

275 Nightjar



Nightjar. Adult. Male (04-IX)

NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)

IDENTIFICATION

23-27 cm.; wing 52-59 cm. Grey brown plumage; grey brown tail and wings, with white patches in **male**, brown neck, with some white patches on sides; yellow buff underparts, strongly streaked transversally.



Nightjar. Pattern of head and nape.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Very similar to **Red-necked Nightjar**, which is bigger (30-40 cm, wing length 60-65 cm) and has a rusty red neck band.



Red-necked Nightjar

SEXING

In **adults, male** with two outermost tail feathers with a white patch on tips sized 20-30 mm; three outermost primaries with a white patch on inner web. **Female** lacks white patches on wings (some birds have yellowish patches) and have a narrow and marmorated patch sized 3-4 mm on tail. In **juveniles, male** with two outermost primaries with large pale patches, usually the outer ones bigger than the others. **Female** without large pale patches on two outermost primaries.



Nightjar. Sexing. Adult. Pattern of the outermost tail feathers: left male; right female.



Nightjar. Sexing. Adult. Pattern of the outermost primaries: top male; middle and bottom females.

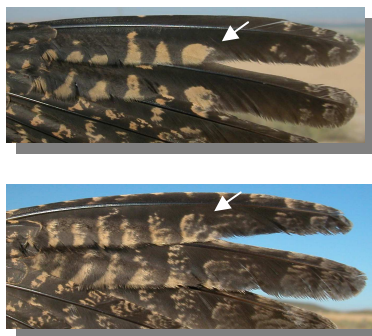
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Nightjar. Sexing. Juvenile. Pattern of the outermost tail feathers: left male; right female.



Nightjar. Ageing. Pattern of the central tail feather: left adult female; right juvenile.



Nightjar. Sexing. Juvenile. Pattern of the outermost primaries: top male; bottom female.

AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile different from **adult male** since it lacks white patches on wings and tail and have fresh plumage; and different from an **adult female** by fresh plumage; flight feathers and tail show arrow heads of variable degrees on the tips; white areas on tip of primaries lesser than 10 mm (in **adult females** are 10-15 mm).

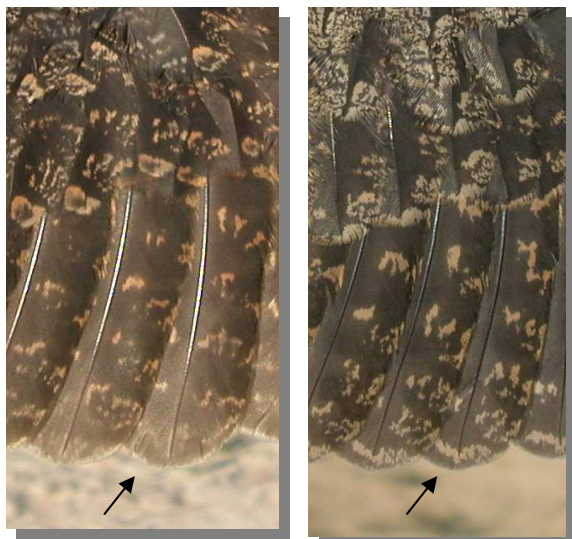
2nd year only in birds with retained juvenile primaries or secondaries, usually shorter than **adult** feathers: sometimes coverts under alula unmoulted.

Adult with bad defined streaked on flight feathers and tail; coverts under alula moulted; worn flight feathers; if there are two generations of feathers both are with **adult** pattern and similar size.



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

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Nightjar. Ageing. Pattern of secondaries: left adult; right juvenile.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults which start in July in the breeding areas, suspended before migration and finished in wintering quarters; number of feathers moulted in Europe is very variable with birds changing all body feathers and tertials and birds with no moult. Both types of age can have unmoulted secondaries; some **juvenile** birds with unmoulted primaries too.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Summer visitor, widely distributed on passage. Breeds in forests in Northern area of the Region.



Nightjar. Adult. Female (28-V).



Nightjar. 2nd year. Male (02-VI).



Nightjar. 2nd year. Female (21-V).

