

# 266 Barn Owl



Barn Owl. Male (26-I).

## BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*)

### IDENTIFICATION

33-39 cm. Brown golden upperparts, with grey feathers; white or buff underparts: white and heart-shape face; dark eyes,



Barn Owl. Pattern of head and facial mask

### SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

### SEXING

**Male** lacks, or has only a little, spots on breast and underwing coverts; usually has a pale band with variable width on neck; dark tinge on upperparts pale. **Female** usually with very spotted breast and underwing coverts; with a small or without a pale band on neck; dark tinge on upperparts usually dark. **Juveniles** can be sexed with the same characters than **adults**. (**CAUTION:** many birds cannot be sexed due to overlap, so it is necessary to have the three exposed characters for a confident sexed).



Barn Owl. Sexing. Pattern of the white band on neck: left male; right female.



Barn Owl. Sexing. Pattern of spotted on breast: left male; right female.



Barn Owl. Sexing. Pattern of spotted on underwing coverts: top male; bottom female.

### AGEING

4 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with fresh feathers and without moult limit.

**2nd year autumn/3rd year spring** with some outer primaries and some inner secondaries moulted; usually moulted the central pair of tail feathers.

**3rd year autumn/4rd year spring** with another group of outer primaries and secondaries, so they have three ages of feathers: outer and innermost **juveniles** and two more generations of moulted adult pattern feathers.

**Adult** with three generation of feathers, but all with **adult** pattern.

**CAUTION:** pattern on flightfeathers in **adult** and **juvenile** is very similar, being very difficult to find differences.

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## MOULT

Partial **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults. Molt of primaries and secondaries take place as described in **AGEING**.

## PHENOLOGY

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

## STATUS IN ARAGON

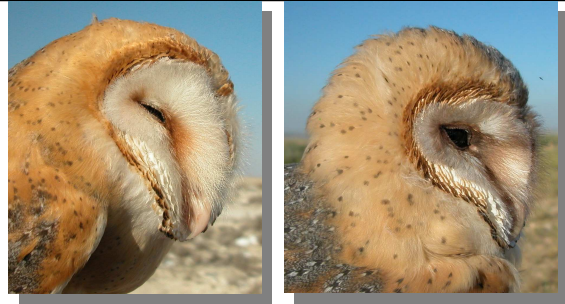
Resident. Widely distributed throughout the Region, absent only from the highest areas of Sistema Iberico and Pyrenees.



Barn Owl. Female (26-I).



Barn Owl. Adult. Pattern of the white band on neck: left male (20-XI); right female (20-XI).



Barn Owl. Juvenile. Pattern of the white band on neck: left male (10-II); right female (25-VI)



Barn Owl. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (25-VI); right female (13-X).



Barn Owl. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (10-II); right female (26-I).

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Barn Owl. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (20-XI); right female (20-XI).



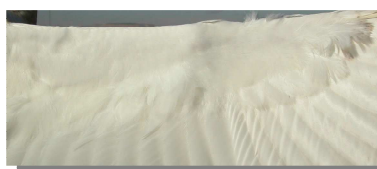
Barn Owl. Juvenile. Pattern Upperpart pattern: left male (10-II); right female (25-VI)



Barn Owl. Tail pattern: left adult (25-VI); right 4th year spring (03-I).



Barn Owl. Tail pattern: left 2nd year autumn (20-XI); right juvenile (21-VI)



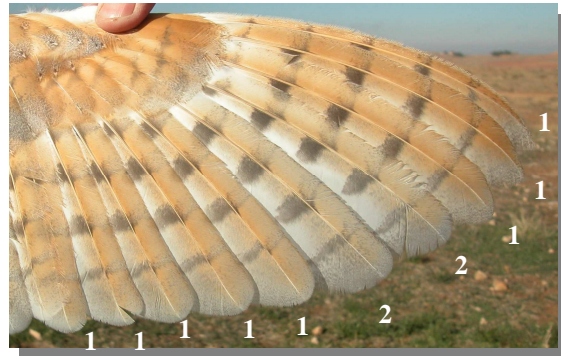
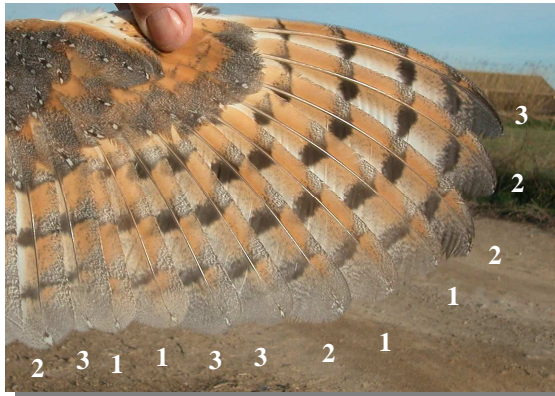
Barn Owl. Adult. Pattern of mottled on underwing coverts: top male (20-XI); bottom female (20-XI)



Barn Owl. Juvenile. Pattern of mottled on underwing coverts: top male (26-I); bottom female (18-VI)

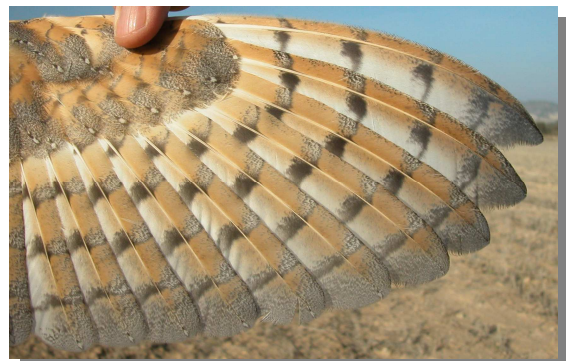
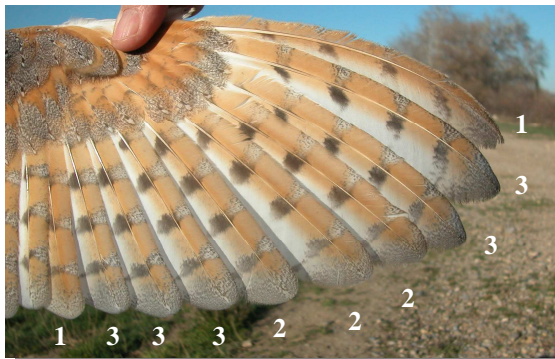


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Barn Owl. Adult: pattern of primaries (1 to 3 different ages of feathers where 1 is the older and 3 the newer) (25-II).

