

267 Eurasian Scops Owl

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Scops Owl. Adult (23-IV).



Little Owl

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



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.

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.

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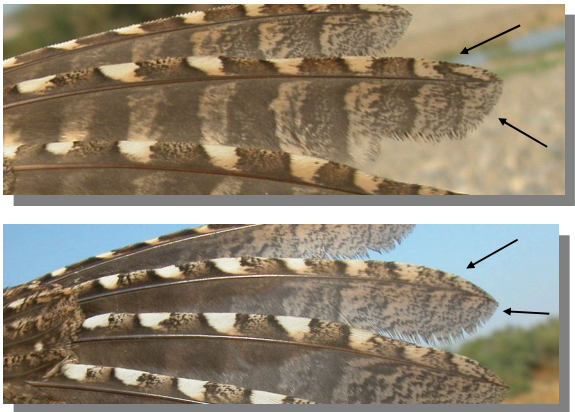
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Scops Owl. Ageing. Pattern of central tail feathers: left adult; right juvenile



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



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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Summer visitor, widely distributed throughout the Region related to open woodlands or, if deforested, cliffs and buildings with holes.

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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); bottom
2nd year (04-
VI).



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

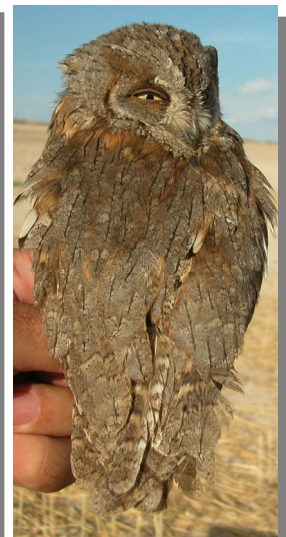


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Scops Owl.
Head pattern:
top 1st year
(27-VIII);
bottom juvenile
(09-VII).



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 ju-
venile (09-VII).



Scops Owl. Upper-
parts 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: pat-
tern of central
tail feathers
(27-VIII).



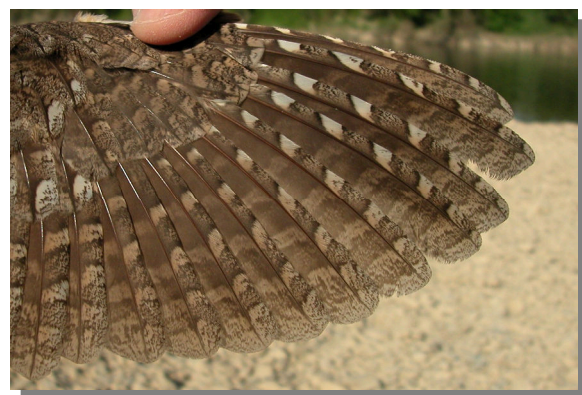
Scops Owl.
3rd year: pat-
tern of central
tail feathers
(28-VII).



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



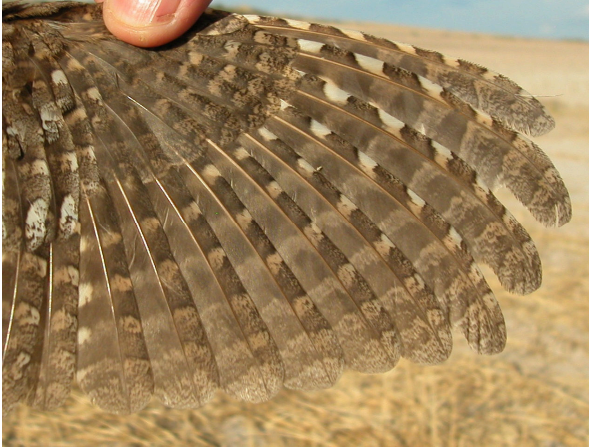
Scops Owl.
2nd year:
pattern of
central tail
feathers (04-
VI).



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

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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).

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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).