

113 Hen Harrier



Hen Harrier. Adult. Male (08-III)

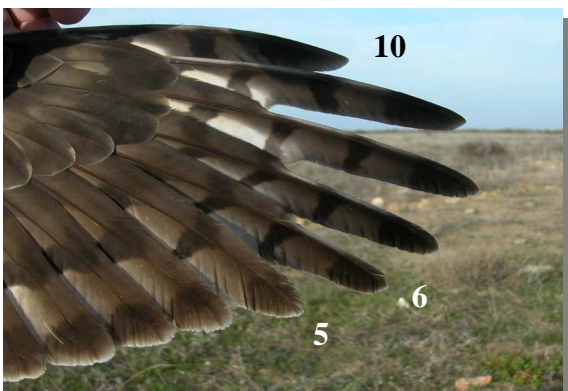


Hen Harrier. Adult. Male. Pattern of wing.

HEN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*)

IDENTIFICATION

43-51 cm. Adult **male** with grey head and upperparts; underparts grey on breast and white on vent; black wing-tips; grey tail; white rump. Adult **female** with dark brown upperparts; underparts light brown with dark streaked; white rump; dark barred tail and wings. **Juvenile** similar to **females**, but with underparts tinged rusty-yellow. Length of 10th primary between 5th and 6th; the beginning of emargination of 9th primary hidden by primary coverts.



Hen Harrier. Adult. Female. Wing formula: emargination of 9th primary hidden by primary coverts; length of 10th primary between 5th and 6th.

SIMILAR SPECIES

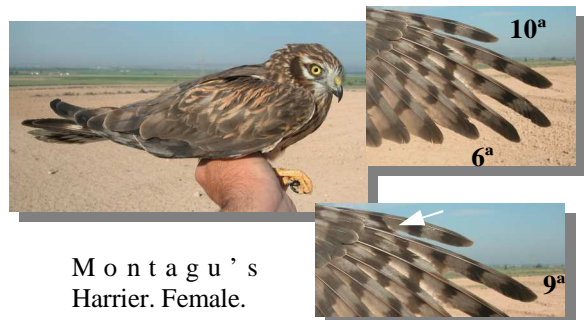
Adult **male** similar to male of **Montagu's Harrier**, with smaller white rump, with a dark wing bar and streaks flanks and vent. **Females** of **Montagu's Harrier** have smaller white rump and have a band just below the wing coverts; 10th primary with similar length than 6th; the beginning of emargination of 9th primary is not hidden by primary coverts. **Female** and **juveniles** of **Marsh Harrier** have a pale patch on head and throat.



Marsh Harrier. Juvenile



Montagu's Harrier. Male.



Montagu's Harrier. Female.

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SEXING

Adult birds are different: **male** blue-grey without streaked feathers; **female** brown with streaked underparts. **Juveniles** can be sexed using colour of the eyes: grey or grey-brown on **males**; dark brown on **females**. Most of the **juveniles** and **adults** can be sexed by size: **male** with wing shorter than 340 mm; **female** with wing longer than 360 mm.



Hen Harrier. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of breast and head: left male; right female.



Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Sexing. Colour of iris: top male; bottom female.



AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized::

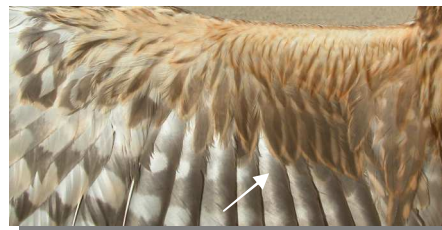
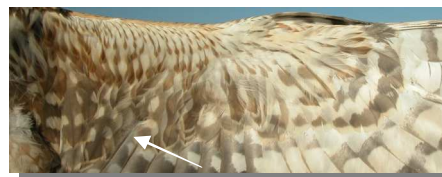
Juvenile similar to **adult female** but with inner part of primaries and underwing coverts with buff tips; greater coverts brown with pale tips.

2nd year autumn/3rd year spring male can retain **juvenile** feathers on breast, rump or wing, but mainly on crown; if all juvenile feathers have been moulted, then with duller-grey upperparts than **adult** birds.

2nd year autumn/3rd year spring female can retain some juvenile underwing primary coverts; tail feathers with yellowish tips; outermost tail feather with well marked bars and tip no so pointed like **juveniles** and less broad than **adult** birds; eye honey brown with some golden flecks.

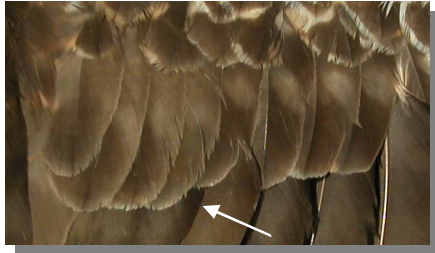
Adult female with yellow eye; underwing coverts without buff tips; greater coverts without pale tips; all wing feathers with **adult** pattern; tail feathers with white-grey tips and rounded; outermost tail feather with poor marked bars.

