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.

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.

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

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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 the 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 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 primary coverts: top adult; bottom 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, stop moult of flight feathers being then partial.

PHENOLOGY

STATUS IN ARAGON
Resident, widely distributed throughout the Region related with open woodland areas.

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

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

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. Adult: pattern of primaries (05-II)

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

Long-eared Owl. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (08-IV)
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Long-eared Owl. Adult: pattern of secondaries (05-II)

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

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

Long-eared Owl. 3rd year spring: pattern of secondaries (1 juvenile feathers) (25-III)
Long-eared Owl. Juvenile: pattern of wing (08-IV)

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