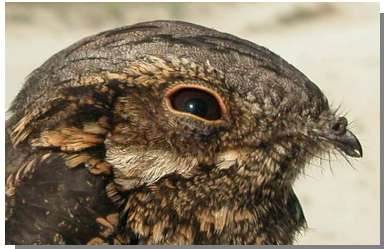
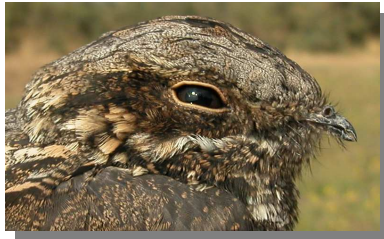


Nightjar. Juvenile. Male (12-VIII)

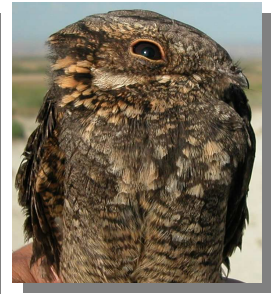
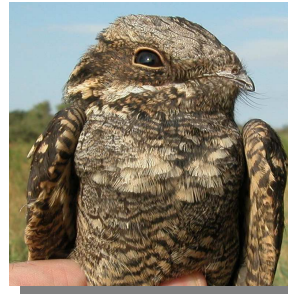


Nightjar. Juvenile. Female (12-VIII)

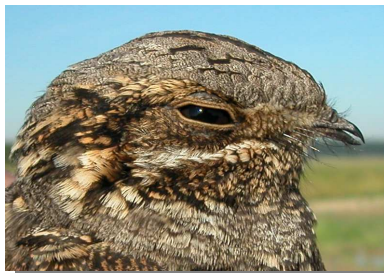
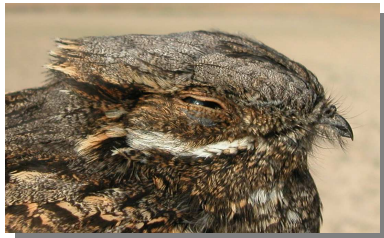
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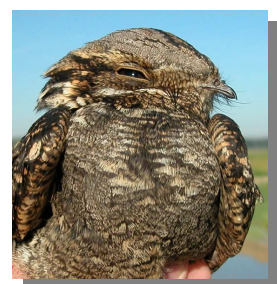
Nightjar. Adult. Head pattern: top male (04-IX); bottom female (28-V).



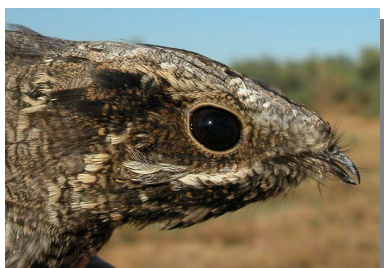
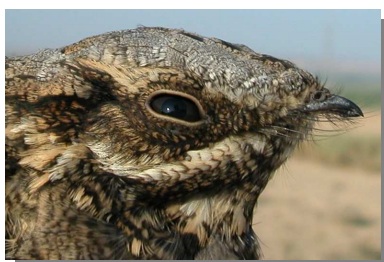
Nightjar. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (04-IX); right female (28-V).



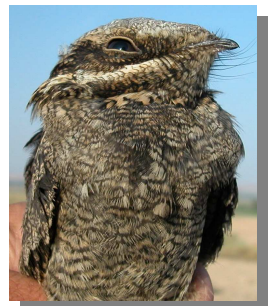
Nightjar. 2nd year. Head pattern: top male (02-VI); bottom female (21-V).



Nightjar. 2nd year. Breast pattern: left male (02-VI); right female (21-V).



Nightjar. Juvenile. Head pattern: top male (12-VIII); bottom female (12-VIII).



Nightjar. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (12-VIII); right female (12-VIII).

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Nightjar. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (04-IX); right female (28-V).



Nightjar. Juvenile. Upperpart pattern: left male (12-VIII); right female (12-VIII).



Nightjar. 2nd year. Upperpart pattern: left male (02-VI); right female (21-V).



Nightjar. Adult. Male: pattern of tail and the outermost tail feather (11-VI).

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Nightjar.
A d u l t .
F e m a l e :
p a t t e r n
o f
t a i l
a n d
t h e
o u t e r m o s t
t a i l
f e a t h e r
(28-V).



Nightjar.
J u v e n i l e .
M a l e :
p a t t e r n
o f
t a i l
a n d
t h e
o u t e r m o s t
t a i l
f e a t h e r
(12-VIII).



