

# 71 Common Shelduck

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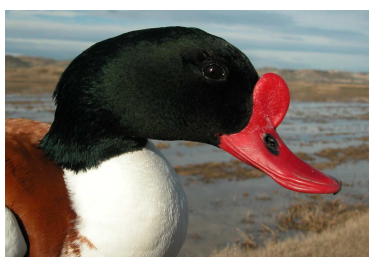


Shelduck. Spring. Adult. Male (10-III).

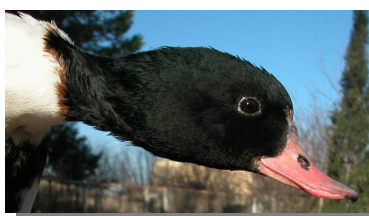
## COMMON SHELDUCK (*Tadorna tadorna*)

### IDENTIFICATION

58-67 cm. White plumage with dark green head, chestnut band on breast, two black lines on side of upperparts and one through the underparts; black wings with green speculum; tail with black tip; red bill.



Shelduck. Adult. Pattern of wing and head: top male; bottom female.



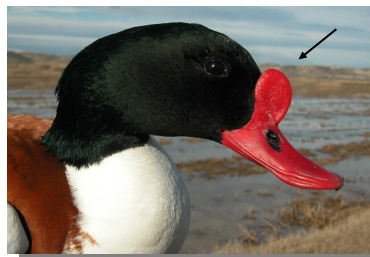
### SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable

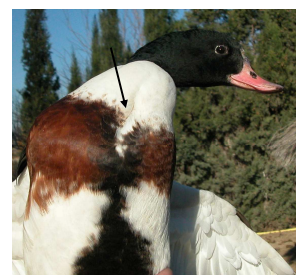
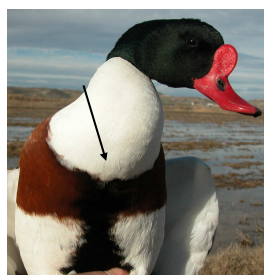
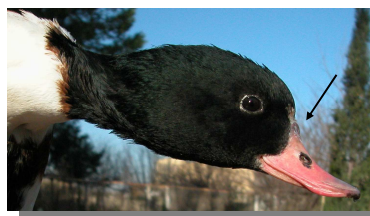
### SEXING

**Male** in **breeding** plumage with bright red bill and fleshy knob at base; glossy green head and neck; broad and bright chestnut band on breast; undertail coverts cinnamon. In **non-breeding** plumage with dark mottled on breast and belly; knob reduced; outer web of the outermost tertial strongly chestnut. In any season **male** with wing longer than 316 mm. **Female** in **breeding** plumage with dull red bill, without knob at base; dull black on head and neck, with brown tinge on face and throat; undertail coverts pale, yellowish-brown. In **non-breeding** plumage with dark mottled only on side of breast; outer web of the outermost tertial pale chestnut brown, with a grey longitudinal stripe. In any season **female** with wing shorter than 312 mm.

**CAUTION:** some **1st year males** lack knob at base of bill, so absence of knob no guarantee that bird is **female**.



Shelduck. Sexing. Pattern of head and bill: top male; bottom female.



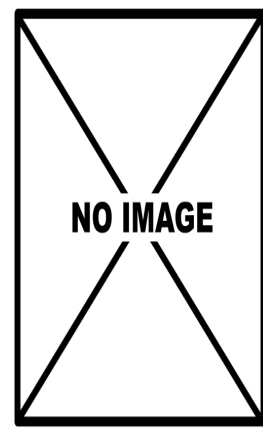
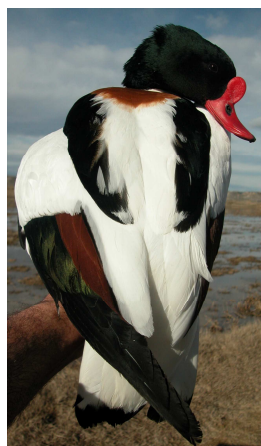
Shelduck. Sexing. Pattern of breast: left male; right female.

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Shelduck. Sexing. Pattern of the innermost tertial: left male; right female.



