

112 Marsh Harrier

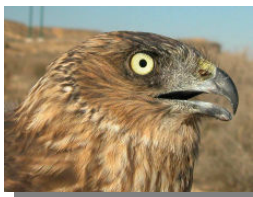


Marsh Harrier. Adult. Male (09-II).

MARSH HARRIER (*Circus aeruginosus*)

IDENTIFICATION

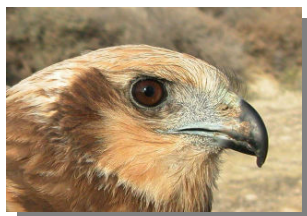
44-56 cm. Adult **male** with pale head; chestnut upperparts; grey wings with black tips; pale blue-grey tail; brown reddish underparts. **Female** dark brown with pale crown, throat and forewings. **Juvenile** similar to a **female**.



Marsh Harrier. Adult. Male: pattern of head and wing.



Marsh Harrier. Adult. Female: pattern of head and wing.

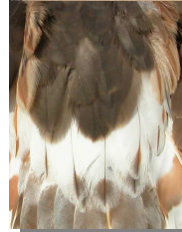


SIMILAR SPECIES

Males of Montagu's Harrier and Hen Harrier are pale lack of brown colour on wings and body; **females and juveniles of Montagu's Harrier and Hen Harrier** have white rumps and lack of pale patch on head and forearms.



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Male



Montagu's Harrier. Adult. Female



Hen Harrier. Adult. Male.



Hen Harrier. Adult. Female.



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SEXING

Sexes with different plumage (see **IDENTIFICATION**). Wing leng can be helpful: **male** with wing shorter than 390 mm; **female** with wing longer than 410 mm. Most of the **juveniles** can be sexed by wing length but not using plumage characters; **2nd year birds** can be sexed by colour of tail feathers: **male** with greyish feathers with dark band on the tip; **female** with dark brown feathers.

AGEING

3 types of age in females and 4 in males can be recognized:

Juvenile with both sexes with similar plumage (but with different size) and aspect similar to a **female**, but with fresh feathers; no traces of moult; dark brown iris; dark brown tail; brown upperwing and uppertail coverts, usually with narrow rufous tips.

Female of 2nd year winter/3rd year spring in specimens with “juvenile” aspect, with flight and tail feathers darker than an **adult female**.

Adult female with worn plumage or traces of moult till October; reddish iris (yellowish in older birds); brown tail with rufous mottling on inner webs of all but central pair of feathers; upperwing and uppertail coverts without rufous tips.

Male of 2nd year winter/3rd year spring with dark aspect, less contrasted than **adult** birds; dull grey on tail and wings (**CAUTION:** some birds have female-like pattern on outer tail feathers); outer underwing coverts pale brown; black on tip of outer primaries reaching the primary coverts; tail with broad dark subterminal band, with rufous on inner web; rufous uppertail coverts.

Male of 2nd year winter/3rd year spring in birds with dark patches on flight feathers, tail and wing coverts.

Adult male with strong contrast between light and dark areas; light grey tail feathers with white on the inner web; white outer underwing coverts; black on tip of outer primaries don't reach the primary coverts; rufous uppertail coverts lighter on tips.

CAUTION: plumage pattern and iris colour is highly variable in this species, so it is not possible ageing **Marsh Harriers** using size and colour of the pale patches of head and forearms.



Marsh Harrier. Ageing. Pattern of the outermost tail feather: left adult female; right juvenile.



Marsh Harrier. Ageing. Pattern of the primary coverts: top adult female; bottom juvenile



MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, starting in April and finished between October and November. **Postjuvenile** moult starts during the first winter with body feathers and occasionally some tail feathers; flight feathers are changed at much the same time as **adult**.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident with contribution of European birds in winter. Breeds in irrigated areas near the Ebro river and in Gallocanta lake,

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Marsh Harrier. Adult. Female (26-XII)



Marsh Harrier. 3rd year spring. Male (12-V).



Marsh Harrier. Adult. Female (18-II)



Marsh Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Male (11-X)



Marsh Harrier. 3rd year autumn. Male (24-XII).



