

Reactivation of interrupted moult by a Red-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus ruficollis* in Catalonia (NE Spain)

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On 29.09.85 at Tiana (Barcelona, NE Spain) a Red-necked Nightjar was captured presenting resumption of moult interrupted during the winter. The bird reactivated the moult from the point where it had stopped in winter, confirming that this moult interruption was a case of suspended moult.

Key words: *Caprimulgus ruficollis*, reactivation of moult, suspended moult, Catalonia, NE Spain.

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First winter and adult Red-necked Nightjar undergo a complete moult in the wintering areas in Africa (Cramp 1985). Nevertheless, first winter birds and at least some adults (Euring code 6) interrupt moult, before replacing the outermost primaries (Cramp 1985, G. Gargallo com. pers.). Although this moult has been considered «suspended» (Cramp 1985), in fact, it is unknown if this is a suspended moult (finished at breeding grounds) or an arrested moult (reactivating the interrupted moult, without continuing the preceding moult).

On 29th September 1985 at Tiana, Barcelona (41.29N 02.16E) I netted a Red-necked Nightjar in active moult. Although it was not possible to age the bird exactly, it was not a bird in its first year. The moult score for each primary is shown in Table 1.

Both the innermost and outermost primaries

were scored as «old», since both had not yet been renewed in the autumn moult that the bird was undergoing. However, the seven innermost primaries of both wings were newer than the outermost ones showing that there were two different generations of «old» primaries, the innermost corresponding to feathers moulted the preceding winter, and the outermost corresponding to feathers left unmoulted, after the interruption of the complete winter moult. In the tail the central pair of rectrices were in active moult, but there were no differences in the wear of the old feathers.

From this data, it can be concluded that this bird had interrupted its moult during the winter before finishing the replacement of the outermost primaries (the outermost three) and later resumed moult from the point it was stopped. This seems to confirm that the interruption of moult by

Wing	PRIMARIES									
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10
Right	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	0
Left	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0

Table 1. Moulting score of each primary for both wings. Moults score according to Ginn & Melville (1983), counted ascendantly.

Taula 1. Puntuació de la muda de les primàries de cada ala. Puntuació segons Ginn & Melville (1983), comptades ascendentment.

Red-necked Nightjars during winter is actually a suspended moult strategy. •

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RESUM

Reactivació d'una muda interrompuda en un Siboc Caprimulgus ruficollis a Catalunya.

Els Sibocs adults i del primer hivern realitzen una muda completa a les àrees d'hivernada a l'Àfrica (Cramp 1985). Els joves, però i almenys, una part dels adults (G.Gargallo com. pers.), interrompen aquesta muda abans de renovar les primàries més externes (Cramp 1985, G.Gargallo com. pers.). Tot i que aquesta interrupció ha estat qualificada de muda suspesa, es desconeix si és en realitat una muda suspesa (que els ocells acaben a les àrees de cria), o bé una muda arrestada.

El 29.09.85 es va capturar a Tiana (Barcelona) un Siboc adult (codi Euring 4) en muda

activa (vegeu taula 1). Tant les primàries internes com les més externes foren valorades com a «velles», ja que ambdues no havien estat renovades en la muda de tardor que aquell ocell estava duent a terme. Tanmateix, les set primàries internes «velles» de les dues ales eren més noves que les més externes «velles», fet que indicava que hi havia dues generacions diferents de primàries «velles»; les més internes corresponien a plomes mudades durant l'hivern precedent i les més externes eren plomes deixades sense mudar després de la interrupció de la muda completa de l'hivern.

Aquest patró de desgast i de muda correspon a un ocell que havia interromput la renovació de les primàries durant l'hivern, deixant les tres més externes sense mudar, i que, ara, un cop finalitzada la cria, la reiniciava des del punt on va ser aturada. Això sembla confirmar que la interrupció de la muda durant l'hivern per part del siboc és una estratègia de muda suspesa.

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