## AGEING

4 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with white tips on secondaries and all but 4 outermost primaries; grey greater coverts; dull and mottled plumage with whitish edges on feathers.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** acquiring adult-like plumage but have **juvenile** feathers on body; **juvenile worn** flight feathers retained.

**2nd year autumn/3rd year spring** in birds with some **juvenile** greater coverts retained, which have grey tips; sometimes with the trailing edge of secondaries white.

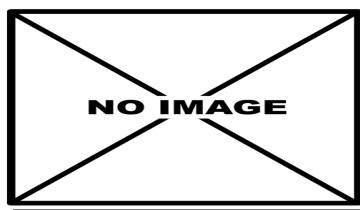
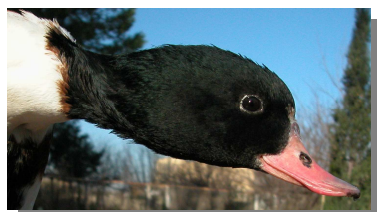
**3rd year autumn/4th year spring** only in birds with inner secondaries still with white tip and more rounded than **adult**.

**Adult** with black flight feathers but with a small white tip on secondaries; without **juvenile** feathers on wing or body,

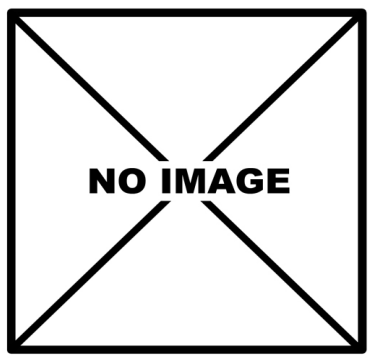
Shelduck. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right juvenile.



Shelduck. Ageing. Pattern of tips of secondaries: top adult; middle 4th year spring; bottom juvenile.

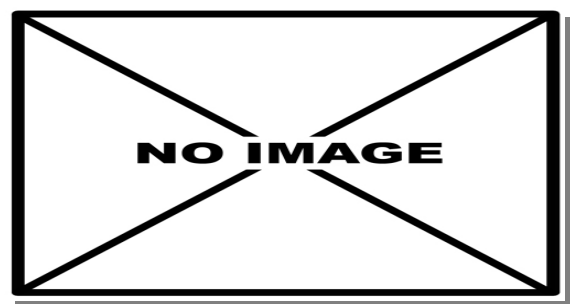


Shelduck. Ageing. Pattern of head and bill: top adult female; bottom juvenile.



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Shelduck. Ageing. Pattern of wing coverts: top adult; bottom juvenile.

**MOULT**

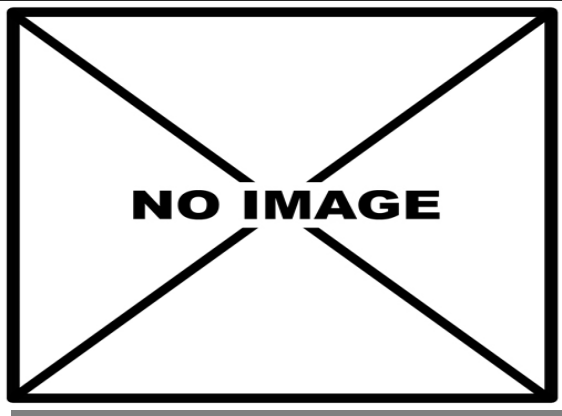
Complete **postbreeding** moult, acquiring eclipse plumage, usually finished late September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined to body feathers and retaining juvenile feathers on upperparts and scapulars; some birds moult tail feathers finishing in mid-winter. Both types of age have a partial **prebreeding** moult acquiring breeding plumage.