Marsh Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Female (17-XI)

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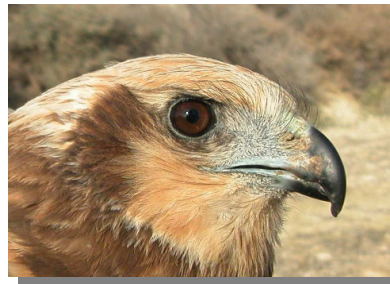
Marsh Harrier. 2nd year spring. Female (22-VII)



Marsh Harrier. Adult. Head pattern and iris colour: top male (09-II); middle female (18-II); bottom female (26-XII)



Marsh Harrier. Juvenile. Male (11-X)



Marsh Harrier. Juvenile. Female (24-XII)

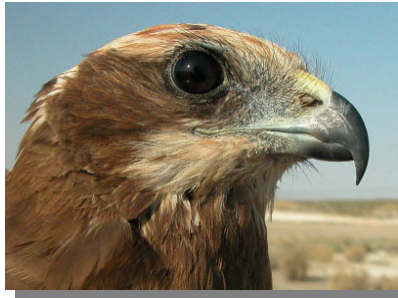


Marsh Harrier. 3rd year. Male. Head pattern and iris colour: top in autumn (24-XII); bottom in spring (12-V).

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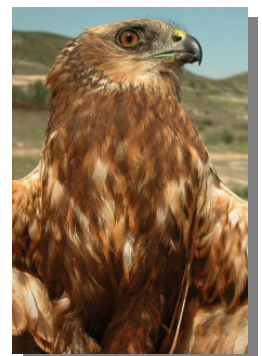
Marsh Harrier. 2nd year. Head pattern and iris colour: top male in autumn (09-II); middle female in autumn (26-XII); bottom female in spring (22-VII)



Marsh Harrier. Juvenile. Head pattern and iris colour: top male (11-X); bottom female (26-XI).

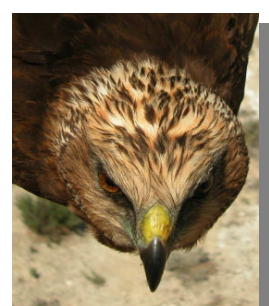
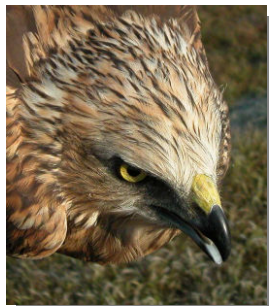
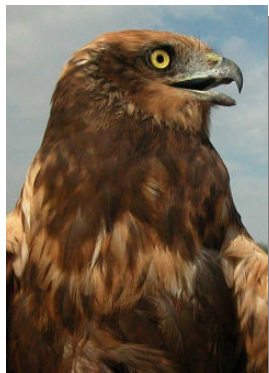


Marsh Harrier. Adult. Breast pattern: top left male (09-II); top right female (18-II); left female (26-XII)



Marsh Harrier. 3rd year. Male. Breast pattern: left in autumn (09-II); right in spring (12-V)

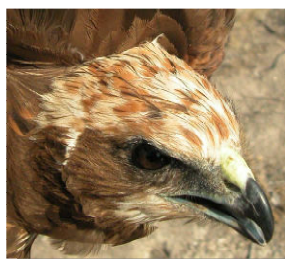
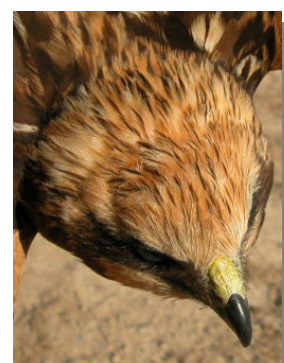
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Marsh Harrier. 3rd year. Male. Crown pattern: left in autumn (09-II); right in spring (12-V)

