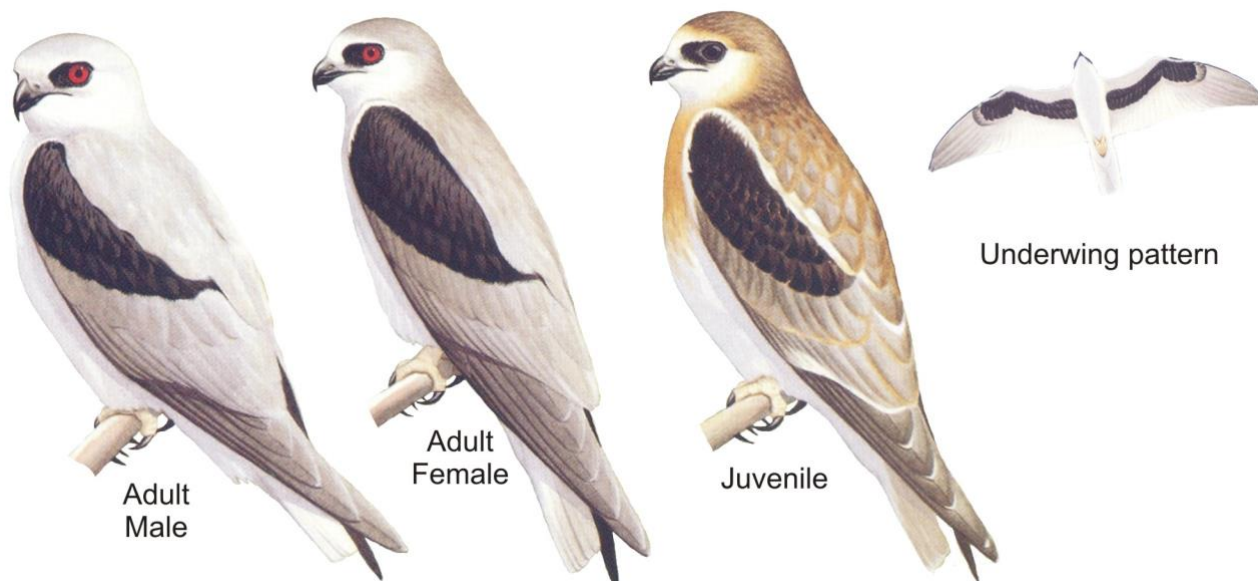


Letter-winged Kite *Elanus scriptus*

Species No.: 233 **Band size:** 10 (11) SS



Morphometrics:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	296 – 309 mm	294 – 319 mm
8th Primary:	202 – 228 mm	195 – 234 mm
Tail:	138 – 156 mm	130 – 158 mm
Bill (cere):	18.8 – 21.6 mm	17.8 – 20.4 mm
Tarsus:	35.3 – 38.5 mm	35.1 – 40.1 mm
Weight:	210 – 422 g	

Ageing:

	Adult (1+)	Juvenile
Bill:	dull black or grey-black;	blackish;
Mouth:	pinkish-red;	pink-red;
Cere:	brownish-grey, dark horn, grey or greyish-black;	light brownish-grey;
Iris:	bright deep red;	dark brown to reddish-brown;
Legs and Feet:	pale greyish-yellow to cream;	as for adult
Crown & nape:	white in male, pale grey in female	mottled dark brown and light brown;
Upper breast:	white;	white with rufous-brown suffusion.

Adult plumage is attained in the first year, so age all except Juveniles as (1+).

Sexing:

Adult male crown and nape is white and adult female is pale grey;
 Adult male upperparts light grey and adult female slighter darker (see illustrations);
 Not known whether both parents incubate, but females brood during the day while the male stands guard at the top of the nest tree.

Similar Species:

Black-shouldered Kite - most obvious different features are the underwing pattern and black patch in front of eye extends beyond the orbital ring at the back of the eye to form a "V" (see separate field data sheet).