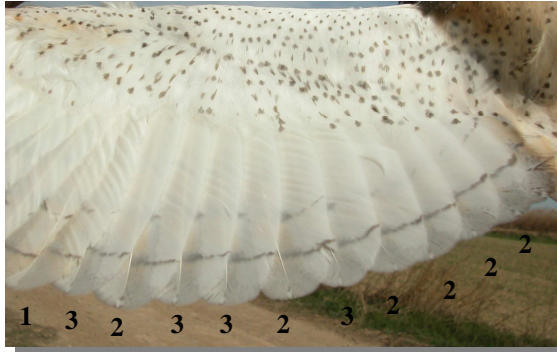
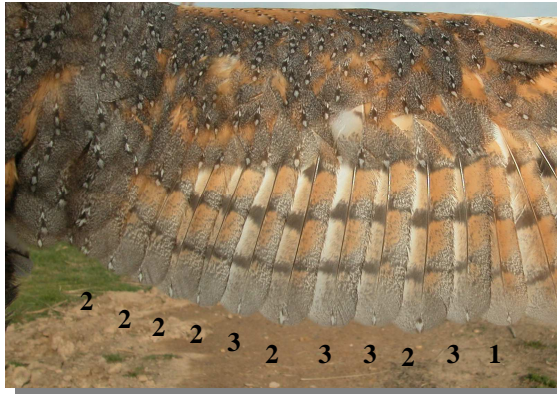
Barn Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of primaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers) (20-XI).



Barn Owl. 4th year spring: pattern of primaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers; 3 3rd year feathers) (03-I).

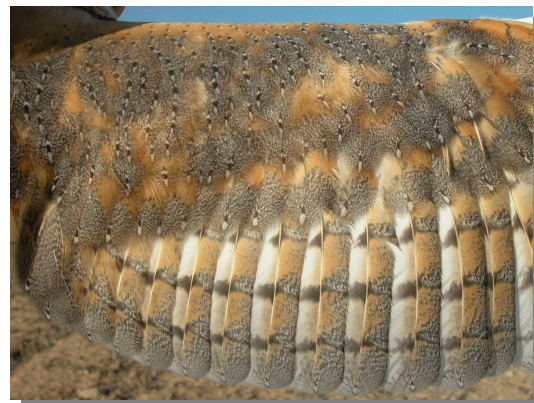
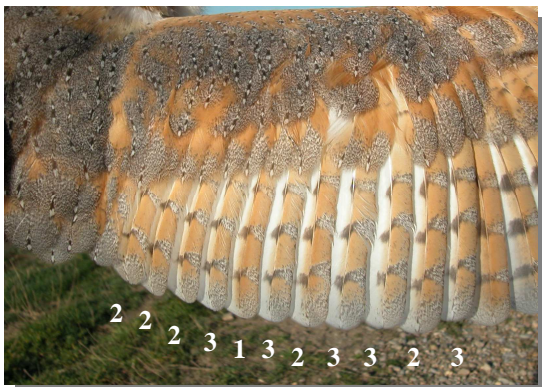
Barn Owl. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (26-I).

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Barn Owl. Adult: pattern of secondaries (1 to 3 different ages of feathers where 1 is the older and 3 the newer) (25-II).

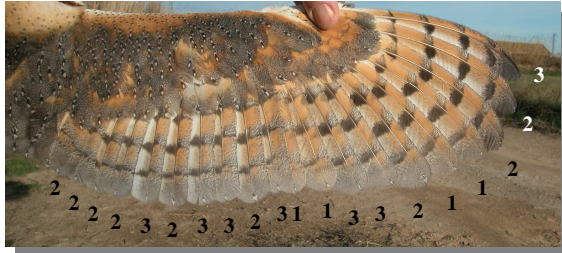
Barn Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of secondaries (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers) (20-XI).



Barn Owl. 4th year spring: pattern of secondaries (1 juvenile feather; 2 2nd year feathers; 3 3rd year feathers) (03-I).

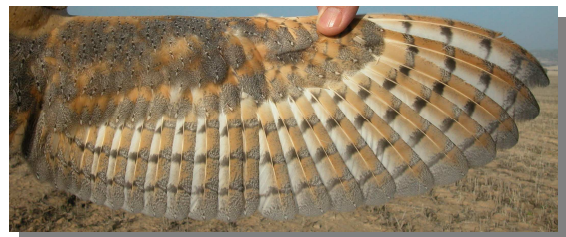
Barn Owl. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (26-I).

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Barn Owl. Adult: pattern of wing (1 to 3 different ages of feathers where 1 is the older and 3 the newer) (25-II).

Barn Owl. 2nd year autumn: pattern of wing (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers) (20-XI).



Barn Owl. Juvenile: pattern of wing (26-I).

Barn Owl. 4th year spring: pattern of wing (1 juvenile feathers; 2 2nd year feathers; 3 3rd year feathers) (03-I).