## 410 Alpine Chough




Alpine Chough. Adult (16-II)

## ALPINE CHOUGH (Pyrrhocorax graculus)

## IDENTIFICATION

$37-38 \mathrm{~cm}$. Glossy black plumage; pointed and decurved bill; yellow bill and red legs.

## 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

## SIMILAR SPECIES

Similar to Chough, which has red bill.

adult; bottom juvenile.


A 1 p in e Chough. Ageing. Colour of legs: top adult; bottom juvenile.


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

## 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.


Alpine Chough. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

## STATUS IN ARAGÓN

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

## Alpine Chough. Juvenile ()

Alpine Chough. H e a d pattern: top adult (16-II); middle 2nd year (); bottom juvenile ().


Alpine Chough. 2nd year ()



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


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



A 1 p i n e Chough. Legs pattern: top adult (16-II); middle 2 nd year (); bottom juvenile ().


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


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


Alpine Chough. Juvenile: pattern of alula ()


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


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


Alpine Chough. Juvenile: pattern of primaries ()

## 410 Alpine Chough



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


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


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


Alpine Chough. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries ()


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


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

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


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[^0]:    Alpine Chough. Juvenile: pattern of wing ()