**PHENOLOGY**

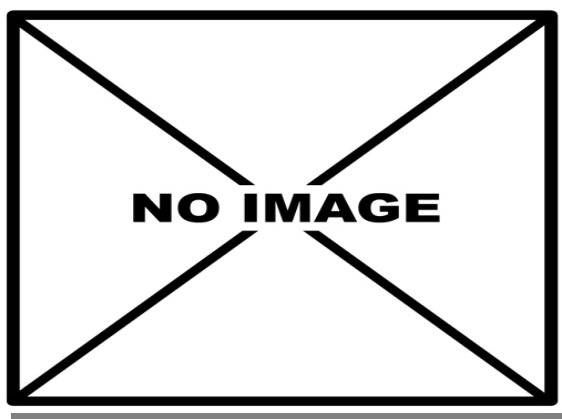
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

**STATUS IN ARAGON**

Winter visitor, with some pairs breeding in Laguna de Chiprana and, some years, in Laguna de Gallocanta.



Shelduck. Spring. Adult. Female ().



Shelduck. Spring. 4th year. Male ().

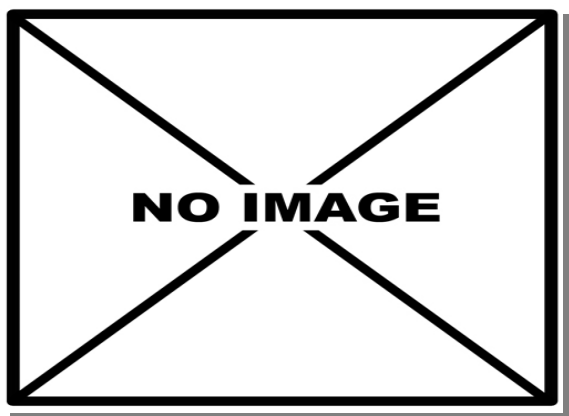


Shelduck. Spring. 4th year. Female (04-I).

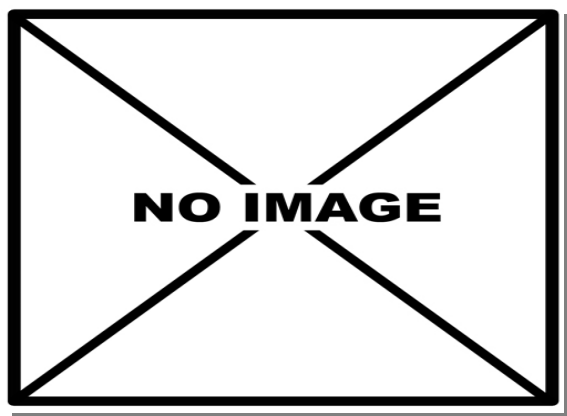


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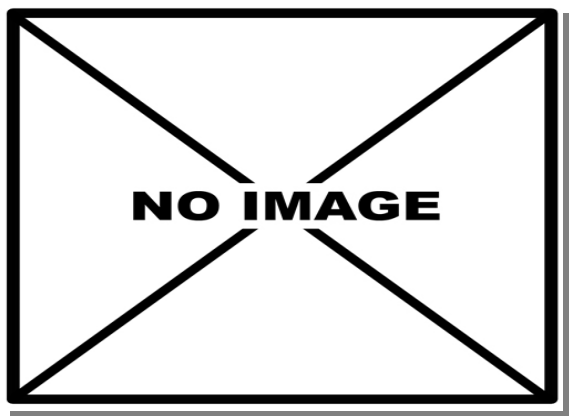
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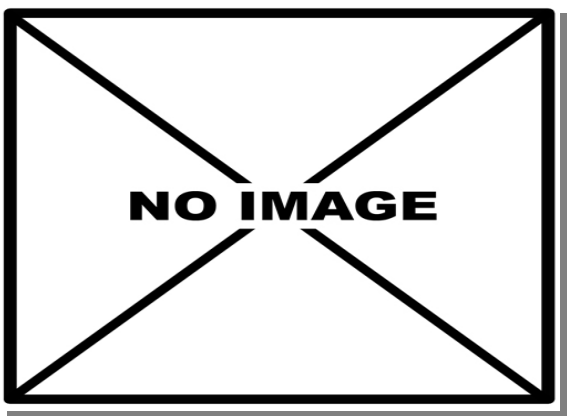
Shelduck. Spring. 2nd year. Male ().



