Eurasian Hobby

**SIMILAR SPECIES**

Adult can be separated from the other small falcons for its moustache and reddish underparts; juvenile recalls a Peregrine Falcon (38-45 cm) which is bigger and with greyer upperparts.

**IDENTIFICATION**

30-35 cm. Adult with slate grey upperparts; pale underparts; dark moustache; vent and thighs reddish; grey tail; pale underwing feathers. Juveniles dark brown and streaked; lacking red thighs.

**SEXING**

It's possible to sex the smallest males, with a wing shorter than 245 mm. (CAUTION: birds with longer wings belong to both sexes). In adults, male usually tends to have deep blue grey upperparts; thighs and undertail coverts unstreaked or with poorly marked streaks; deep reddish underparts. Female usually tends to have dull blue grey upperparts; thighs and undertail coverts streaked; underparts with duller reddish (CAUTION: sexing sometimes difficult due to overlap). In juveniles, male usually with marks on undertail coverts small and unfrequent; the ochre on underparts with a pitch of orange; on 3rd-5th tail feathers the light band proximal to the subterminal band is usually interrupmed at the shaft by a fine dark stripe. Female usually with marks on undertail coverts large and frequent; the ochre on underparts without orange tinge; on 3rd-5th tail feathers the light band proximal to the subterminal band is usually interrupmed at the shaft by a broad dark stripe. Pattern of the 3rd-5th tail feathers is useful to sex the 2nd year birds if juvenile rectrices have been retained (CAUTION: sexing of juveniles and 2nd year birds are not always possible due to overlap of some characteristics, so only extreme birds must be sexed and only when have all described patterns).


AGEING
4 age groups can be recognized:
**Juvenile** with feathers of wing and upperparts black-brown with rufous edge; undertail coverts and thighs pale buffish; central pair of tail feathers with rufous tips, rest of tail feathers barred and tipped rufous; greater and primary coverts tipped rufous; grey bluish cere and ocular ring.

**2nd year** with plumage similar to **adult** or with some mixed **juvenile** brown feathers; tail usually with both **adult** and **juvenile** feathers; greater coverts and flight feathers **juvenile** (in summer sometimes with some **adult** feathers just moulted).

**Adult** with feathers of upperparts blue-grey; undertail coverts and thighs reddish; central pair of tail feathers without rufous tips; tail feathers tipped greyish; greater and primary coverts without rufous tips; yellow cere and ocular ring.

**CAUTION:** some **adult** birds can retain secondaries with **adult** pattern but never have **juvenile** wing coverts.
MOULT
Complete postbreeding moult, starting in breeding sites, suspended during migration and finished in winter quarters. Partial postjuvenile moult in winter, involving part of body feathers and, sometimes, some tail feathers and wing coverts.

PHENOLOGY

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STATUS IN ARAGON
Summer visitor, breeds in plain areas with open trees in low areas of the Region.

Hobby. Adult. Female (06-VIII).

Hobby. 2nd year. Male (30-IV).

Hobby. 2nd year. Female (19-IX).


Hobby. Juvenile. Female (06-VIII).

Hobby. Adult. Head pattern: top male (18-VI); bottom female (06-VIII).
Hobby. 2nd year. Crown pattern: left male (30-IV); right female (19-IX).


Hobby. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).

Hobby. 2nd year. Breast pattern: left male (30-IV); right female (19-IX).


Hobby. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).

Hobby. Adult. Pattern of thighs: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).

Hobby. 2nd year. Upperparts pattern: left male (30-IV); right female (19-IX).

Hobby. 2nd year. Pattern of thighs: left male (30-IV); right female (19-IX).
Hobby. Juvenile. Pattern of thighs: left male (10-IX); right female (15-X).

Hobby. Adult. Rump pattern: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).

Hobby. Adult. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).

Hobby. 2nd year. Rump pattern: left male (30-IV); right female (19-IX).

Hobby. 2nd year. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (30-IV); right female (19-IX).
Hobby. Juvenile. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (10-IX); right female (15-X).

Hobby. Adult. Pattern of 3rd to 5th tail feathers: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).


Hobby. Adult. Female: pattern of primary coverts (06-VIII).

Hobby. 2nd year. Pattern of 3rd to 5th tail feathers: left male (30-IV); right female (19-IX).
Hobby. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primary coverts (30-IV).

Hobby. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primary coverts (19-IX).

Hobby. Adult. Pattern of scapulars and tertials: left male (18-VI); right female (06-VIII).


Hobby. 2nd year. Pattern of scapulars and tertials: left male (10-IX); right female (29-XI).

Hobby. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primaries (05-V).


Hobby. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primaries (19-IX).

Hobby. Juvenile. Pattern of scapulars and tertials: left male (30-IV); right female (19-IX).
Hobby. 2nd year autumn. Female: pattern of primaries (19-IX).


Hobby. 2nd year. Male: pattern of secondaries (05-V).

Hobby. 2nd year. Female: pattern of secondaries (19-IX).


Hobby. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (30-IV).


Hobby. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (19-IX).

Hobby. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (06-VIII).