Adult male without brown feathers on head and wings; blue-grey upperparts; if some tail feathers remain unmoulted have **adult** pattern.



Hen Harrier. Ageing. Pattern of underwing coverts: top adult female; bottom juvenile.

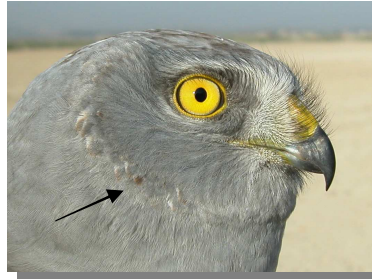
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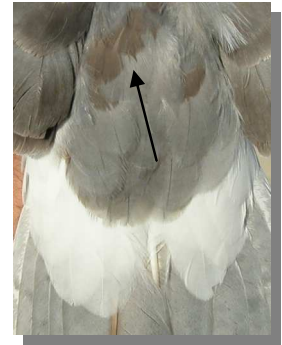
Hen Harrier. Ageing. Pattern of greater coverts: top adult female; bottom juvenile.



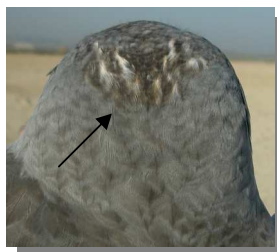
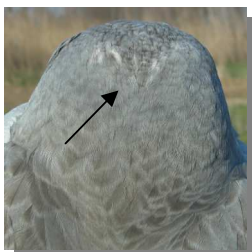
Hen Harrier. Male. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult; bottom 2nd year.



Hen Harrier. Female. Ageing. Pattern of the outermost tail feather: left adult; middle 2nd year; right juvenile.



Hen Harrier. Male. Ageing. Pattern of rump: left adult; right 2nd year.



Hen Harrier. Male. Ageing. Pattern of nape: left adult; right 2nd year.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, starting in April and finished in November; some birds can have unmoulted secondaries. Very partial **postjuvenile** moult with only some body feathers changed during the winter, and moulting all feathers during their **2nd year** in the same period than **adults**; some birds can have unmoulted body and flight feathers.

PHENOLOGY

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

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STATUS IN ARAGON

Mainly a winter visitor, with a little pairs of breeding birds in the Ebro Valley, Gallocanta and South of Teruel; in winter a common species in plain cultivated areas of the region.



Hen Harrier. Adult. Female (30-I)



Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Male (14-II)



Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Female (30-I)



Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Male (25-XII)



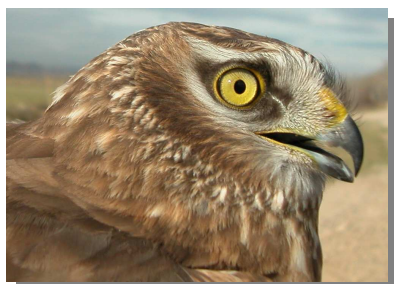
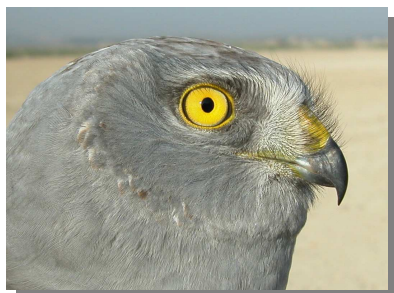
Hen Harrier. Adult. Head pattern: top male (08-III); bottom female (30-I).



Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Female (25-XII)



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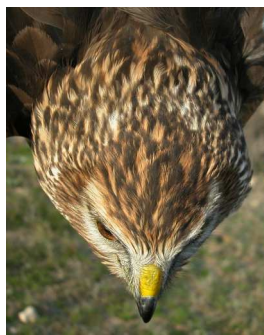


Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Head pattern: top male with all feathers moulted (25-XII); middle male with some retained juvenile feathers (25-XII); bottom female (25-XII).

Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Head pattern: top male (14-II); bottom female (30-I).



Hen Harrier. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (08-III); right female (30-I).



Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Crown pattern: left male (25-XII); right female (25-XII).



Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Crown pattern: left male (14-II); right female (30-I).



Hen Harrier. Adult. Nape pattern: left male (08-III); right female (30-I).

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Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Nape pattern: left male (25-XII); right female (25-XII).



Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (14-II); right female (30-I).



Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Nape pattern: left male (14-II); right female (30-I).



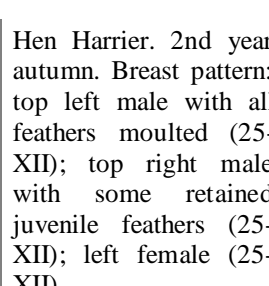
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Hen Harrier. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (08-III); right female (30-I).



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Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Breast pattern: top left male with all feathers moulted (25-XII); top right male with some retained juvenile feathers (25-XII); left female (25-XII).