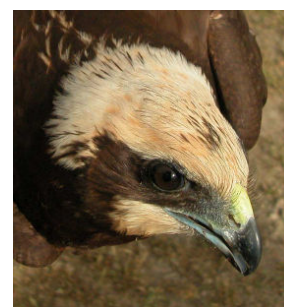
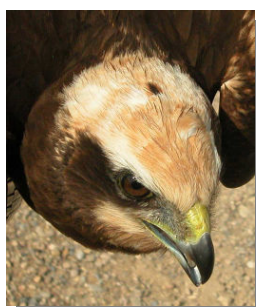
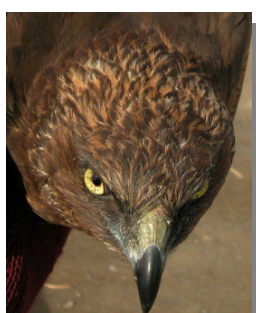
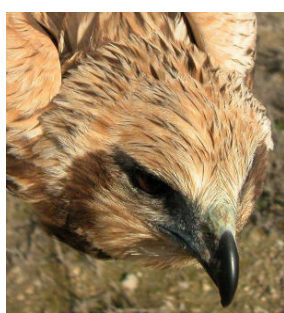


Marsh Harrier. 2nd year. Breast pattern: top left male in autumn (26-XII); top right female in autumn (18-II); left female in spring (22-VII).



Marsh Harrier. 2nd year. Breast pattern: top left male in autumn (26-XII); top right female in autumn (18-II); left female in spring (22-VII).

Marsh Harrier. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (11-X); right female (26-XI).



Marsh Harrier. Adult. Female. Crown pattern: left (26-XII); right (18-II).

Marsh Harrier. Juvenile. Crown pattern: left male (11-X); right female (26-XI).

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Marsh Harrier. Adult. Male: pattern of tail and the outermost tail feather (09-II).



Marsh Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Male: pattern of tail and the outermost tail feather (11-X).



Marsh Harrier. Adult. Female: pattern of tail and the outermost tail feather (26-XII).



Marsh Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Female: pattern of tail and the outermost tail feather (20-XII).



Marsh Harrier. 3rd year autumn. Male: pattern of tail and the outermost tail feather (24-XII)



Marsh Harrier. 2nd year spring. Female: pattern of tail and the outermost tail feather (22-VII).



Marsh Harrier. 3rd year spring. Male with female-like pattern: pattern of tail and the outermost tail feather (12-V).

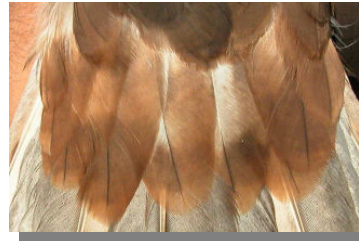


Marsh Harrier. Juvenile. Male: pattern of tail and the outermost tail feather (19-X).

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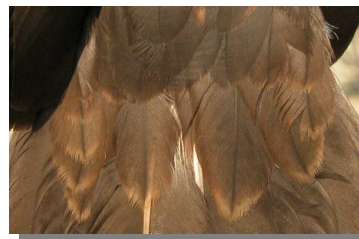
Marsh Harrier. Juvenile. Female: pattern of tail and the outermost tail feather (24-XII).



Marsh Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Pattern of upper tail coverts: top male (09-II); bottom female (17-XI).



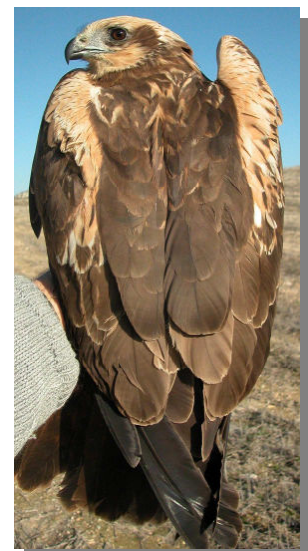
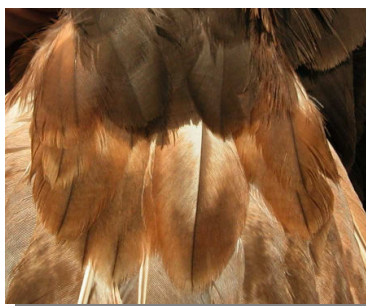
Marsh Harrier. Adult. Pattern of upper tail coverts: top male (09-II); bottom female (26-XII)



Marsh Harrier. Juvenile. Pattern of upper tail coverts: top male (11-X); bottom female (26-XI).

