

# 73 Wigeon



## WIGEON (*Anas penelope*)

### IDENTIFICATION

45-51 cm. **Male** with chestnut head and neck; creamy-yellowish crown; grey vermiculated upperparts; white belly; black undertail coverts; wings with white band and green speculum. **Female** with brown plumage; head without creamy crown; grey-brown upperparts; undertail coverts with dark mottled; wing with green duller green speculum than **male**.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

### SEXING

**Male** with reddish head and neck; buff yellow centre of crown; green patch behind eye; greyish pink breast; black undertail coverts; speculum with green gloss; forewing with a white band; outer web of innermost secondary white, narrowly margined black. **Female** with brownish head and neck; crown without buff yellow centre; no green patch behind eye; buffish breast; undertail coverts with black mottled; speculum with dull green; outer web of innermost secondary suffused grey.

It is not probable to find this species with **non breeding** plumage in Aragon.

### AGEING

Since this species doesn't breed in Aragon only 2 types of age can be recognized:

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** with a variable number of **juvenile** feathers retained on body and wings; retained **juvenile** greater coverts with narrow tips; if **juvenile** tertials retained then narrow, short and pointed with narrow pale outer margin; some of all **juvenile** tail feathers retained.

**Adult** with greater coverts with broad and squarish tips; tertials long and lanceolated with outer web black with well-defined white or buff margins.

### MOULT

After October both types of age have a partial **prebreeding** moult acquiring breeding plumage; during the **winter** some feathers on tertials, tail and body are in active moult.

### PHENOLOGY

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

### STATUS IN ARAGON

A winter visitor, being a very scarce species in any wet place of the Region.