

118 Sparrowhawk

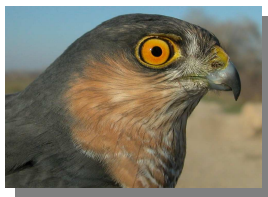


Sparrowhawk. Adult. Male (28-XII).

SPARROWHAWK (*Accipiter nisus*)

IDENTIFICATION

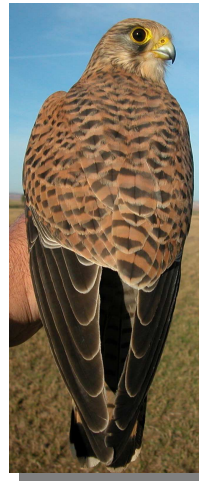
Male: 28-34 cm; **female:** 33-42 cm. Short and rounded wings and long tail; yellow or orange iris; tail with 4-5 dark narrow bands and one broad subterminal band; grey slate upperparts in **adults**, brownish in **juveniles**; underparts barred buff-reddish in **male**, darker in **females** and **juveniles**.



Sparrowhawk. Pattern of tail and head: top male; bottom female.

SIMILAR SPECIES

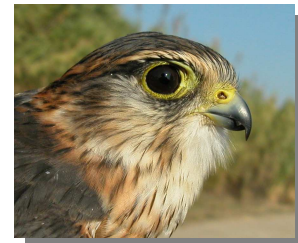
Kestrel and **Lesser Kestrel** have long tails, but have dark iris and rufous upperparts. **Hobby** and **male Merlin** have grey upperparts, but have pointed wings and dark iris. **Female Sparrowhawk** can be very similar to a **male Goshawk** but has a bigger size; **juvenile Goshawk** has mottled underparts.



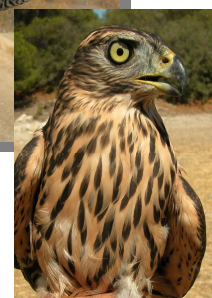
Common Kestrel



Hobby



Merlin

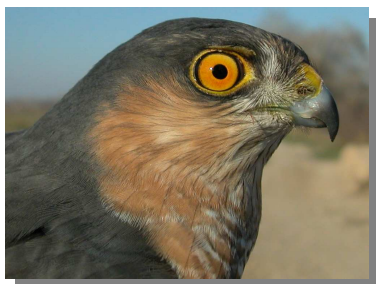


Goshawk. Juvenile and adult

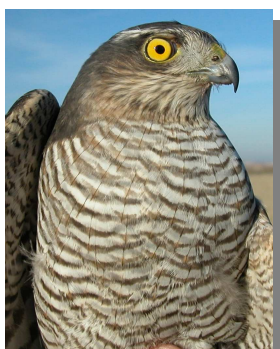
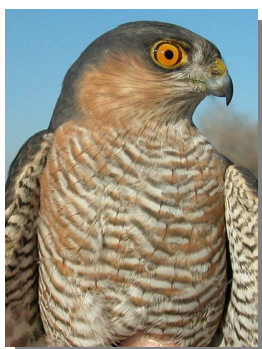
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SEXING

In **adult** birds, **male** without whitish supercilium; grey slate upperparts; underparts barred buff-orange; yellow-orange iris, sometimes reddish; wing shorter than 212 mm; tarsus shorter than 55 mm. **Adult female** with prominent whitish supercilium; grey to brown upperparts; underparts barred bluish grey; yellow iris; wing longer than 217 mm; tarsus longer than 59 mm. **Juveniles** with plumage of both sexes alike but can be sexed by wing length.



Sparrowhawk. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



Sparrowhawk. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of breast: left male; right female.



Sparrowhawk. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of upperparts: top left male; top right female with grey upperparts; left female with brown upperparts.

AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

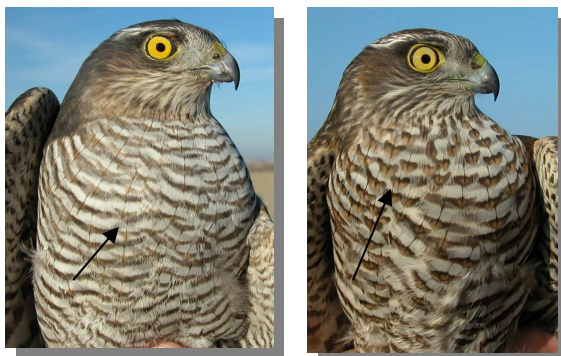
Juvenile with feathers brown with pale edge on upperparts (may be missing by wear); pale underparts with feathers with heart-shaped brown marks on tips; in **spring** can have some moulted feathers on nape and upperparts, which are grey and without buff edge.

2nd year autumn/3rd year spring if retained juvenile feathers on rump, lesser wing coverts, tail and secondaries.

Adult without juvenile feathers on body and wings.

CAUTION: in birds with two generation of feathers on body, tail or wings will be necessary to know if old feathers have adult or juvenile pattern to a right ageing.

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Sparrowhawk. Ageing. Pattern of feathers on breast: left adult female; right juvenile.

STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident, with contribution of wintering European birds. Breeds throughout the Region in appropriated forests.



Sparrowhawk. Adult. Female (10-XI).



Sparrowhawk. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult female; right juvenile.



Sparrowhawk. 2nd year. Male (30-XII).

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in November; some specimens have unmoulted feathers on body, tail and secondaries. **Postjuvenile** moult starts in their **2nd year** and it is complete, although some feathers can be retained on rump, tail and wing coverts.

PHENOLOGY

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



Sparrowhawk. 2nd year. Female (30-XII).

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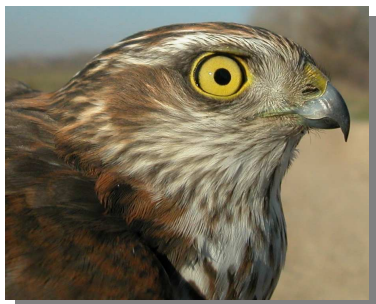
Sparrowhawk. Juvenile. Male (10-I)



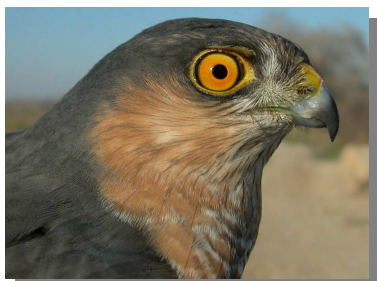
Sparrowhawk. 2nd year. Head pattern: top male (30-XII); bottom female (30-XII).



Sparrowhawk. Juvenile. Female (26-I)



Sparrowhawk. Juvenile. Head pattern: top male (10-I); bottom female (26-I).



Sparrowhawk. Adult. Head pattern: top male (28-XII); bottom female (10-XI).

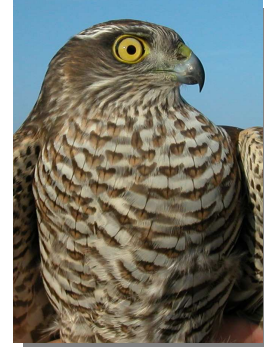
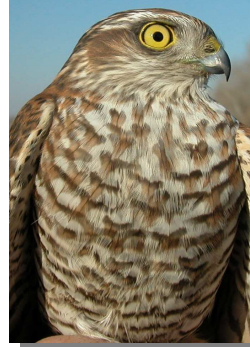


Sparrowhawk. Adult. Nape pattern: left male (28-XII); right female (10-XI).

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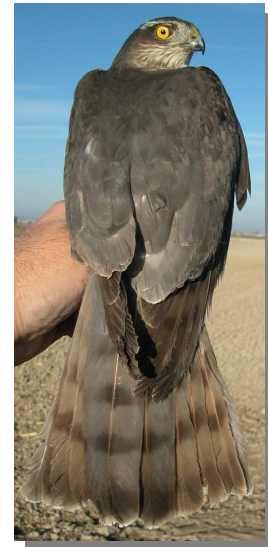
Sparrowhawk. 2nd year. Nape pattern: left male (30-XII); right female (30-XII).



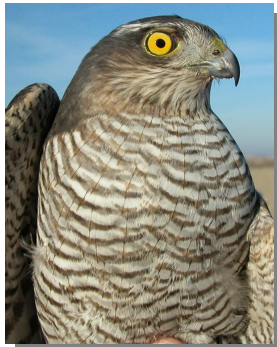
Sparrowhawk. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (10-I); right female (26-I).



