

07390 Eurasian Scops Owl (*Otus scops*)

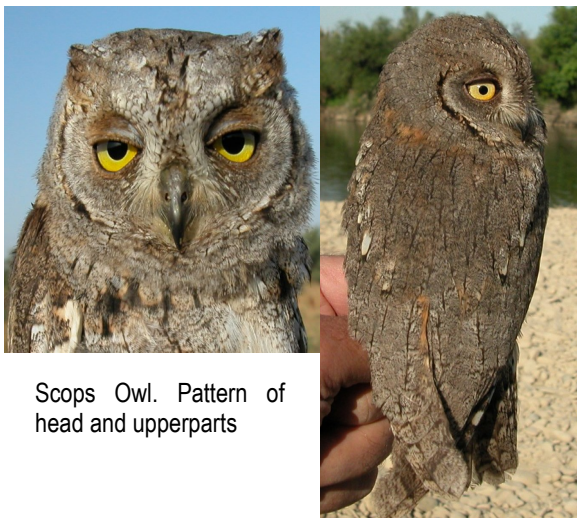


Scops Owl. Adult (23-IV).

EURASIAN SCOPS OWL (*Otus scops*)

IDENTIFICATION

18-21 cm. Brown-grey to reddish-brown upperparts, with fine streaked; lighter underparts, also vermiculated; flight feathers and tail barred; rounded head with tufts; black bluish bill and yellow eyes.



Scops Owl. Pattern of head and upperparts

SIMILAR SPECIES

Little Owl has similar size (a bit bigger) and yellow eyes, but has not tufts on head and breast and underparts are spotted.



Little Owl

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. Some **females** can be sexed if their 8th primary is longer than 125 mm. **CAUTION:** inferior measurements can occur indistinctly in both sexes.

AGEING

4 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile similar to **adults** but with very fresh feathers; central tail feathers narrow and with pointed tips, with white bars with irregular black lines around; narrow and pointed primaries with their last dark bar burred or absent; inner secondaries narrow and pointed.

2nd year with worn flight and tail feathers; wings and tail with **juvenile** pattern.

3rd year only in a little number of birds with some retained **juvenile** secondaries, which will be pointed and eroded.

Adult with central tail feathers broad and with rounded tips, with broader black lines around the white bars than **juveniles**; primaries broad and squared, with distinct last dark bar, which is narrower than the other bars; inner secondaries broad and rounded.

CAUTION: described patterns are not always evident for all birds.

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Scops Owl. Ageing. Pattern of central tail feathers: left adult; right juvenile



Scops Owl. Ageing. Pattern of primaries: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Scops Owl. Ageing. Pattern of secondaries: left adult; right juvenile.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, starting in July and suspended before migration to be completed in wintering sites. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, lesser and median wing coverts and sometimes central tail feathers; flight feathers and tail are changed in their first **postbreeding** moult but some **juvenile** secondaries can be retained until **3rd year**.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Resident
- Wintering
- On passage

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Scops Owl. 3rd year (28-VII).



Scops Owl. Juvenile (09-VII).



Scops Owl. 2nd year (04-VI).



Scops Owl.
Head pattern:
top adult (23-
IV); middle 3rd
year (28-VII);
botom 2nd year
(04-VI).



Scops Owl. 1st year (27-VIII).



07390 Eurasian Scops Owl (*Otus scops*)



Scops Owl. Head pattern: top 1st year (27-VIII); bottom juvenile (09-VII).



Scops Owl. Upperparts pattern: left adult (23-IV); right 3rd year (28-VII).



Scops Owl. Breast pattern: left adult (23-IV); right 3rd year (28-VII).



Scops Owl. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year (04-VI); top right 1st year (27-VIII); left juvenile (09-VII).



Scops Owl. Upperparts pattern: top left 2nd year (04-VI); top right 1st year (27-VIII); left juvenile (09-VII).

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Scops Owl. Adult: pattern of central tail feathers (23-IV).



Scops Owl. 1st year: pattern of central tail feathers (27-VIII).



Scops Owl. 3rd year: pattern of central tail feathers (28-VII).



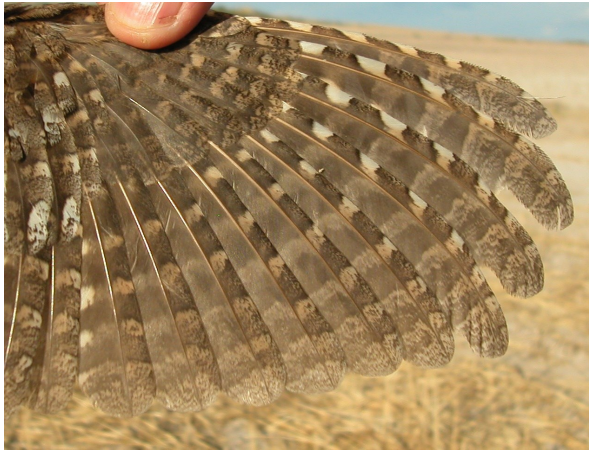
Scops Owl. Juvenile: pattern of central tail feathers (09-VII).



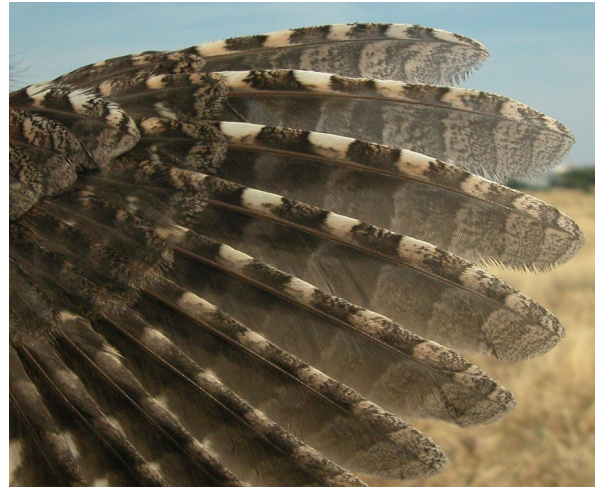
Scops Owl. 2nd year: pattern of central tail feathers (04-VI).



Scops Owl. Adult: pattern of primaries (23-IV).



Scops Owl. 3rd year: pattern of primaries (28-VII).



Scops Owl. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (09-VII).



Scops Owl. 2nd year: pattern of primaries (04-VI).



Scops Owl. Adult: pattern of secondaries (23-IV).



Scops Owl. 1st year: pattern of primaries (27-VIII).



Scops Owl. 3rd year: pattern of secondaries (1 retained juvenile feathers) (28-VII).



Scops Owl. 2nd year: pattern of secondaries (04-VI).



Scops Owl. 1st year: pattern of secondaries (27-VIII).



Scops Owl. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (09-VII).



Scops Owl. Adult: pattern of wing (23-IV).



Scops Owl. 3rd: pattern of wing (1 retained juvenile feathers) (28-VII).



Scops Owl. 2nd year: pattern of wing (04-VI).



Scops Owl. 1st year: pattern of wing (27-VIII).



Scops Owl. Juvenile: pattern of wing (09-VII).