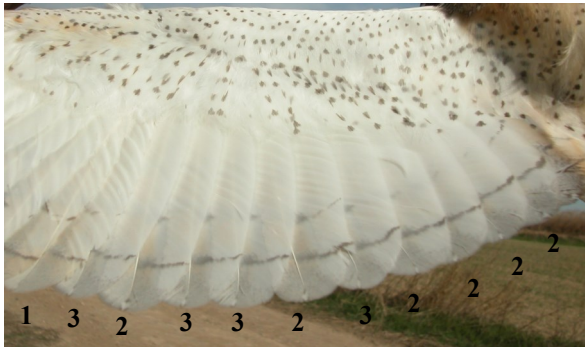
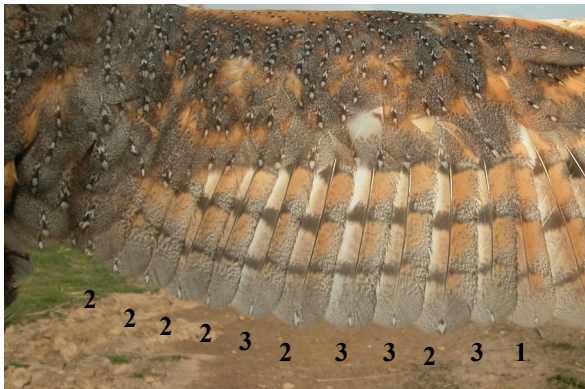
Barn Owl. Adult: pattern of primaries (1 to 3 different ages of feathers where 1 is the older and 3 the newer) (25-II).

Barn Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of primaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers) (20-XI).



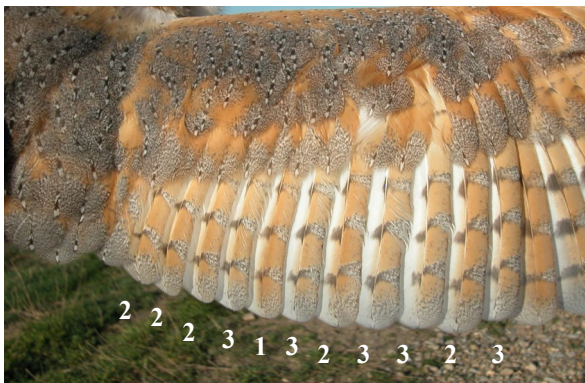
Barn Owl. 4th year spring: pattern of primaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers; 3 3rd year feathers) (03-I).

Barn Owl. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (26-I).



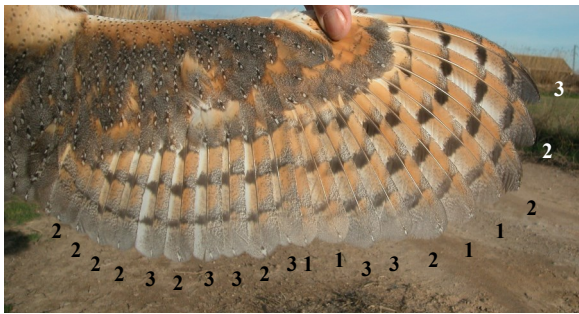
Barn Owl. Adult: pattern of secondaries (1 to 3 different ages of feathers where 1 is the older and 3 the newer) (25-II).

Barn Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of secondaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers) (20-XI).



Barn Owl. 4th year spring: pattern of secondaries (1 juvenile feather; 2 2nd year feathers; 3 3rd year feathers) (03-I).

Barn Owl. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (26-I).



Barn Owl. Adult: pattern of wing (1 to 3 different ages of feathers where 1 is the older and 3 the newer) (25-II).



Barn Owl. 4th year spring: pattern of wing (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers; 3 3rd year feathers) (03-I).



Barn Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of wing (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers) (20-XI).



Barn Owl. Juvenile: pattern of wing (26-I).