**Western Osprey**

**SEXING**
Male usually with a faint breast band or without band; lesser and median underwing covert uniformly white; blackish carpal patch often divided and restricted. Female with a broad, dark, and well-marked breast band; lesser and median underwing covert with rows of dark spots; rather solid blackish carpal patch. (CAUTION: sexing is not always possible due to overlap and exceptions to the rule can be found). Size can be an useful character in extreme birds: male with wing shorter than 470 mm; female with wing longer than 500 mm.

**AGEING**
Since most of the 2nd year birds remain in their winter quarters and don’t travel to Europe, usually only 2 types of age can be recognized: 
Juvenile with regular buffish fringes on upper parts; streaked crown; greater coverts with pale tips; flight feathers with pale tips; secondaries barred from base to top without a dark subterminal band; barred greater underwing covert forming a poorly distinct band; underparts tinged buffish; only one generation of wing feathers.
Adult with uniform dark brown upperparts; white crown with darker forecrown; greater coverts without pale tips; flight feathers without pale tips; secondaries with a dark subterminal band; greater underwing covert forming a distinct dark band; white underparts; with several generations of wing feathers.

**MOULT**
Moult starts in the 2nd year and it is practically continuous, stopping only for migration periods.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**
Recalls a Short-toed Eagle, which lacks a carpal dark patch on underwing and black eye lines.

**IDENTIFICATION**
60-71 cm. White head, with a dark band on sides; dark brown upperparts; white underparts, with a brown chest band; dark upperwing and white underwing, with a black patch; primaries with black tips.

**WESTERN OSPREY (Pandion haliaetus)**

**PHENOLOGY**

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**STATUS IN ARAGON**
On passage, mainly in the Ebro river and large dams of the Region; some birds have been recorded in summer.