

79 Pintail**PINTAIL** (*Anas acuta*)**IDENTIFICATION**

51-66 cm. In **breeding** plumage, **male** dark brown head and throat; sides of head and neck white; white breast; upperparts with long feathers edged creamy; flanks vermiculated grey; pale underparts; black undertail coverts; very long tail feathers; grey-bluish bill. **Female** with brown plumage; pale underparts; grey-bluish bill.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

Male with dark brown head, throat and hind-neck; white sides of neck, breast and centre of underparts; long and elongated scapulars and tertials grey with black central stripes; central part of tail feathers long and pointed; black undertail coverts; speculum blue and blue-grey; underwing coverts dark grey and white. **Female** with pale brown plumage, mottled and streaked blackish or brown; tertials sepia with olive tinge; speculum grey with less green gloss than **male**; undertail coverts white streaked dark brown; underwing coverts light brown with pale margins and barring.

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, tail and wings; retained **juvenile** greater coverts with narrow tips; if **juvenile** tertials retained then narrow and pointed, brownish grey with dark centres; some of all **juvenile** tail feathers retained.

Adult with greater coverts with broad and squarish tips; tertials in **male** pearly-grey with black centres; in **female** grey-brown with dark centres.

MOULT

After October both types of age have a partial **prebreeding** moult acquiring breeding plumage; during the early **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.