

# 82 Shoveler



## SHOVELER (*Anas clypeata*)

### IDENTIFICATION

44-52 cm. **Male** in winter with dark green head; black upperparts; white breast and neck; chestnut belly and flanks; dark wing with green speculum and blue wing coverts. **Female** light brown with similar speculum than the **male** but with greyer wing coverts; long and broad bill.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable due to the pattern of the bill.

### MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, acquiring eclipse plumage, usually finished late September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined to body feathers; usually finished in October. 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 |
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### STATUS IN ARAGON

Mainly a winter visitro with presence of non breeding birds in summer. Some breeding pairs have been scarcely recorded in different wetlands of the Region.

### AGEING AND SEXING

3 types of age can be recognized:

**1st year summer male** with narrow and pointed brownish tertials and tertial-coverts, with white margin on the outer web and shorter than in **adult male**; speculum like in **adult male** but with duller bright; narrow and dull blue lesser and median coverts; narrow greater coverts, usually with dark spots on the inner webs and wide pale margin; iris brown grey.

**1st year summer female** with narrow and pointed brownish tertials and tertial-coverts, with brown-whitish margin on the outer web; speculum like in **adult female** but only faintly glossed green or sometimes dull black without gloss; narrow lesser and median coverts, only with faint blue; narrow greater coverts, with ill-defined dark spots on the inner web and narrow white margin; iris brown.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** with both sexes similar to **adults** but with some **juvenile** feathers retained in different parts of the body, and, mainly, by their **juvenile** wing; **male** is acquiring the yellow colour of the iris during the winter.

**Adult male in breeding** plumage unmistakable with green head; white breast and neck; chestnut flank and belly; speculum with strong green colour on all secondaries which have outer vanes with 1-2 mm white tips or all black tips; lesser and median coverts light blue without pale edges; long and pointed tertials, black with green tinge on inner web; wide greater coverts and with a wide white tip; iris yellow or golden; dark bill. In **breeding** plumage superficially similar to **female** but easy to determine using the speculum pattern and the yellow colour of iris.

**Adult female** light brown with blackish mottling; speculum without the strong metallic gloss of the **male** (sometimes with green tinge only on the outer 3-4 secondaries) and secondaries with dirty white tips sized 1-4 mm; lesser and median coverts pale blue or blue-grey with creamy-white edges; long and brown tertials with smooth pale buff tips on outer webs; wide greater coverts with white tip; iris brown or yellow-brown.