

103 Black-winged Kite



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.

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.

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.

After the **postbreeding/postjuvenile** moult, ageing is not possible using plumage characters.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults, usually finished in October.

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.