

# 270 Tawny Owl

Put your logo here



Tawny Owl. Adult (13-II)

## TAWNY OWL (*Strix aluco*)

### IDENTIFICATION

37-40 cm. Grey or reddish upperparts, with dark streaks; pale underparts streaked dark; brown-reddish and vermiculated flight feathers; plain facial dishes and without tufts; yellow-greenish bill; black eyes.



Tawny Owl. Pattern of head, bill and wing.



### SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable since it is the only grey or reddish owl with dark eyes.

### SEXING

Both sexes alike in plumage. Usually, **male** smaller than **female** but size is not useful for sexing due to overlap.

### AGEING

5 age groups can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with only one age of flight and tail feathers; primary coverts with two or three dark and narrow bands; primaries narrow and pointed; primaries and secondaries with dark narrow and usually broken subterminal band; tail feathers slightly pointed, with tips whitish or dirty grey without or with only some dark spots.

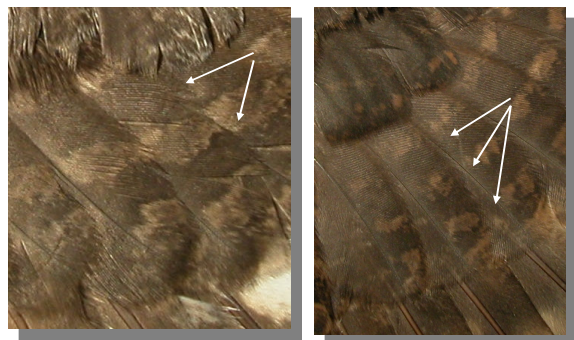
**2nd year autumn/3rd year spring** with two generations of feathers on wing, so some fresh inner primaries and usually outer secondaries have **adult** pattern and the rest have **juvenile** pattern; all tail feathers with **adult** pattern.

**3rd year autumn/4th year spring** with some **juvenile** secondaries unmoulted; with two generations of primaries with **adult** pattern.

**4th year autumn/5th year spring** only in birds with retained **juvenile** secondaries and until they are moulted.

**Adult** with two or more generations of flight feathers but all with **adult** pattern; primary coverts with no more than two broad dark bands; primaries with broad tip; primaries and secondaries with dark subterminal band with similar width than the other ones and usually unbroken; tail feathers rounded, with dirty grey tips with dark spots.

**CAUTION:** wear and individual variation can make it difficult to appreciate the pattern of tips on tail feathers.



Tawny Owl. Ageing. Pattern of primary coverts: left adult; right juvenile.

## 270 Tawny Owl

Put your logo here



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



Tawny Owl. Ageing. Pattern of central tail feather: left adult; right juvenile.



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



Tawny Owl. Ageing. Pattern of the outermost tail feather: left adult; right juvenile.



# 270 Tawny Owl

Put your logo here

## MOULT

Nearly complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in November but no all flight feathers changed each year. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers and lesser and median coverts but no greater coverts or flight and tail feathers; in **2nd year** all tail feathers, some inner primaries (usually two or a few more) and generally the two innermost tertials are moulting retaining the rest of **juvenile** flight feathers; in **3rd year** all retained **juvenile** primaries and most of the secondaries are moulted, usually retaining some **juvenile** secondaries for another year.

## PHENOLOGY

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

## STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident, widely distributed throughout the mountainous forests of the Region.



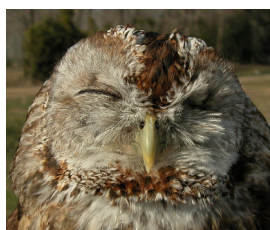
Tawny Owl. Juvenile (13-II)



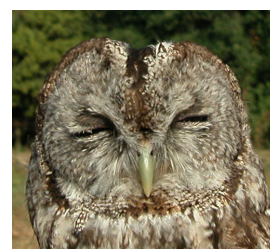
Tawny Owl. 3rd year autumn (10-IX)



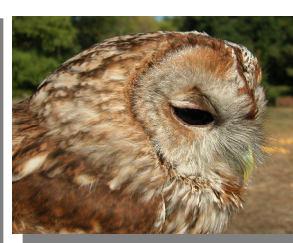
Tawny Owl. 2nd year autumn (10-IX)



Tawny Owl. Face pattern: left adult (13-II); right 3rd year autumn (10-IX)



Tawny Owl. Face pattern: left 2nd year autumn (10-IX); right juvenile (13-II)

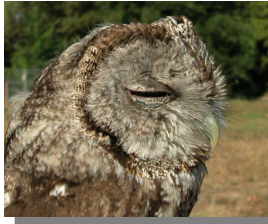


Tawny Owl. Head pattern: left adult (13-II); right 3rd year autumn (10-IX)