Sparrowhawk. Juvenile. Nape pattern: left male (10-I); right female (26-I).



Sparrowhawk. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (28-XII); right female (10-XI).



Sparrowhawk. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (28-XII); right female (10-XI).

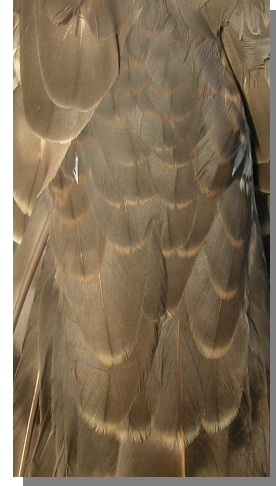


Sparrowhawk. 2nd year. Breast pattern: left male (30-XII); right female (30-XII).



Sparrowhawk. 2nd year. Upperpart pattern: left male (30-XII); right female (30-XII).

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Sparrowhawk. Juvenile. Rump pattern: left male (10-I); right female (26-I).

Sparrowhawk. Juvenile. Upperpart pattern: left male (10-I); right female (26-I).



Sparrowhawk. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (28-XII); right female (10-XI).

Sparrowhawk. Adult. Rump pattern: left male (28-XII); right female (10-XI).



Sparrowhawk. 2nd year. Tail pattern: left male (30-XII); right female (30-XII).

Sparrowhawk. 2nd year. Rump pattern: left male (30-XII); right female (30-XII).

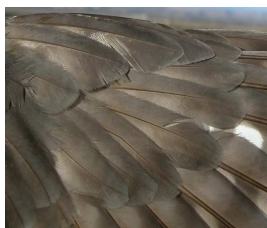
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Sparrowhawk. Juvenile. Tail pattern: left male (10-I); right female (26-I).



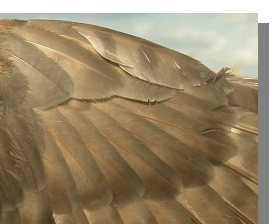
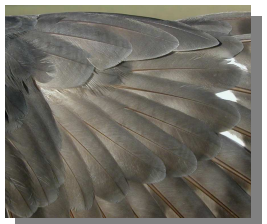
Sparrowhawk. Adult. Pattern of wing coverts: top male (28-XII); bottom female (10-XI).



Sparrowhawk. Adult. Pattern of primary coverts: left male (28-XII); right female (10-XI).



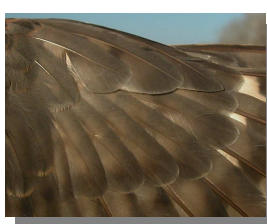
Sparrowhawk. 2nd year. Pattern of wing coverts: top male (30-XII); bottom female (30-XII).



Sparrowhawk. 2nd year. Pattern of primary coverts: left male (30-XII); right female (30-XII).



Sparrowhawk. Juvenile. Pattern of wing coverts: top male (10-I); bottom female (26-I).



Sparrowhawk. Juvenile. Pattern of primary coverts: left male (10-I); right female (26-I).

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Sparrowhawk. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (28-XII)

Sparrowhawk. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primaries (30-XII)



Sparrowhawk. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (10-XI)

Sparrowhawk. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primaries (30-XII)

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Sparrowhawk. Juvenile. Male: pattern of primaries (10-I)

Sparrowhawk. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (28-XII)



Sparrowhawk. Juvenile. Female: pattern of primaries (26-I)

Sparrowhawk. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (10-XI)

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Sparrowhawk. 2nd year. Male: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (30-XII)

Sparrowhawk. Juvenile. Male: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (10-I)



Sparrowhawk. 2nd year. Female: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (30-XII)

Sparrowhawk. Juvenile. Female: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (26-I)

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Sparrowhawk. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (28-XII)

Sparrowhawk. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (30-XII)



Sparrowhawk. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (10-XI)

Sparrowhawk. Juvenile. Male: pattern of wing (10-I)



Sparrowhawk. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (30-XII)

Sparrowhawk. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing (26-I)