

103 Black-winged Kite



Black-winged Kite. Adult (03-IX).

BLACK-WINGED KITE (*Elanus caeruleus*)

IDENTIFICATION

31-36 cm. **Adult** with pale head; grey upperparts; white underparts; grey wings, with black band; red iris. **Juvenile** with chestnut breast and neck; feathers on upperparts with white tips.



Black-winged Kite. Adult. Pattern fo head and upperparts.



SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike.

AGEING

2 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with rusty tinged crown and breast; dark greyish upperparts with fine white spots; dark area on the upper wing is browner than in **adults**; tail feathers with grey outer webs; flight feathers, greater and primary coverts with white tips.

2nd year autumn/3rd year spring only in some birds which can retain a variable number of outermost **juvenile** primaries.

Adult without rusty tinged crown and breast; pale silvery upperparts without fine white spots; dark area on the upper wing is blacker than in **juvenile**; white tail feathers with only the central pair grey; flight feathers, greater and primary coverts without white tips.



Black-winged Kite. Ageing. Pattern of crown: left adult; right juvenile.



Black-winged Kite. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right juvenile.



Black-winged Kite. Ageing. Pattern of greater coverts: left adult; right juvenile.

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Black-winged Kite. Ageing. Pattern of tail feathers: left adult; right juvenile.



Black-winged Kite. Pattern of head and iris colour: top adult (03-IX); bottom juvenile (10-VIII).



MOULT

Complete **posbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Usually a complete **postjuvenile** moult, but some birds can retain some **juvenile** outer primaries; the **breeding** season is very large so birds with **juvenile** plumage can be found during all the year.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Breeding has been recorded in Huesca province, but non breeder birds can be seen during all the year in any place of the Region.



Black-winged Kite. Juvenile (10-VIII).



Black-winged Kite. Crown pattern: left adult (03-IX); right juvenile (10-VIII).



Black-winged Kite. Breast pattern: left adult (03-IX); right juvenile (10-VIII).

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Black-winged Kite. Upperpart pattern: left adult (03-IX); right juvenile (10-VIII).

Black-winged Kite. Pattern of scapulars: left adult (03-IX); right juvenile (10-VIII).



Black-winged Kite. Adult: pattern of tail (03-IX).



Black-winged Kite. Pattern of primary covers: top adult (03-IX); bottom juvenile (10-VIII).



Black-winged Kite. Juvenile: pattern of tail (10-VIII).



Black-winged Kite. Pattern of wing covers: top adult (03-IX); bottom juvenile (10-VIII).



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Black-winged Kite. Adult: pattern of primaries (03-IX).



Black-winged Kite. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (10-VIII).



Black-winged Kite. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (10-VIII).



Black-winged Kite. Adult: pattern of wing (03-IX).



Black-winged Kite. Adult: pattern of secondaries (03-IX).



Black-winged Kite. Juvenile: pattern of wing (10-VIII).