# 270 Tawny Owl

Put your logo here



Tawny Owl. Head pattern: left 2nd year autumn (10-IX); right juvenile (13-II)



Tawny Owl. Breast pattern: left adult (13-II); right 3rd year autumn (10-IX)



Tawny Owl. Breast pattern: left 2nd year autumn (10-IX); right juvenile (13-II)



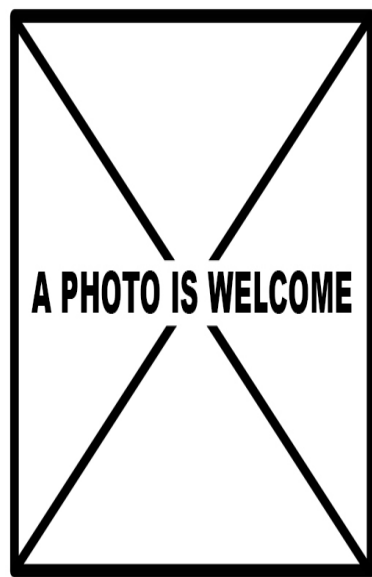
Tawny Owl. Upperpart pattern: left 2nd year autumn (10-IX); right juvenile (13-II)



Tawny Owl.  
Adult: tail  
pattern (13-II).



Tawny Owl. Upperpart pattern: left adult (); right 3rd year autumn (10-IX)



Tawny Owl.  
4th year au-  
tumn: tail pat-  
tern ().



## 270 Tawny Owl

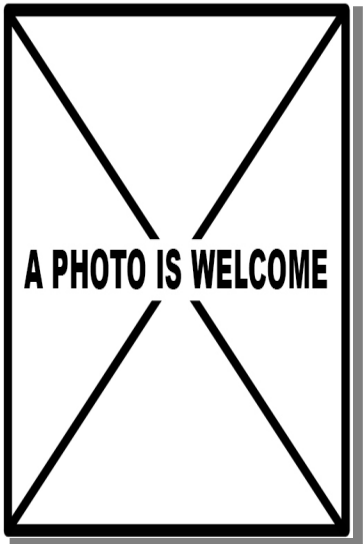
Put your logo here



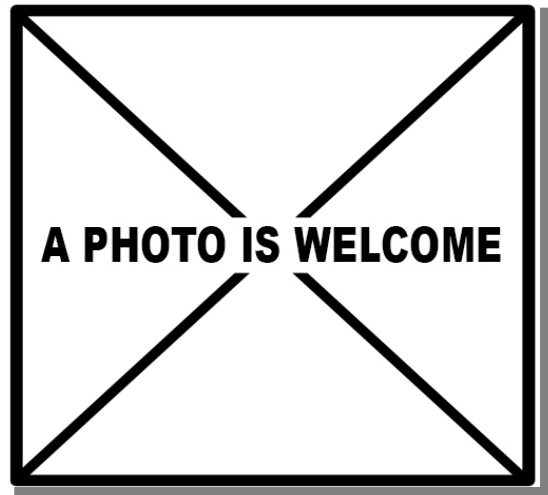
Tawny Owl.  
3rd year autumn: tail pattern (10-IX).



Tawny Owl. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (13-II).



Tawny Owl.  
2nd year autumn: tail pattern ().



Tawny Owl. 4th year autumn: pattern of primary coverts ().



Tawny Owl.  
Juvenile autumn: tail pattern (20-VII).



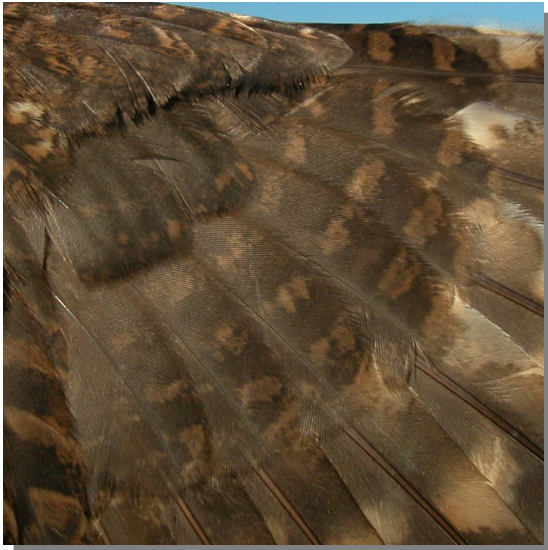
Tawny Owl. 3rd year autumn: pattern of primary coverts (10-IX).

