

GARGANEY (*Anas querquedula*)

IDENTIFICACIÓN

37-41 cm. In **breeding** plumage, **male** with large white band on the eye reaching nape; dark mottled on head and breast; grey flanks; white vent; long black and white scapulars; green speculum with poor gloss and two white bands. **Female** with brown and mottled plumage; brown-greenish speculum; grey wing coverts; grey bill.

SIMILAR SPECIES

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

AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized (see **SEXING**):

Juvenile with tail feathers notched at tips with bare shafts projecting; greater coverts narrow and pointed, usually with dark spot at tip of inner vane; speculum only dull metallic green in **male** and without green tinge in **female**.

2nd year spring with worn **juvenile** flight feathers; some birds with **juvenile** body feathers and wing coverts retained.

Adult in **spring** with fresh wing coverts and flight feathers. In **autumn** with broad and rounded greater coverts, without a dark spot at tip of inner vane; speculum bright metallic green in **male** and dull grey brown with slight green metallic sheen in the innermost secondaries in **female**.

SEXING

Male in **breeding** plumage unmistakable with brownish-black crown with golden cheeks; white broad supercilium which extends well down the nape; elongated scapulars stripped grey, dark green, black and white; forewing pale blue grey; speculum with light green sheen; secondaries and greater coverts with broad white tips. In **non breeding** plumage similar to **female**, but with pale blue-grey forewing and green speculum. **Female** with brown plumage; narrow pale supercilium; without elongated scapulars; forewing dark grey brown; speculum dull grey brown, sometimes with slight green tinge in innermost secondaries; greater coverts with narrow white tips; secondaries with white tips only on the outer vanes.

Juveniles can be sexed: **male** with dirty blue grey lesser and median coverts; greater coverts with broad white tips; speculum dull metallic green; secondaries with white tips. **Female** without blue tinge on lesser and median coverts; greater coverts and secondaries with narrow white or buff-white tips; speculum dull grey brown and without green gloss.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, acquiring eclipse plumage, usually finished by August. Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined to body, tail, a few tertials and some wing coverts; starts by September and finished in wintering quarters. Both types of age have a partial **prebreeding** moult acquiring breeding plumage.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Only on passage; can be found in any of the wet areas throughout the Region