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Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Flank pattern: top male (14-II); bottom female (30-I).



Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Upperpart pattern: left male (14-II); right female (30-I).



Hen Harrier. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (08-III); right female (30-I).



Hen Harrier. Adult. Rump pattern: left male (08-III); right female (30-I).

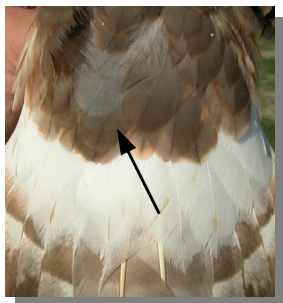


Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Upperpart pattern: left male (25-XII); right female (25-XII).



Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Rump pattern: top left male with all feathers moulted (25-XII); top right male with some retained juvenile feathers (25-XII); left female (25-XII).

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Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Rump pattern: top left male with moulted feathers (14-II); top right male with unmoulted feathers (14-II); left female (30-I).

Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Male: tail pattern (25-XII).



Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Female: tail pattern (25-XII).



Hen Harrier. Adult. Male: tail pattern (08-III)



Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Male: tail pattern (14-II).



Hen Harrier. Adult. Female: tail pattern (30-I)



Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Female: tail pattern (30-I).

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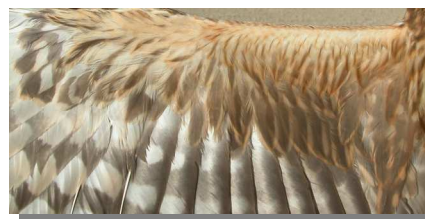
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Hen Harrier. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (08-III).

Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Male: pattern of primaries (25-XII).



Hen Harrier. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (30-I).

Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Female: pattern of primaries (1 adult feathers; 2 juvenile feathers) (25-XII).

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Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Male: pattern of primaries (14-II).

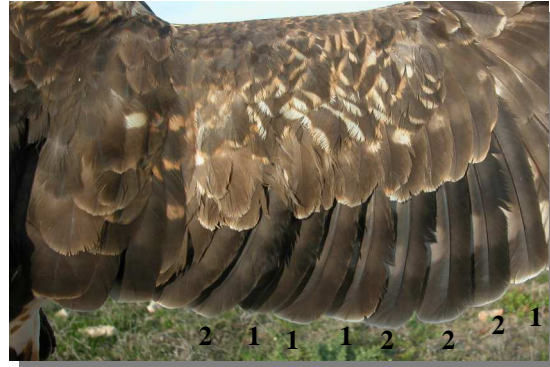
Hen Harrier. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries(08-III).



Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Female: pattern of primaries (30-I).

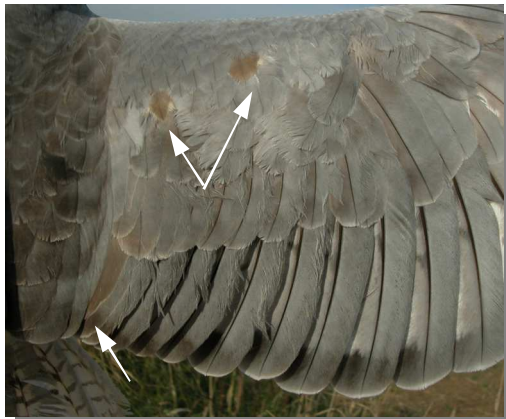
Hen Harrier. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries (30-I).

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Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Male: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts with all feathers moulted (25-XII).

Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Female: pattern of secondaries (1 adult feathers; 2 juvenile feathers) (25-XII).



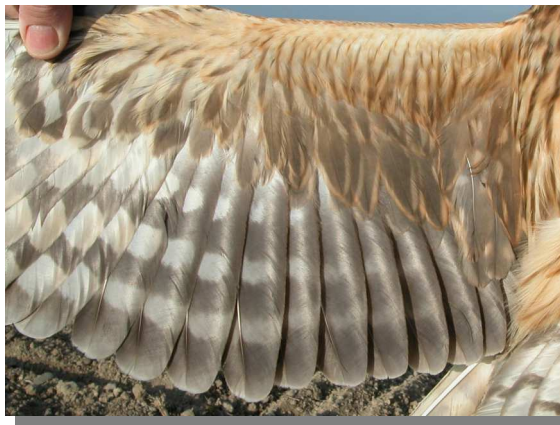
Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Male: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts with juvenile feathers retained (25-XII).

Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Male: pattern of secondaries (14-II).

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Hen Harrier. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (30-I).



Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Female: pattern of secondaries (30-I).



Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Male: pattern of wing with all feathers moulted (25-XII).



Hen Harrier. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (08-III).



Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Male: pattern of wing with juvenile feathers retained (25-XII).

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Hen Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Female: pattern of wing (1 adult feathers; 2 juvenile feathers) (25-XII).

Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing (30-I).



Hen Harrier. Juvenile. Male: pattern of wing (14-II).