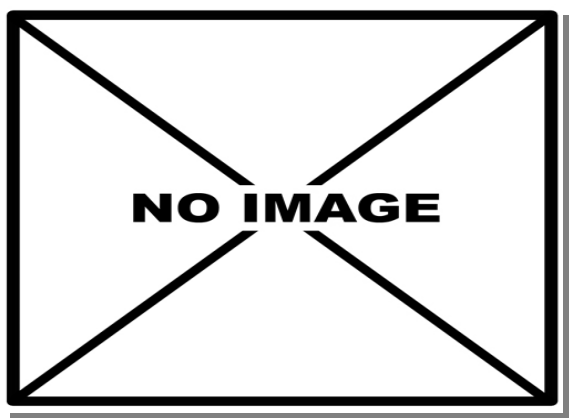
Shelduck. Spring. 2nd year. Female ().



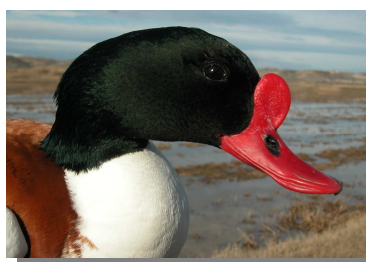
Shelduck. Spring. 2nd year. Female ().



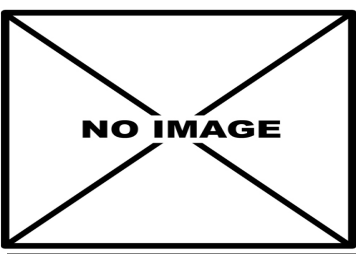
Shelduck. Spring. Juvenile ().



Shelduck. Spring. 2nd year. Male ().

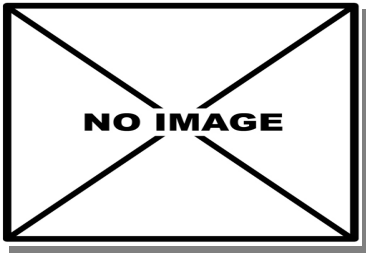


Shelduck.  
Spring. Adult.  
Pattern of head  
and bill: top  
male (10-III);  
bottom female  
().

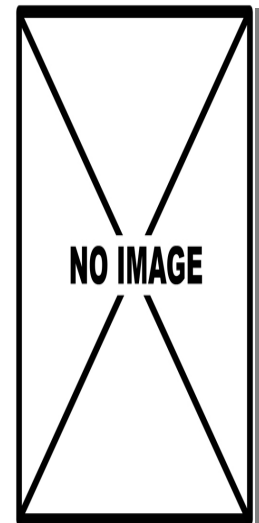
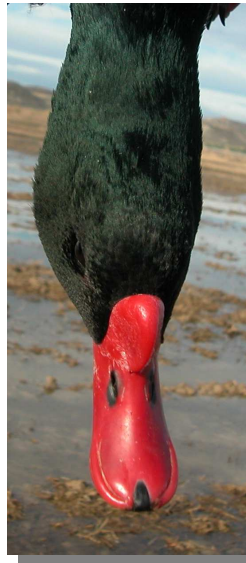
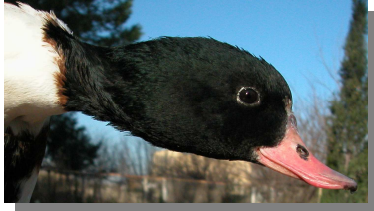


