

410 Alpine Chough



AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh plumage; dark legs with orange tinge; dull orange bill.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with moult limit between glossy body feathers (and lesser coverts if moulted) and duller juvenile feathers on wing and tail; worn flight and tail feathers; tail feathers with pointed tips.

Adult with glossy black plumage on wing and tail, without moult limits; tail feathers with rounded tips.

ALPINE CHOUGH (*Pyrrhocorax graculus*)

IDENTIFICATION

37-38 cm. Glossy black plumage; pointed and decurved bill; yellow bill and red legs.

SIMILAR SPECIES

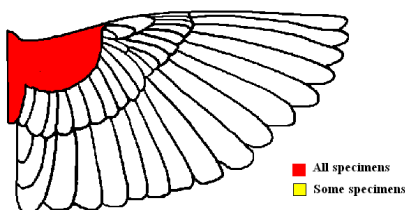
Similar to **Chough**, which has red bill.



Chough

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult, confined to body feathers and lesser and median wing coverts; finished in October.



Alpine Chough. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGÓN

Resident. Breeding in the highest areas of the Pyrenees, wintering in lower zones.

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. Size can be helpful with extreme specimens: **male** with wing longer than 270 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 269 mm.