

268 Eurasian Eagle Owl

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Eagle Owl. Adult (02-VIII).

EURASIAN EAGLE OWL (*Bubo bubo*)

IDENTIFICATION

66-71 cm. Buff plumage, streaked dark; brown wings with buff transversal streaks; white throat; dark bill; feathered legs; orange eyes and long ear-tufts.



Eagle Owl. Pattern of head and wing.



SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. **Females** usually bigger than **males**, but wing length is not an useful characteristic due to overlap.

AGEING

5 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with tail and wing feathers with the same age, without moult limits; primary coverts with three/five blackish bars, the last one near the tip; primaries with rounded tips, with the last dark bar near the tip; central secondaries with the last blackish bar near the tip; tertials with arrow-shape bars reaching both sides of the feather and with an "orderly" pattern; central tail feathers with bars reaching both sides of the feather; outermost tail feather with the last blackish bar near the tip.

2nd year autumn/3rd year spring with **juvenile** flight feathers, but with some primaries or secondaries changed contrasting with worn neighboring feathers (**CAUTION:** some birds moult only tertials); usually is changed only the central pair of tail feathers but sometimes are moulted more feathers.

3rd year autumn/4th year spring have moulted 2-3 outer primaries with their primary coverts and most of secondaries (sometimes 1 or 2 **juveniles** still retained), so there are one generation of **juvenile** feathers and two with **adult** pattern.

4th year autumn/5th year spring usually with some primary retained; sometimes also some secondary.

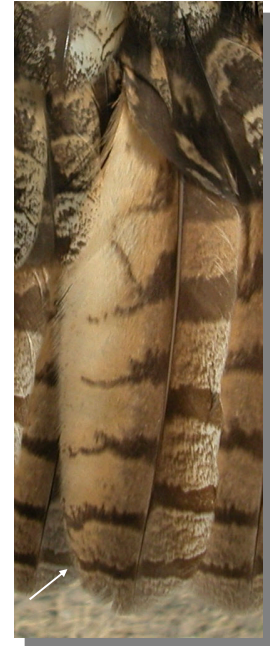
Adult with several generation of feathers, but all with **adult** pattern; primary coverts usually with no distinct transversal bars, the last far from the tip; primaries with squared tips, with the last dark bar far from the tip; central secondaries with the last blackish bar far from the tip; tertials with incomplete bars no reaching both sides of feather and with a "disorderly" pattern; central tail feathers with some incomplete bars no reaching both sides of feather; outermost tail feather with the last blackish bar far from the tip.

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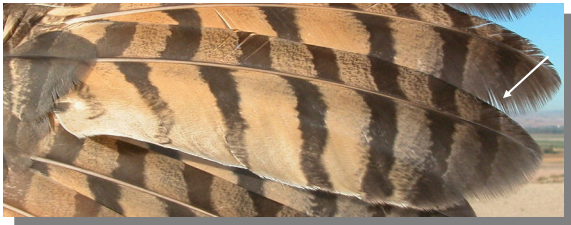
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Eagle Owl. Ageing. Pattern of primary coverts: top adult; bottom juvenile.



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



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



Eagle Owl. Ageing. Pattern of central tailfeather: left adult; right juvenile.



Eagle Owl. Ageing. Pattern of tertials: left adult; right juvenile.

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Eagle Owl. Ageing. Pattern of the outermost tailfeather: left adult; right juvenile.

MOULT

Partial **postbreeding** moult, changing each year part of body feathers and wing coverts; it is necessary several years to moult all flight feathers, changing 5-9 by year; moult period is between June and October. **Postjuvenile** moult takes place during 4 years; body feathers and part of wing coverts are changed in the **first year**, but no primary coverts and tail and flight feathers; in the **second year** are moulted tertials, some inner secondaries and central tail feathers; in the **third year** change 2-3 primaries with their primary coverts; in the **fourth year** all juvenile primaries and secondaries are moulted with their coverts, but some primary may remain retained; moult period take place between May and October.

