

TEAL (*Anas crecca*)

IDENTIFICATION

34-38 cm. **Male** in winter with chestnut head with a green patch; pale breast with blackish spots; upperparts and flanks vermiculated grey; green and black speculum edged white. **Female** brown with white spotted; speculum similar to **male**.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Male with unmistakable plumage. The pattern of the speculum and the small size make differ the **female** from other brown ducks.

SEXING

Male in **breeding** plumage unmistakable with chestnut head with green band; flanks vermiculated grey; dark bill. **Female** with brown plumage; grey bill. It is not probable to find this species with **non breeding** plumage in Aragon.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, acquiring eclipse plumage, usually finished late September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult changing body feathers and tertials; usually finished between October and November. Both types of age have a partial **prebreeding** moult acquiring breeding plumage.

AGEING

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

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with juvenile flight feathers retained which will be eroded, **Male** with tertials narrow and pointed, fringed and usually with eroded tips; greater coverts narrow and with rounded tips. **Female** with greater coverts narrow and with rounded tips; tertial coverts narrow and eroded with narrow white edge.

Adult with fresh flight feathers. **Male** with long tertials, grey and pointed; greater coverts broad and with squared tips. **Female** with greater coverts broad, similar size and squared tips; tertial coverts broad and rounded with wide creamy or white edge.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Winter visitor, with some non breeding birds remaining in summer, In winter or on passage can be found widespread throughout the Region.