



**MOLT** (check primaries on bird's right wing; then use left wing if need a second opinion)

- 1 a. Less than 10 fully grown primaries present.....record number of the latest primary dropped (e.g. if 5<sup>th</sup> primary missing / growing in, write **5** in the molt column).
- b. 10 fully grown primaries present..... go to 2
2. a. MANY primary coverts have buffy tips (very young HY bird).....**0**
- b. No buffy-tipped coverts .....**U**

**AGE**

- 1 a. 1 or more buffy-tipped primary coverts present.....juvenile (HY)
- b. No buffy-tipped primary coverts.....go to 2
- 2 a. Molting any of primaries 1-7..... adult (AHY)
- b. Molting any of primaries 8-10.....unknown age (U)
- c. No primaries being molted (10 fully grown primaries present).....unknown age (U)

**SEX**

1. All birds aged as HY or U ..... sex always = unknown (U)
2. Birds aged as AHY.....sex can be M, F, or U
  - a. bluish / gray crown and nape + pinkish or rosy hue on breast & throat = male (M)
  - b. all olive brown or grayish brown on crown, nape, breast, & throat = female (F)
  - c. not clearly either matching a or b = unknown (U)

## SUMMARY:

Determine and record age first, then determine and record gender (sex).

- A molt score of "0" is used for recently hatched birds which have not yet molted the first primary. These birds will have multiple buff-tipped primary coverts and age is recorded as HY.
- If bird has NO molting feathers and NO buff-tipped primary coverts, then molt AND age are recorded as "U". Sex would also be "U" for these birds. So a bird with a complete wing and no buffy tipped feathers would be classed as U,U,U.
- If a bird is molting P9 or P10 it will probably not have buffy tipped primary coverts in place. These birds would also become U,U,U.
- If a bird is molting P8, look very carefully for a retained buffy tipped primary covert at the outer edge of the wing.

Based on the bullet points above, you can NOT have a bird with the following Molt and Age Combinations:

Molt 0, Age AHY  
Molt U, Age HY  
Molt U, Age AHY  
Molt 9, Age AHY  
Molt 10, Age AHY

Record all HY birds and all birds of UNKNOWN age as UNKNOWN sex.