



Long-eared Owl. Male (05-II).

LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus*)

IDENTIFICATION

35-39 cm. Grey brown or grey reddish upperparts, brown tinged; buff underparts; brown-reddish flight feathers; reddish tail with brownish barred; long tufts; black bill; orange eyes.



Long-eared Owl: iris colour and wing pattern.



SIMILAR SPECIES

Short-eared Owl has similar size and plumage pattern but with yellow eyes and black tips on wings.

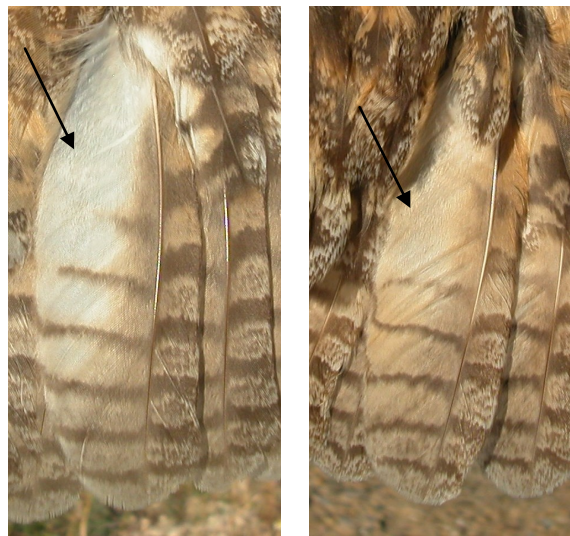


Short-eared Owl

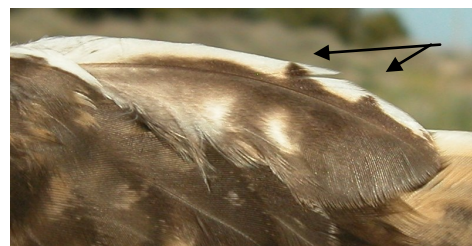


SEXING

Male with base of inner web of secondaries whitish; longer feather of alula with whitish outer edge and a maximum of three transversal bars; underwing coverts very pale, sometimes all white. **Female** with base of inner web of secondaries buff; longer feather of alula with buff outer edge and usually with four transversal bars; underwing coverts pale buff. **Juveniles** can be sexed according to the same described characteristics. **CAUTION:** sexing using colour of face and body feathers is not safely due to overlap.



Long-eared Owl. Sexing. Pattern of the inner web of secondaries: left male; right female.



Long-eared Owl. Pattern of the longest feather of alula: top male; bottom female.



Long-eared Owl. Sexing. Pattern of underwing coverts: top male; bottom female.

AGEING

3 age classes can be recognized:

Juvenile with primary coverts with three or four bars; primaries with the last dark bar near the tip; secondaries usually with seven or eight bars, the last near the tip; tail feathers with white or grey tip (**CAUTION:** pale tip can be missing due to wear).

2nd year autumn/3rd year spring only in birds with retained **juvenile** secondaries which will have a different barred pattern than the moulted neighboring **adult** type.

Adult with primary coverts with two or three bars; primaries with the last dark bar far from tip; secondaries usually with five or six bars, the last far from the tip; tail feathers with grey and spotted tip; if there are two generations of flight feathers both have **adult** pattern.



Long-eared Owl. Ageing. Pattern of primary coverts: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Long-eared Owl. Ageing. Pattern of tip on tail feathers: left adult; right juvenile.



Long-eared Owl. Ageing. Number of bars on secondaries: left adult; right juvenile.



Long-eared Owl. Ageing. Pattern of primaries: top adult; bottom juvenile.

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MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving only body feathers and lesser, median and greater wing coverts; flight feathers and tail are changed in their first **postbreeding** moult. **CAUTION:** some birds, both **adults** and **2nd year**, arrest moult of flight feathers being then partial.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage



Long-eared Owl. Female (08-IV).



Long-eared Owl. Face pattern: top left male (05-II); top right female (08-IV); left nestling (17-IV).



Long-eared Owl. Head pattern: left male (05-II); right female (08-IV).



Long-eared Owl. Breast pattern: left male (05-II); right female (08-IV).



Long-eared Owl. Upperpart pattern: left male (05-II); right female (08-IV).



Long-eared Owl. Adult: tail pattern (05-II)



Long-eared Owl. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (05-II).



Long-eared Owl. 3rd year spring: tail pattern (25-III)



Long-eared Owl. 3rd year spring: pattern of primary coverts (25-III).



Long-eared Owl. Juvenile: tail pattern (08-IV)



Long-eared Owl. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (08-IV).



Long-eared Owl. Pattern of tertials: top left adult (05-II); top right 2nd year autumn (25-III); left juvenile (08-IV).



Long-eared Owl. 3rd year spring: pattern of primaries (25-III)



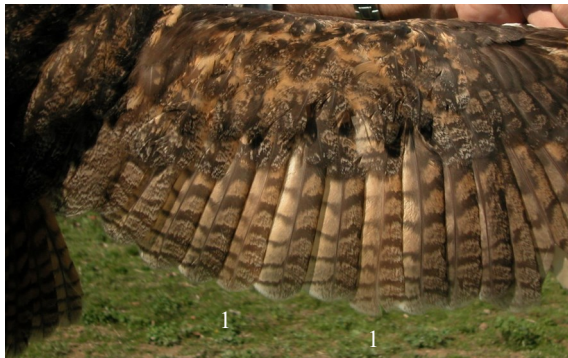
Long-eared Owl. Adult: pattern of primaries (05-II)

Long-eared Owl. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (08-IV)



Long-eared Owl. Adult: pattern of secondaries (05-II)

Long-eared Owl. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (08-IV)



Long-eared Owl. 3rd year spring: pattern of secondaries (1 juvenile feathers) (25-III)

Long-eared Owl. Adult: pattern of wing (05-II)



Long-eared Owl. 3rd year spring: pattern of wing (1 juvenile feathers) (25-III)



Long-eared Owl. Juvenile: pattern of wing (08-IV)