Nightjar.
2 n d y e a r .
M a l e :
p a t t e r n
o f
t a i l
a n d
t h e
o u t e r m o s t
t a i l
f e a t h e r
(02-VI).



Nightjar.
J u v e n i l e .
F e m a l e :
p a t t e r n
o f
t a i l
a n d
t h e
o u t e r m o s t
t a i l
f e a t h e r
(12-VIII).



Nightjar.
2 n d y e a r .
F e m a l e :
p a t t e r n
o f
t a i l
a n d
t h e
o u t e r m o s t
t a i l
f e a t h e r
(21-V).



Nightjar. Adult. Male: pattern of alula (11-VI).

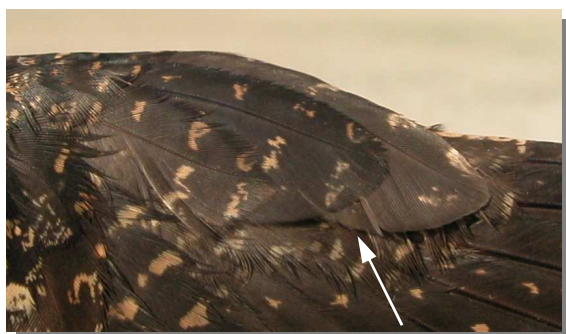
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Nightjar. Adult. Female: pattern of alula (28-V).



Nightjar. Juvenile. Female: pattern of alula (12-VIII).



Nightjar. 2nd year. Female: pattern of alula (02-VI).



Nightjar. Adult. Male: pattern of coverts under the alula (11-VI).



Nightjar. 2nd year. Female: pattern of alula (21-V).



Nightjar. 2nd year. Male: pattern of coverts under the alula (11-VI).



Nightjar. Juvenile. Male: pattern of alula (12-VIII).



Nightjar. Adult. Male: pattern of the outermost primaries (04-IX).

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Nightjar. Adult. Female: pattern of the outermost primaries (28-V).



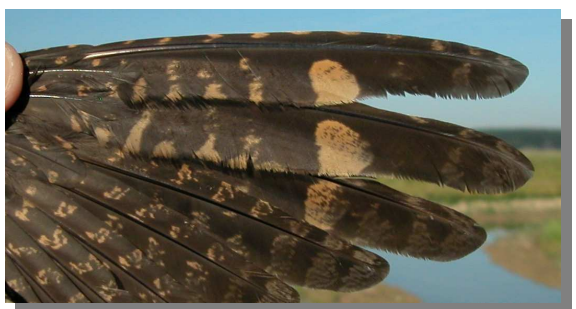
Nightjar. Juvenile. Female: pattern of the outermost primaries (20-VIII).



Nightjar. 2nd year. Male: pattern of the outermost primaries (02-VI).



Nightjar. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (04-IX).



Nightjar. 2nd year. Female: pattern of the outermost primaries (21-V).



Nightjar. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (28-V).



Nightjar. Juvenile. Male: pattern of the outermost primaries (12-VIII).



Nightjar. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primaries (02-VI).

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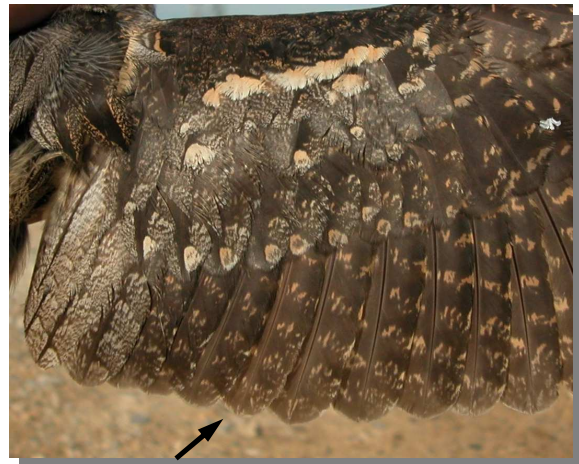
Nightjar. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primaries (21-V).



