





Alpine Chough. Adult (16-II)

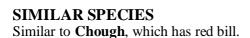
ALPINE CHOUGH (Pyrrhocorax graculus)

IDENTIFICATION

37-38 cm. Glossy black plumage; pointed and decurved bill; yellow bill and red legs.



Alpine Chough. Pattern of bill.





SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. Size can be helpful with extreme specimens: male with wing longer than 270 mm; female with wing shorter than 269 mm.

AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh plumage; dark legs with orante tinge; dull orange bill.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with moult limit between glossy body feathers (and lesser coverts if moulted) and duller juvenile feathers on wing and tail; worn flight and tail feathers; tail feathers with pointed tips.

Adult with glossy black plumage on wing and tail, without moult limits (CAUTION: a little number of birds can retain some wing coverts or flight feathers); tail feathers with rounded tips.



Alpine Chough. Ageing. Colour of bill: top adult; bottom juvenile.







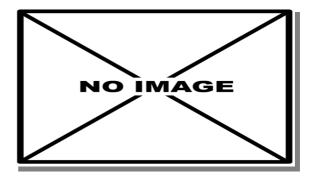
Alpine Chough. Ageing. Colour legs: top adult; bottom juvenile.



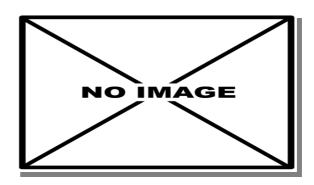




Alpine Chough. Ageing. Pattern of tips of tail feathers: left adult; right juvenile.

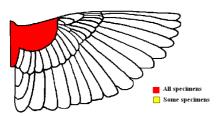


Alpine Chough. 2nd year ()



MOULT

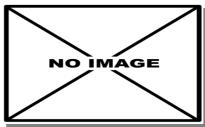
Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October; some birds can retain wing coverts or flight feathers). Partial **postjuvenile** moult, confined to body feathers and lesser and median wing coverts; finished in October.

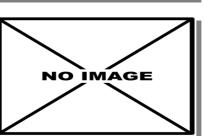


A l p i n e C h o u g h . Extent of postjuvenile moult.



Alpine Chough. Juvenile ()





A l p i n e C h o u g h. H e a d pattern: top adult (16-II); middle 2nd year (); b o t t o m juvenile ().

PHENOLOGY



STATUS IN ARAGÓN

Resident. Breeding in the highest areas of the Pyrenees, wintering in lower zones.

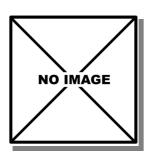




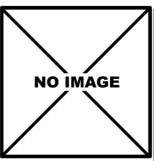








Alpine Chough. Breast pattern: top left adult (16-II); top right 2nd year (); left juvenile ().



A l p i n e Chough. Legs pattern: top adult (16-II); middle 2nd year (); bottom juvenile ().













Alpine Chough. Upperpart pattern: top left adult (16-II); top right 2nd year (); left juvenile ().



Alpine Chough. tail pattern: top left adult (16-II); top right 2nd year (); left juvenile ().

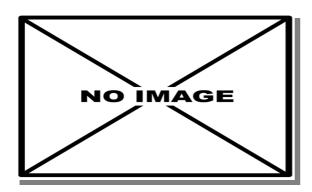




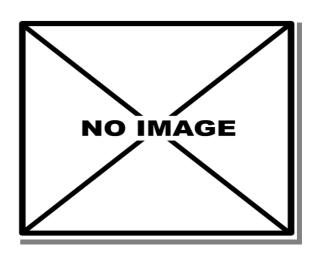
Alpine Chough. Adult: pattern of alula (16-II)



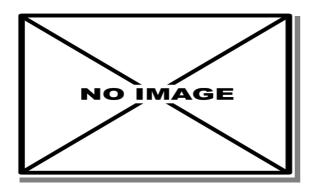
Alpine Chough. Adult: pattern of primaries (16-II)



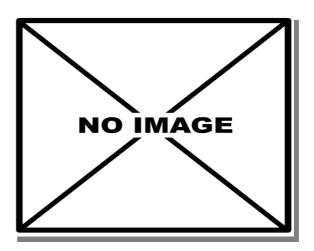
Alpine Chough. 2nd year: pattern of alula ()



Alpine Chough. 2nd year: pattern of primaries ()



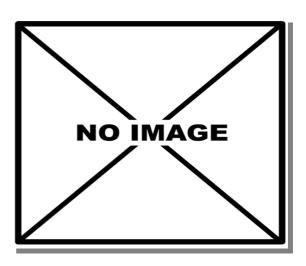
Alpine Chough. Juvenile: pattern of alula ()



Alpine Chough. Juvenile: pattern of primaries ()



Alpine Chough. Adult: pattern of secondaries (16-II)



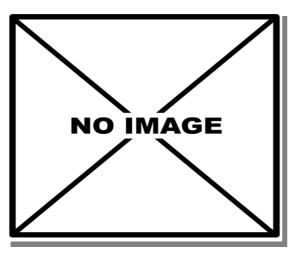
Alpine Chough. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries ()



Alpine Chough. Adult with a retained secondary: pattern of secondaries (16-II)



Alpine Chough. Adult: pattern of wing (16-II)

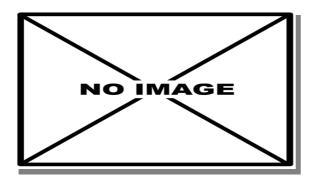


Alpine Chough. 2nd year: pattern of secondaries ()

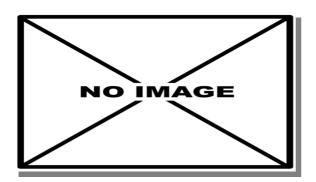


Alpine Chough. Adult with a retained secondary: pattern of wing (16-II)





Alpine Chough. 2nd year: pattern of wing ()



Alpine Chough. Juvenile: pattern of wing ()