## 270 Tawny Owl

Put your logo here



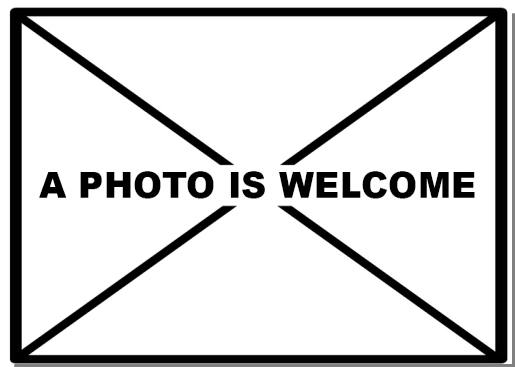
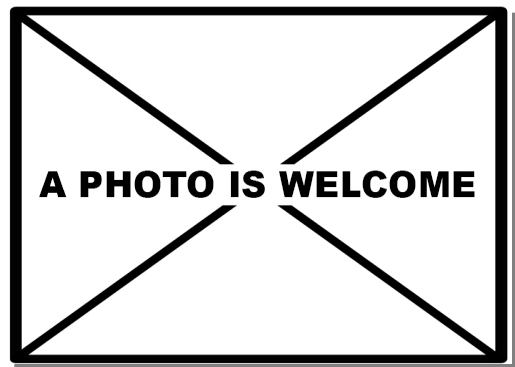
Tawny Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of primary coverts (10-IX).



Tawny Owl. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (20-VII).



Tawny Owl. Adult: pattern of primaries (13-II).



Tawny Owl. 4th year autumn: pattern of primaries ().



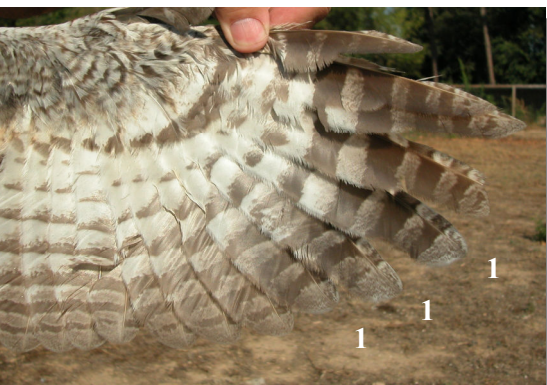
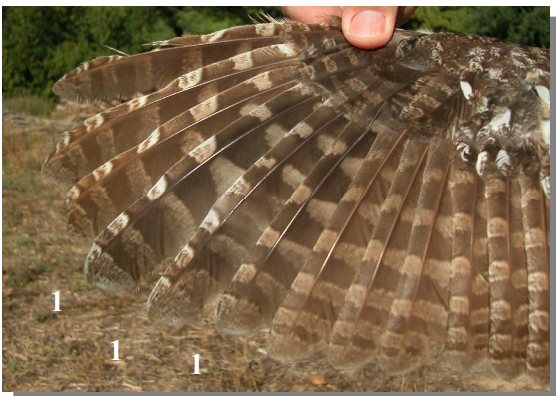
## 270 Tawny Owl

Put your logo here



Tawny Owl. 3rd year autumn: pattern of primaries (two ages of feathers with adult pattern) (10-IX).

Tawny Owl. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (20-VII).



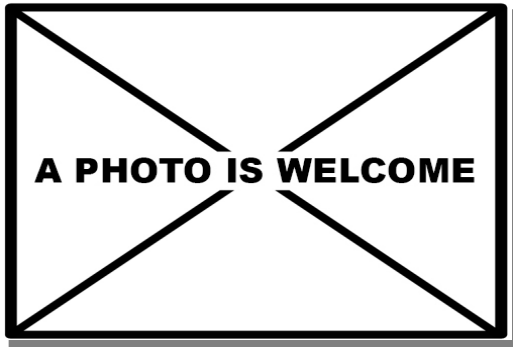
Tawny Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of primaries (1: feathers with adult pattern) (10-IX).

Tawny Owl. Adult: pattern of secondaries (13-II).

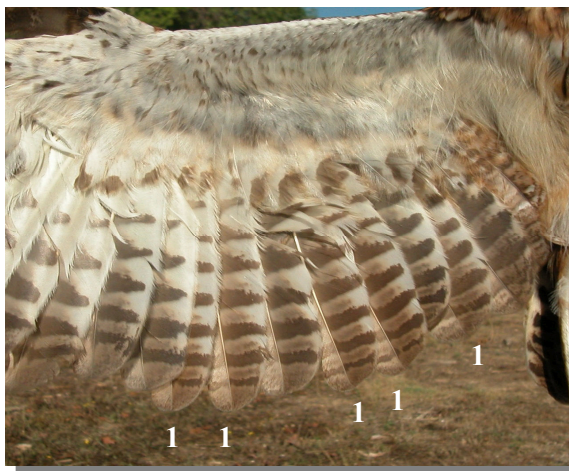
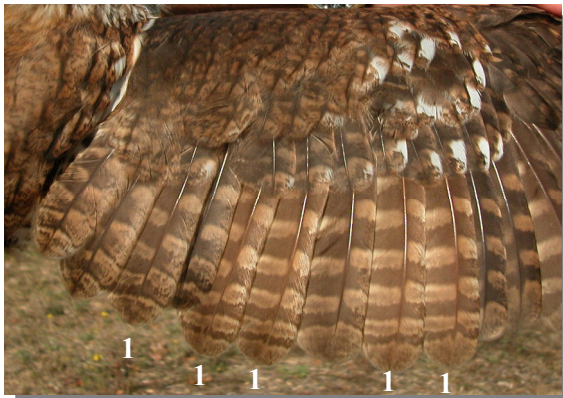


