

**37 Night Heron****MOULT**

Complete **postbreeding** moult; usually finished in November. Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined to body feathers in wintering quarters.

**PHENOLOGY**

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

**STATUS IN ARAGON**

Summer visitor, with scarce breeding colonies in the Ebro river and tributaries.

**NIGHT HERON** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)**IDENTIFICATION**

58-65 cm. **Adult** with black upperparts, crown and nape; bluish wings, tail and rump; whitish underparts. **Juveniles** are brown with white spotting on upperparts and dark spots on underparts.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**

This species is unmistakable

**SEXING**

Plumage of both sexes alike.

**AGEING**

4 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with dark brown plumage on upperparts with pale spots; pale brown underparts with dark spots; yellowish bill; yellow iris.

**2nd year** similar to **adult**, but with duller black feathers; brown streaks on both sides of neck; juvenile flight feathers retained; bill with yellowish tinge; brown-reddish iris.

**3rd year spring** in some birds with pattern similar to **adult** but with very eroded plumage.

**Adult** with deep black upperparts; without streaks on neck; fresh plumage in spring; black bill; reddish iris.