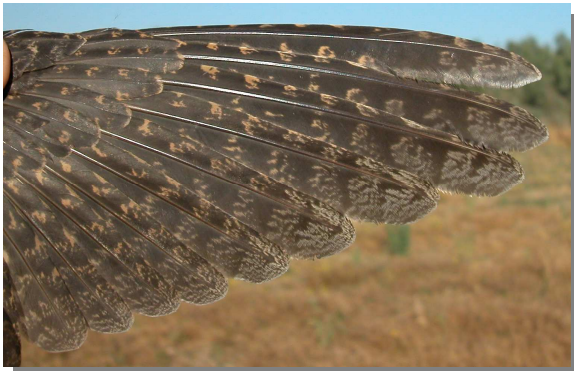
Nightjar. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries with one age of feathers (04-IX).



Nightjar. Juvenile. Male: pattern of primaries (12-VIII).



Nightjar. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries with two ages of feathers (11-VI).

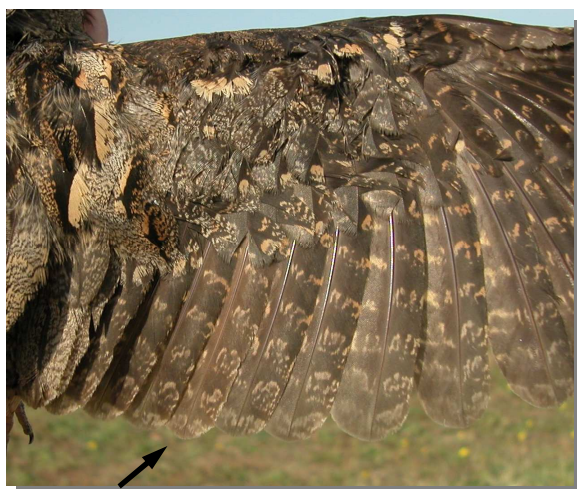


Nightjar. Juvenile. Female: pattern of primaries (20-VIII).



Nightjar. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries with one age of feathers (12-VIII).

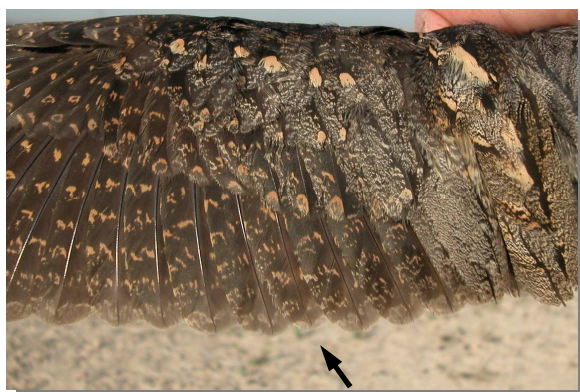
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Nightjar. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries with two ages of feathers (04-IX).



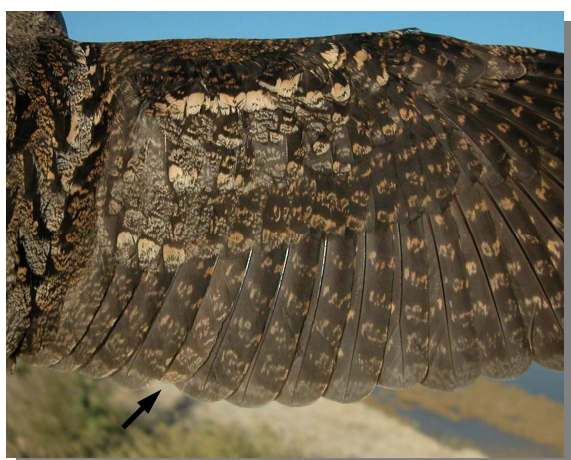
Nightjar. Juvenile. Male: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (12-VIII).



Nightjar. 2nd year. Male: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (02-VI).



Nightjar. Juvenile. Female: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (12-VIII).



Nightjar. 2nd year. Female: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (21-V).



Nightjar. Adult. Male: pattern of wing without retained feathers (04-IX).

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Nightjar. Adult. Male: pattern of wing with retained feathers (11-VI).

Nightjar. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (02-VI).



Nightjar. Adult. Female: pattern of wing without retained feathers (12-VIII).

Nightjar. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (21-V).



Nightjar. Adult. Female: pattern of wing with retained feathers (04-IX).

Nightjar. Juvenile. Male: pattern of wing (12-VIII).

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Nightjar. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing (12-VIII).