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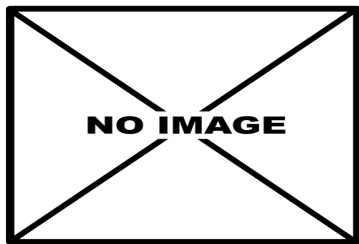
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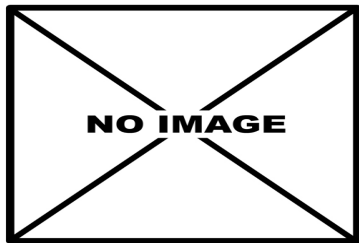
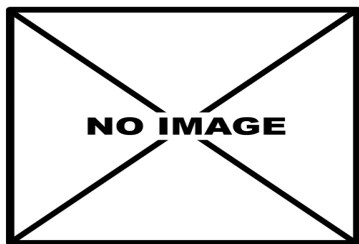
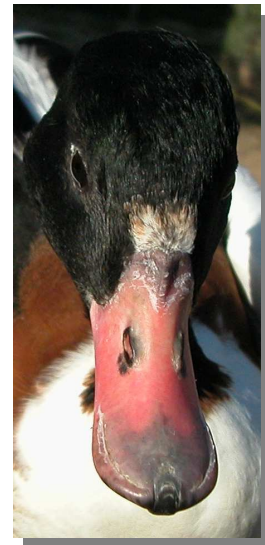
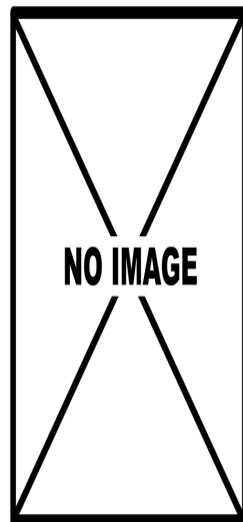
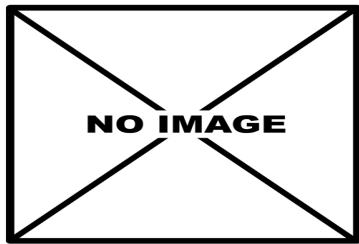
Shelduck.  
Spring. 4th year  
Pattern of head  
and bill: top  
male (); bottom  
female (04-I).



Shelduck. Spring. Adult. Bill pattern: left male (10-III); right female ().

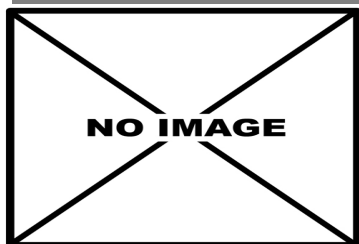


Shelduck.  
Spring. Pattern  
of head and bill:  
top 3rd year  
male (); middle  
2nd year female  
(); bottom juve-  
nile ().



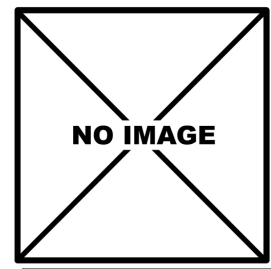
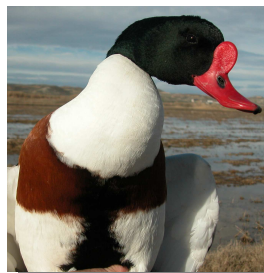
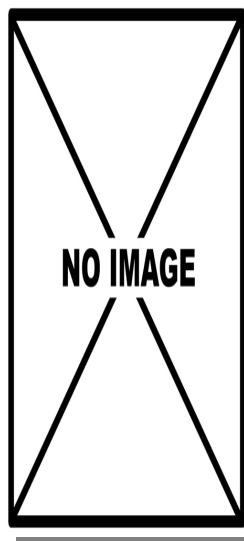
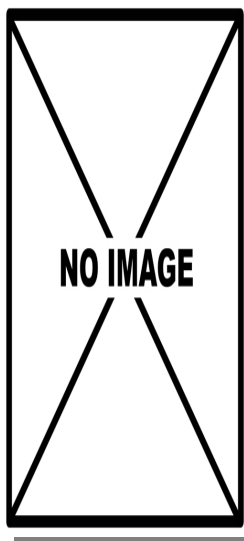
Shelduck.  
Spring. Pattern  
of head and bill:  
top 2nd year  
male (); middle  
2nd year female  
(); bottom juve-  
nile (04-I).

Shelduck. Spring. 4th year Bill pattern: left male (); right female (04-I).

