

276 Red-necked Nightjar

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Red-necked Nightjar. Male. Adult (26-VI).

RED-NECKED NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*)

IDENTIFICATION

30-34 cm. Brown reddish plumage; brown wings and tail, with transversal brown bars and white patches; whitish throat with a red rusty band on neck; chestnut underparts with thin dark barred.

Red-necked Nightjar.
Pattern of head and nape.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Very similar to **Nightjar**, which is smaller (23-27 cm, wing length 52-59 cm) and lacks a red band on neck.



Nightjar

SEXING

In **adults**, **male** has pure white patches with square shape on three (sometimes four) outer primaries, the two innermost reach the shaft and cross to the other web; white patches on tips of the two (sometimes three) outermost tail feathers are pure white and big. **Female** has pure white patches with oval shape on the three outermost primaries but ochre tinged on the extreme, usually the two inner don't reach the shaft; white patches on tips of the two outermost tail feathers are white with pale buff tinge on tips and median size.

In **juvenile** and **2nd year** birds (if those feathers have been retained), **male** has almost pure white patches on three outer primaries and square shaped, the two innermost reach the shaft; patches on tips of the two outermost tail feathers are white and big. **Female** has pale patches on tips of the three outermost primaries (sometimes only two) tinged pale brown, darker on the extremes, oval or rounded shaped, usually the two inner don't reach the shaft; patches on tips of the two outermost tail feathers are pale brown and small (sometimes only a narrow band).



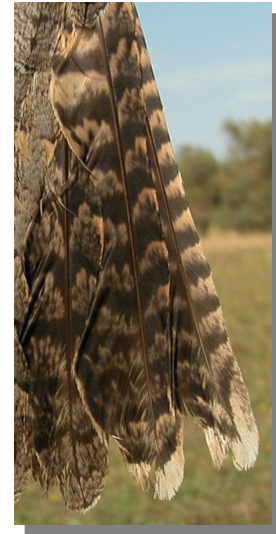
Red-necked Nightjar. Sexing. Adult: pattern of the white patch on outer primaries: top male; bottom female.

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Red-necked Nightjar. Sexing. Adult: pattern of the three outermost tail feathers: top left male with large white patch on two feathers; top right male with large white patch on three feathers; left female.



Red-necked Nightjar. Sexing. Juvenile: pattern of the three outermost tail feathers: left male; right female.

AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh plumage and one age of feathers (**CAUTION:** some birds can change some inner primaries before migration); lesser and median coverts with pale tips which are quickly moulted into **adult** pattern; primaries with pale tip; tail feathers and central primaries with narrow tips.

2nd year only in birds with retained **juvenile** feathers on wings with strong limit between fresh feathers with **adult** pattern (usually placed in the middle of wing) and worn feathers with **juvenile** pattern; on tail the outermost and central tail feathers may have been moulted.

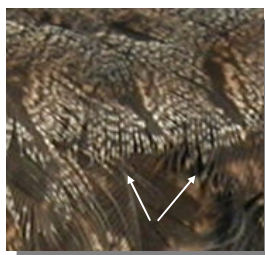
Adult with lesser and median coverts without pale tips; all wing and tail feathers with **adult** pattern; tip of primaries dark; tip of tail feathers and central primaries rounded. **CAUTION:** two generations of flight feathers can be found due to arrested moult.



Red-necked Nightjar. Sexing. Juvenile: pattern of the white patch on outer primaries: top male; bottom female.

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Red-necked Nightjar. Ageing. Pattern of lesser wing coverts: left adult; right juvenile.



Red-necked Nightjar. Ageing. Pattern of central primaries: left adult; right juvenile.



Red-necked Nightjar. Ageing. Pattern of tip of central tail feather: left adult; right juvenile.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult starting in July in breeding areas (involving body feathers, wing coverts and some flight and tail feathers), suspended before migration and finished in wintering sites. Partial **postjuvenile** moult changing in breeding areas body feathers and part of wing coverts; in winter quarters moult central tail feathers and a variable number of central primaries and secondaries. **CAUTION:** some birds have a complete **postjuvenile** moult.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Summer visitor, breeding in *Pinus* and *Quercus* forests of the Ebro Valley and Cordillera Iberica.



Red-necked Nightjar. Female. Adult (23-V).