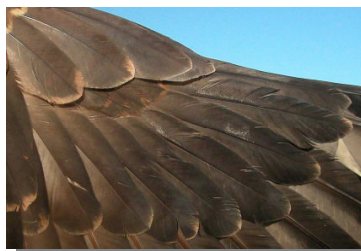
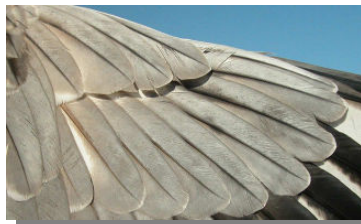


Marsh Harrier. 3rd year. Male. Pattern of upper tail coverts: top in autumn (24-XII); bottom in spring (12-V).



Marsh Harrier. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (09-II); right female (26-XII).

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Marsh Harrier. Adult. Pattern of primary coverts: top male (09-II); bottom female (26-XII)

Marsh Harrier. 3rd year. Male. Upperpart pattern: left in autumn (24-XII); right in spring (12-V).

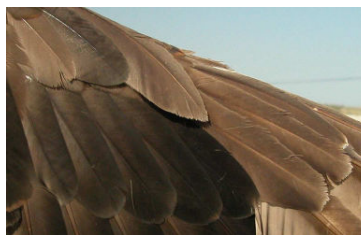


Marsh Harrier. 3rd year. Male. Pattern of primary coverts: top in autumn (24-XII); bottom in spring (12-V).



Marsh Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Upperparts pattern: left male (09-II); right female (17-XI).

Marsh Harrier. 2nd year. Pattern of primary coverts: top male in autumn (09-II); middle female in autumn (26-XII); bottom female in spring (22-VII)

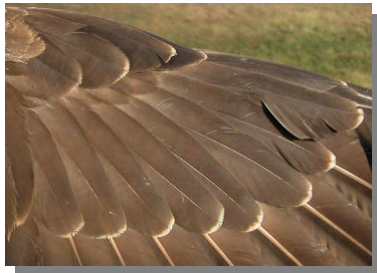


Marsh Harrier. Juvenile. Upperparts pattern: left male (11-X); right female (26-XI).

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Marsh Harrier. Juvenile. Pattern of primary coverts: top male (11-X); bottom female (26-XI).



Marsh Harrier. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (26-XII).



Marsh Harrier. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (09-II).



Marsh Harrier. 3rd year autumn. Male: pattern of primaries (24-XII).

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Marsh Harrier. 3rd year spring. Male: pattern of primaries (15-V).

Marsh Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Female: pattern of primaries (17-XI).



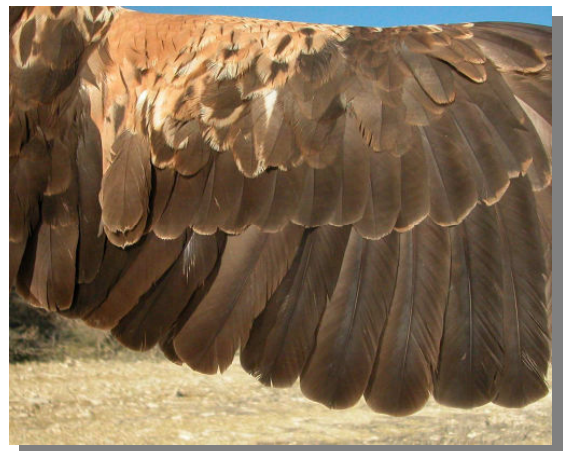
Marsh Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Male: pattern of primaries (11-X).

Marsh Harrier. 2nd year spring. Female: pattern of primaries (22-VII).

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Marsh Harrier. Juvenile. Male: pattern of primaries (19-X)



Marsh Harrier. Juvenile. Female: pattern of primaries (24-XII)

Marsh Harrier. Adult. Female: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (26-XII).

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Marsh Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Male: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (11-X).

Marsh Harrier. 3rd year autumn. Male: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (24-XII).



Marsh Harrier. 3rd year spring. Male: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (15-V).

