

Letter-winged Kite *Elanus scriptus*

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



Morphometrics:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	296 – 309 mm	294 – 319 mm
Tail:	138 – 156 mm	130 – 158 mm
Weight:	210 – 422 g	

Ageing:

	Adult (2+)	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;
Crown & nape:	white in male, pale grey in female	mottled dark brown and light brown;
Upper breast:	white;	white with rufous-brown suffusion.

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 most, if not all, day while male stands guard at the top of the nest tree.