PHENOLOGY

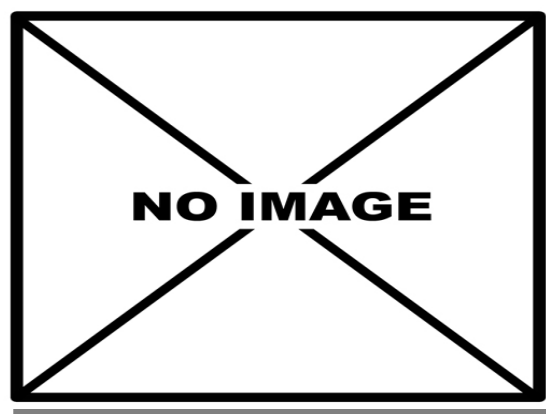
| I | II | III | IV | V | VI | VII | VIII | IX | X | XI | XII |
|---|----|-----|----|---|----|-----|------|----|---|----|-----|
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STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident, scarcely distributed throughout the Region



Eagle Owl. 4th year autumn oño (12-X).



Eagle Owl. 3rd year autumn ().



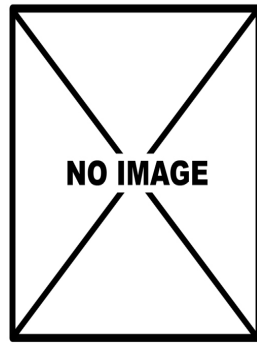
Eagle Owl. 2nd year autumn (18-X).

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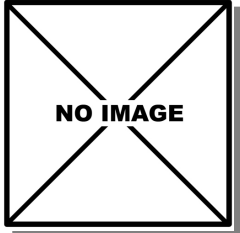
Eagle Owl. Juvenile (10-VIII).



Eagle Owl. Breast pattern: top left 3rd year autumn (); top right 2nd year autumn (18-X); left juvenile (10-VIII).



Eagle Owl. Head pattern: left adult (02-VIII); right 4th year autumn (12-X).



Eagle Owl. Head pattern: top left 3rd year autumn (); top right 2nd year autumn (18-X); left juvenile (10-VIII).



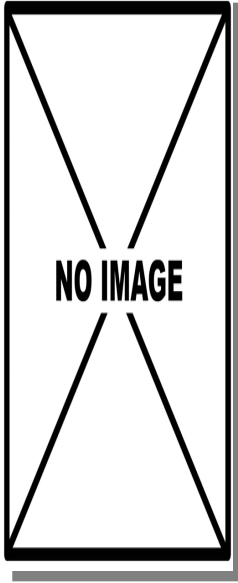
Eagle Owl. Upperpart pattern: left adult (02-VIII); right 4th year autumn (12-X).



Eagle Owl. Breast pattern: left adult (02-VIII); right 4th year autumn (12-X).

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Eagle Owl.
4th year autumn: pattern of tail (12-X).



Eagle Owl. Upperpart pattern: top left 3rd year autumn (); top right 2nd year autumn (18-X); left juvenile (10-VIII).



Eagle Owl.
3rd year autumn: pattern of tail (03-XI).



Eagle Owl.
Adult: pattern of tail (10-X).



Eagle Owl.
2nd year autumn: pattern of tail (1 juvenile feather; 2 feathers with adult pattern) (18-X)

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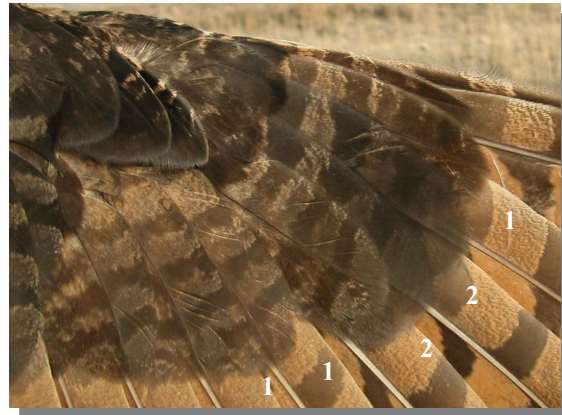
Eagle Owl.
Juvenile: pattern of tail (10-VIII).