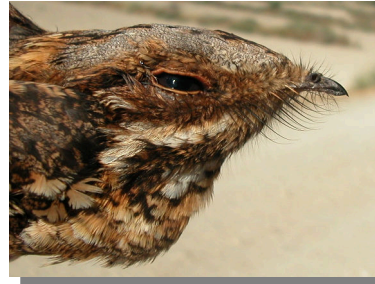
Red-necked Nightjar. 2nd year. Male (20-VI).

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Red-necked Nightjar. 2nd year. Female (14-V).



Red-necked Nightjar. 2nd year. Head pattern: top male (20-VI); bottom female (14-V).



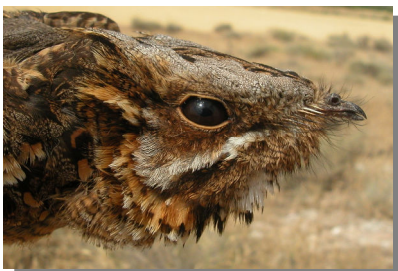
Red-necked Nightjar. Juvenile. Male (26-VIII).



Red-necked Nightjar. Juvenile. Head pattern: top male (26-VIII); bottom female (04-IX).



Red-necked Nightjar. Juvenile. Female (04-IX).



Red-necked Nightjar. Adult. Head pattern: top male (26-VI); bottom female (23-V).



Red-necked Nightjar. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (26-VI); right female (23-V).

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Red-necked Nightjar. 2nd year. Breast pattern: left male (20-VI); right female (14-V).



Red-necked Nightjar. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (26-VIII); right female (04-IX).



Red-necked Nightjar. 2nd year. Upperpart pattern: left male (20-VI); right female (14-V).



Red-necked Nightjar. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (26-VI); right female (23-V).



Red-necked Nightjar. Juvenile. Upperpart pattern: left male (26-VIII); right female (04-IX).

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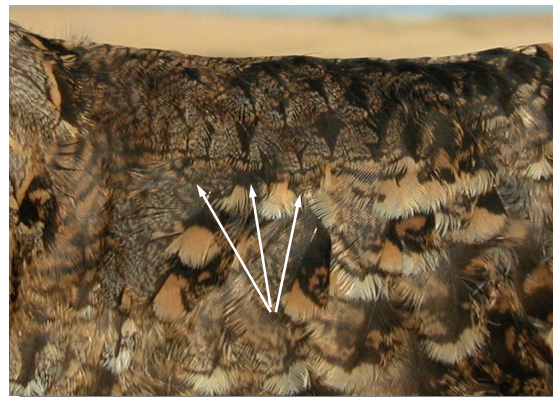
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Red-necked Nightjar. Adult: pattern of tips of lesser coverts (26-VIII).



Red-necked Nightjar. Adult. Tail pattern: top left and right male (26-VI); right female (23-V).



Red-necked Nightjar. Juvenile: pattern of tips of lesser coverts (26-VII).



Red-necked Nightjar. 2nd year. Tail pattern: left male (20-VI); right female (14-V).



Red-necked Nightjar. Adult. Male: pattern of alula (26-VIII).



Red-necked Nightjar. Juvenile. Tail pattern: left male (26-VIII); right female (04-IX).



Red-necked Nightjar. Adult. Female: pattern of alula (23-V).

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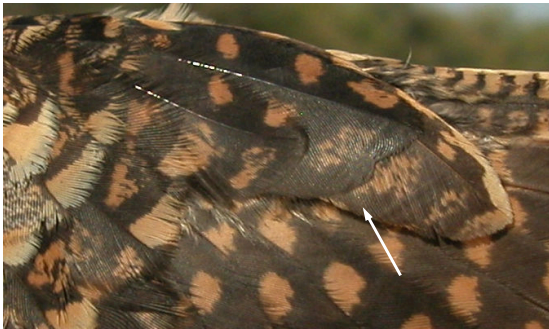
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Red-necked Nightjar. 2nd year. Male: pattern of alula (20-VI).



Red-necked Nightjar. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (26-VI).



Red-necked Nightjar. 2nd year. Female: pattern of alula (22-V).



Red-necked Nightjar. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (23-V).



