



Sixteen day old Female nestling

Day 15-Day 16:

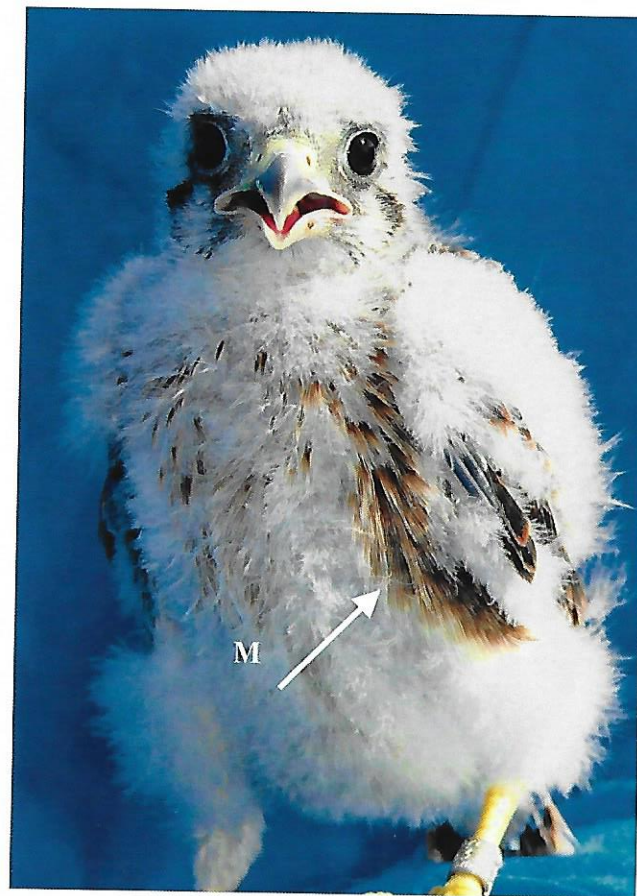
By the age of fifteen or sixteen days, nestling gender can be determined accurately as primary feathers have emerged (Range: 0.2 to 0.5 cm, Mean: 0.48 cm) and bear the gender-specific pigmentation seen in adult birds (blue-gray coloration of wings on males, brown and black on females)^H. Exterior flank feathers increase in density, highlighting the spotting patterns of the males and the barring pattern of the females^I. Back feathers have erupted rather significantly (~30% feathered)^J, and increase in density across much of the dorsal region.



Sixteen day old Male nestling



Eighteen day old Male nestling



Eighteen day old Female nestlings

7-Day 18:

At this stage, primary feathers continue to lengthen, ranging from 2.1cm (Mean: 1.53cm)^K. Back feathers have filled in almost completely, with female alternating brown-and-black barring and the male and-black barring^L. Flank and breast feathers continue to increase in as they develop inwards from the exterior^M. Male breast spotting and female barring increase in intensity. Tail feathers have increased greatly, and terminal banding appears (a white band in males, a dark in females)^N. Head remains largely down covered, though crown feathers do begin to emerge^O.





Eighteen day old Male nestling



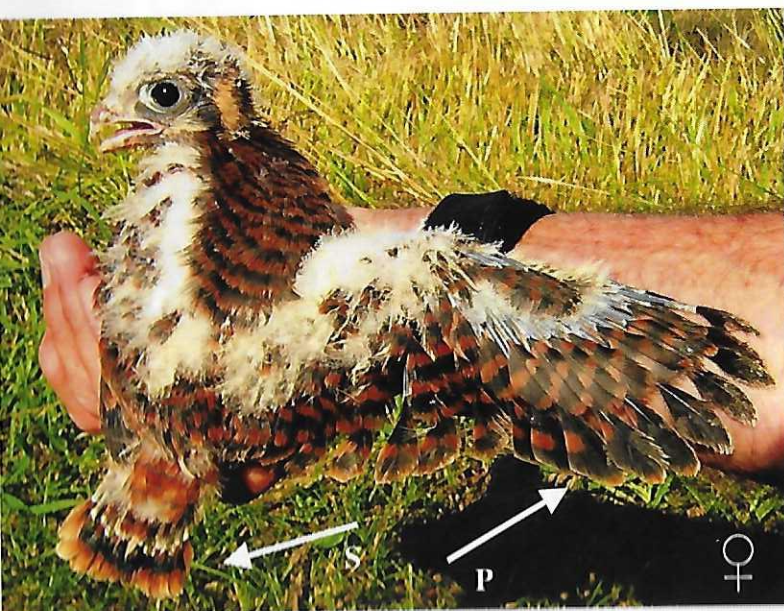
Twenty day old Female nestling

Day 19-Day 20:

In this time period, primary feathers continue to grow (Range: 2.0 to 3.2cm, Mean: 2.43cm)^P, as do the back^Q and breast feathers^R, with these areas almost completely feather covered. Tail feathers lengthen, with females showing a second brown band^S. Crown feather density increases, with little down remaining on the head.



Twenty day old nestlings



Twenty-two day old Female nestling

Day 21-Day 22:

At three weeks of age, primary feathers range in length from 3.3 to 4.5cm (Mean: 3.71cm)^T. Feathers on the back are almost fully developed (~95-100% feathered)^U, as are breast feathers on males. Female breast feathering, it appears, is at a lower percentage than males. On a whole, more bodily down remains on females than males. Rufous patch on the males' crown is distinctly visible by this age^V. The tail has lengthened, and male banding pattern (white terminal, black midline, rufous base)^W is present but no new bands have developed on the female. Head banding pattern of alternating dark and light feathers (mustache, auricular, nape) is