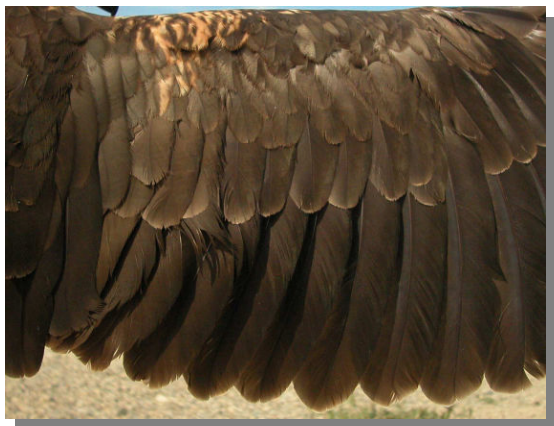
Marsh Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Female: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (17-XI).

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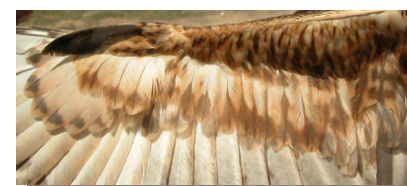
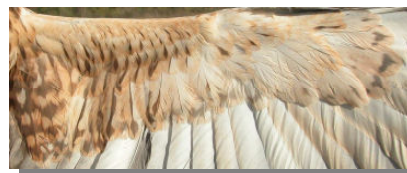


Marsh Harrier. 2nd year spring. Female: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (22-VII).

Marsh Harrier. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (24-XII)



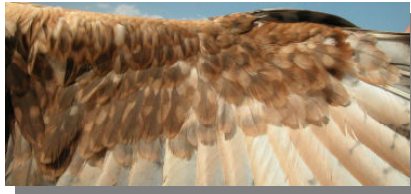
Marsh Harrier. Adult. Pattern of underwing coverts: top male (09-II); bottom female (26-XII).



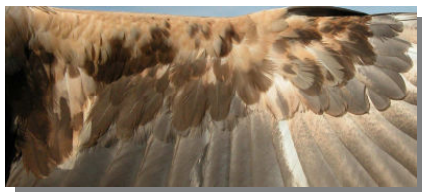
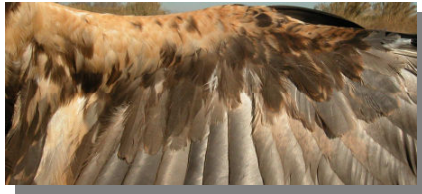
Marsh Harrier. Juvenile. Male: pattern of wing coverts and secondaries (19-X)

Marsh Harrier. 3rd year. Male. Pattern of underwing coverts: top in autumn (24-XII); bottom in spring (12-V).

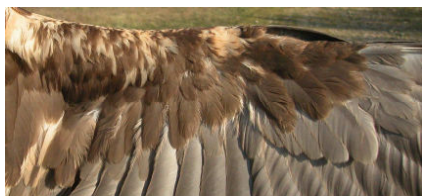
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Marsh Harrier. 2nd year. Pattern of underwing coverts: top male (09-II); bottom female (26-XII).



Marsh Harrier. Juvenile. Pattern of underwing coverts: top male (11-X); bottom female (26-XI).



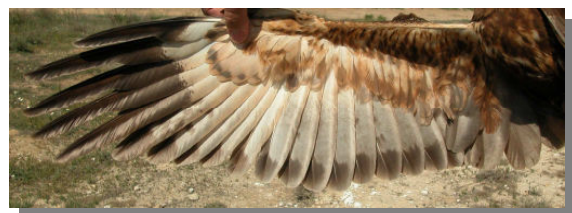
Marsh Harrier. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (26-XII).



Marsh Harrier. 3rd year autumn. Male: pattern of wing (24-XII).



Marsh Harrier. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (09-II).



Marsh Harrier. 3rd year spring. Male: pattern of wing (15-V).

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Marsh Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Male: pattern of wing (11-X).

Marsh Harrier. Juvenile. Male: pattern of wing (11-X).



Marsh Harrier. 2nd year autumn. Female: pattern of wing (17-XI).

Marsh Harrier. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing (24-XII).



Marsh Harrier. 2nd year spring. Female: pattern of wing (22-VII).