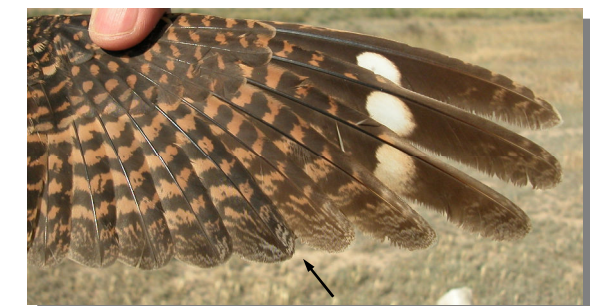
Red-necked Nightjar. Juvenile. Male: pattern of alula (26-VIII).



Red-necked Nightjar. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primaries (22-V).



Red-necked Nightjar. Juvenile. Female: pattern of alula (04-IX).



Red-necked Nightjar. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primaries (22-V).

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Red-necked Nightjar. Juvenile. Male: pattern of primaries (26-VIII).



Red-necked Nightjar. Juvenile. Female: pattern of primaries (04-IX).



Red-necked Nightjar. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries (26-VI).



Red-necked Nightjar. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries (23-V).



Red-necked Nightjar. 2nd year. Male: pattern of secondaries (22-V).



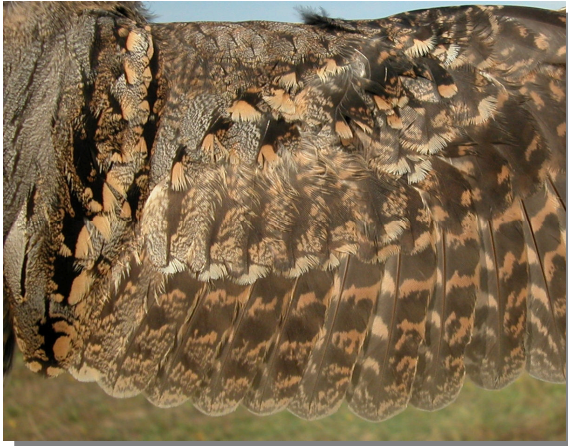
Red-necked Nightjar. 2nd year. Female: pattern of secondaries (22-V).



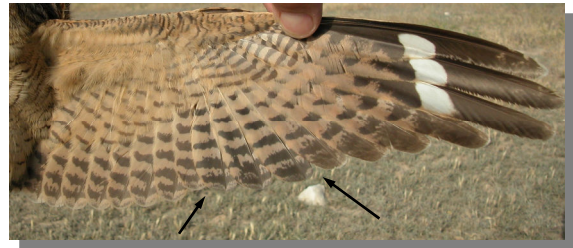
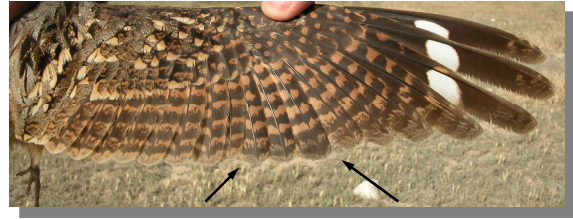
Red-necked Nightjar. Juvenile. Male: pattern of secondaries (26-VIII).

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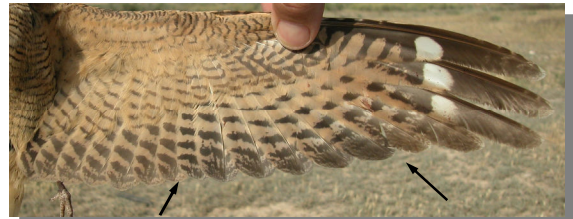
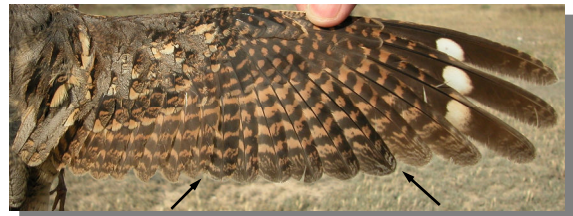
Red-necked Nightjar. Juvenile. Female: pattern of secondaries (04-IX).



Red-necked Nightjar. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (22-V).



Red-necked Nightjar. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (26-VI).



Red-necked Nightjar. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (22-V).



Red-necked Nightjar. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (23-V).



Red-necked Nightjar. Juvenile. Male: pattern of wing (26-VIII).

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Red-necked Nightjar. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing (04-IX).