Eagle Owl. 3rd year autumn: pattern of primary coverts (1 juvenile feathers; 2 adult feathers)(10-X).



Eagle Owl. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (02-VIII).



Eagle Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of primary coverts (1 juvenile feathers; 2 adult feathers) (18-X).



Eagle Owl. 4th year autumn: pattern of primary coverts (1 juvenile feather) (12-X).



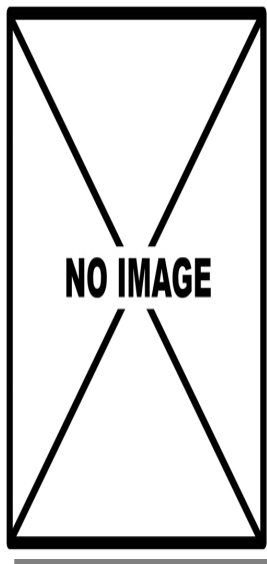
Eagle Owl. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (10-VIII).

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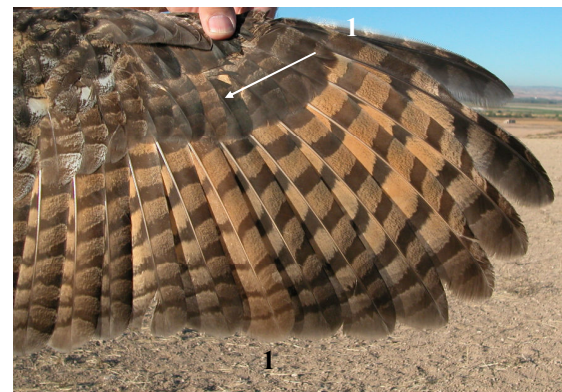
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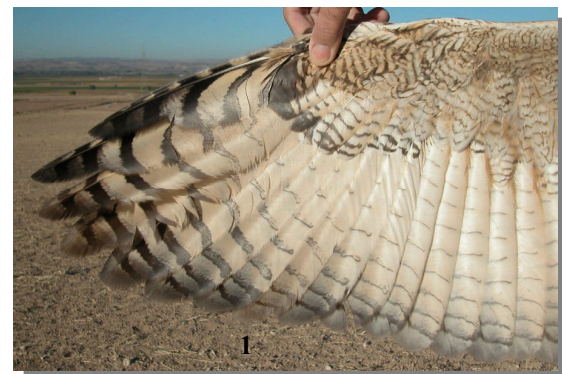
Eagle Owl. Pattern of tertials: left adult (02-VIII); right 4th year autumn (12-X).



Eagle Owl. Adult: pattern of primaries (04-XII).



Eagle Owl. Pattern of tertials: top left 3rd year autumn (0); top right 2nd year autumn (18-X); left juvenile (10-VIII).



Eagle Owl. 4th year autumn: pattern of primaries (1 juvenile feather) (12-X).

