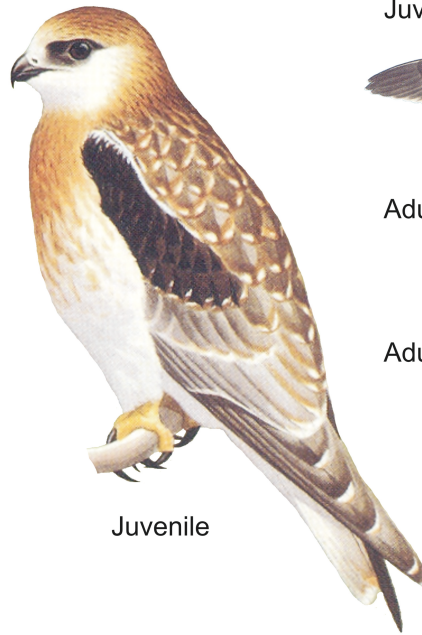


**Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus axillaris*

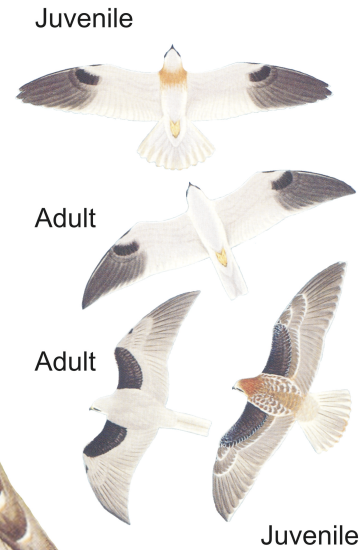
**Species No.: 232 Band size: 10**



Adult



Juvenile



Juvenile

Adult

Adult

Juvenile

**Morphometrics:**

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	274 – 309 mm	283 – 318 mm
Tail:	133 – 155 mm	138 – 155 mm
Weight:	181 – 295 g	270 – 340 g

**Ageing:**

	Adult (2+)	Juvenile
Bill:	black to grey-black;	black;
Cere:	light greyish-yellow to light yellow;	pale grey-yellow;
Iris:	orange-red to red;	black-brown to dark brown, but red pigment is evident soon after fledging;
Legs & feet:	cream to pale orange-buff;	pale grey-yellow;
Crown & nape:	white;	rufous-brown;
Upper breast:	white;	white, strongly washed rufous-brown, fading rapidly to buff-white or off-white;

Full adult plumage is attained in a moult commencing late in the first year, probably completed concurrently with adult post-breeding moult. Thus adults are aged (2+).

**Sexing:**

Adult females sometimes have a slightly darker back than their mates; Females are slightly larger than males, particularly in weight. Though there is some overlap between the sexes, a bird weighing over 300 g will be female; Female alone incubates.