## 270 Tawny Owl

Put your logo here



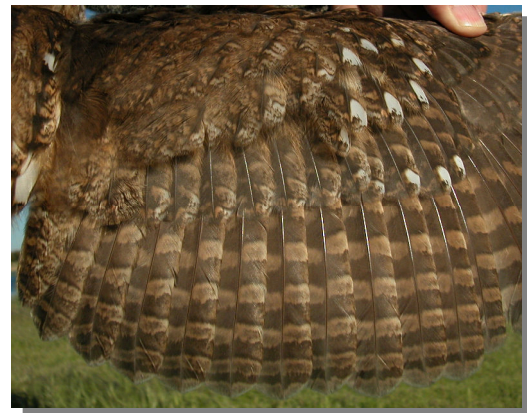
Tawny Owl. 4th year autumn: pattern of secondaries ().



Tawny Owl. 3rd year autumn: pattern of secondaries (1: juvenile feathers) (10-IX).



Tawny Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of secondaries (all feathers with juvenile pattern) (10-IX).

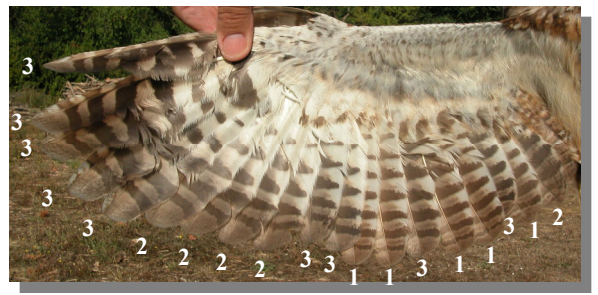
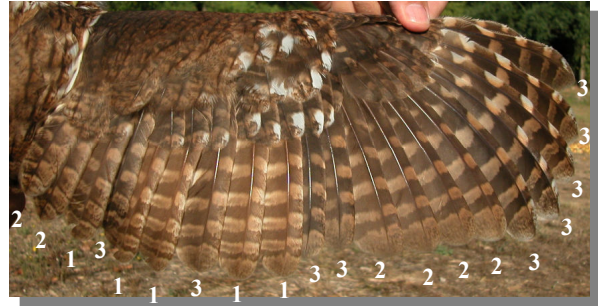


Tawny Owl. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (21-IX).



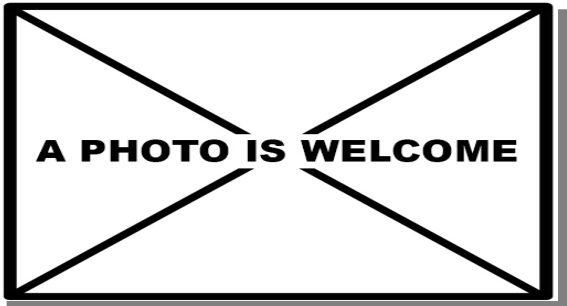
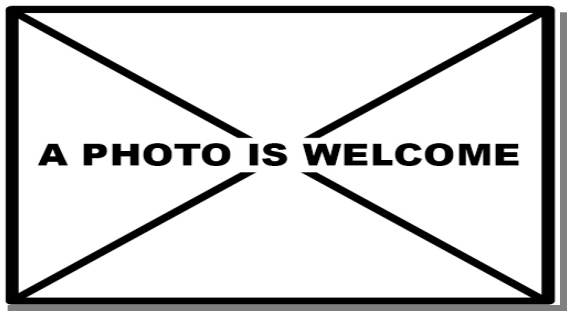
# 270 Tawny Owl

Put your logo here



Tawny Owl. Adult: Wing pattern (13-II).

Tawny Owl. 3rd year autumn: Wing pattern (1: juvenile feathers; 2: 2nd year feathers; 3: 3rd year feathers) (10-IX).



Tawny Owl. 4th year autumn: Wing pattern ().

Tawny Owl. 2nd year autumn: Wing pattern (1: 2nd year feathers) (10-IX).



## 270 Tawny Owl

Put your logo here



Tawny Owl. Juvenile: Wing pattern (20-XI).