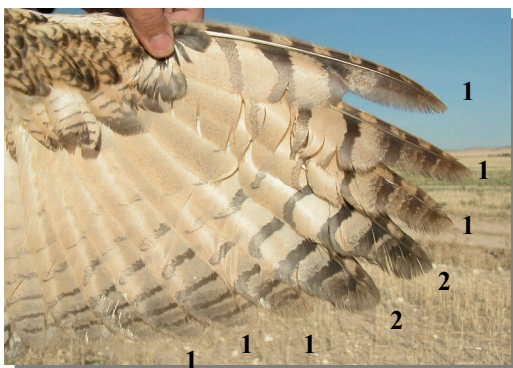
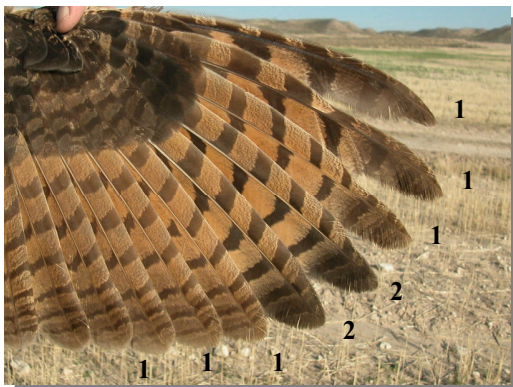
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Eagle Owl. 3rd year autumn: pattern of primaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 adult feathers) (10-X).

Eagle Owl. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (10-VIII).



Eagle Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of primaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 adult feathers) (18-X).

Eagle Owl. Adult: pattern of secondaries (04-XII).

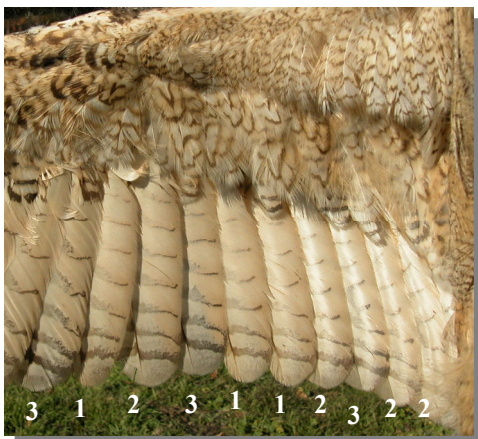
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Eagle Owl. 4th year autumn: pattern of secondaries (all feathers with adult pattern) (12-X).

Eagle Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of secondaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 adult feathers) (18-X).

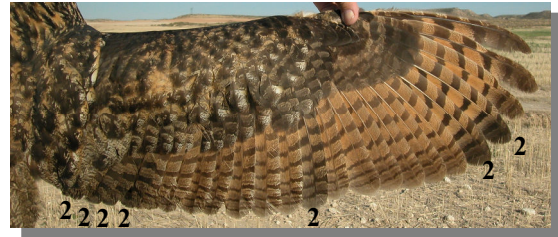


Eagle Owl. 3rd year autumn: pattern of secondaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers; 3 adult feathers)(03-XI).

Eagle Owl. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (10-VIII).

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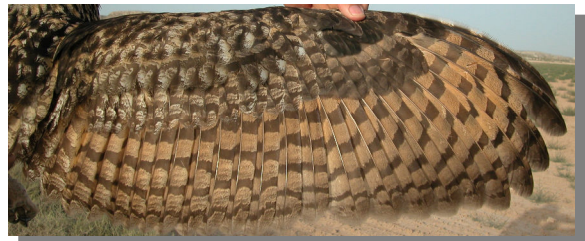
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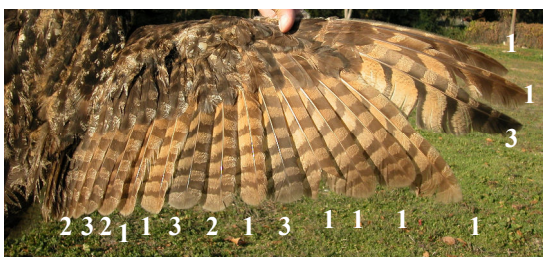
Eagle Owl. Adult: pattern of wing (04-XII).



Eagle Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of wing (2 adult feathers) (18-X).



Eagle Owl. 4th year autumn: pattern of wing (1 juvenile feather) (12-X).



Eagle Owl. Juvenile: pattern of wing (10-VIII).



Eagle Owl. 3rd year autumn: pattern of wing (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers; 3 adult feathers) (03-XI).