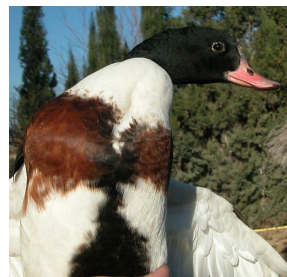
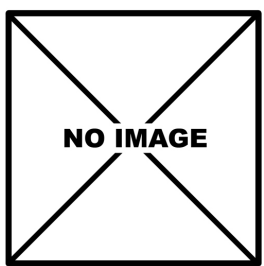


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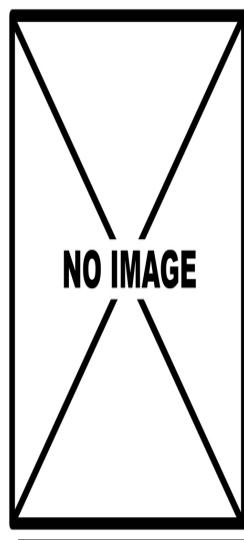
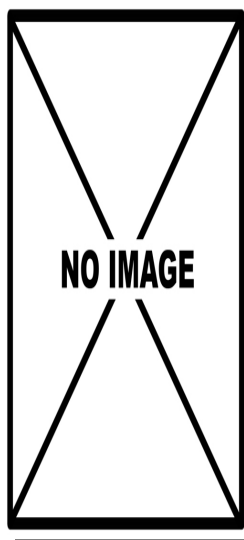
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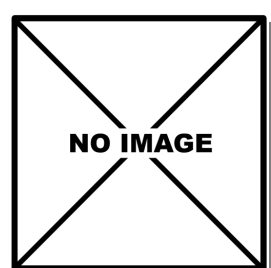
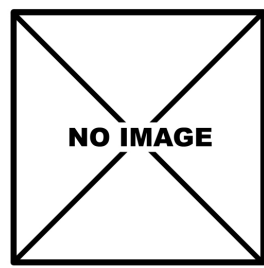
Shelduck. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (10-III); right female ().



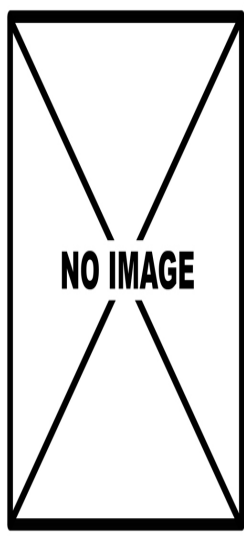
Shelduck. Spring. 3rd year. Bill pattern: left male (); right female ().



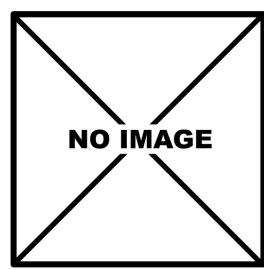
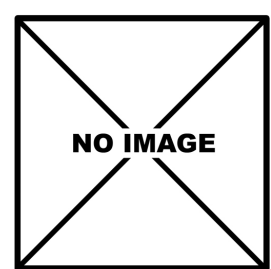
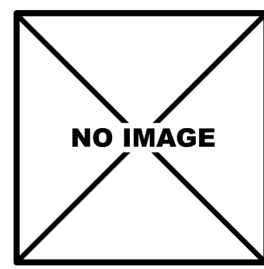
Shelduck. Spring. 4th year. Breast pattern: left male (); right female (04-I).



Shelduck. Spring. 3rd year. Breast pattern: left male (); right female ().



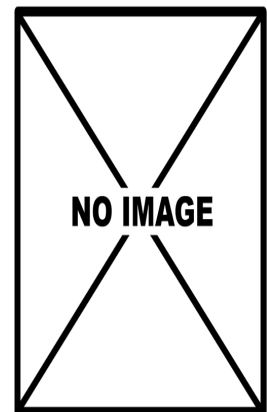
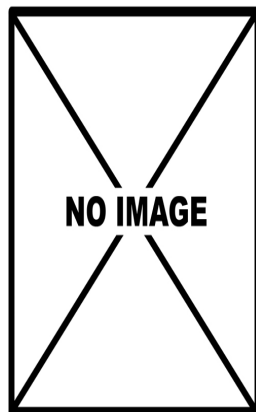
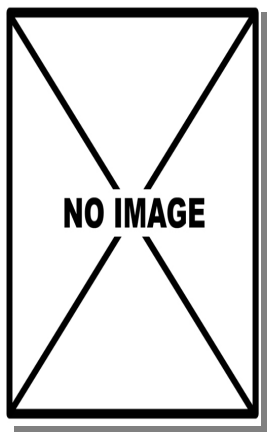
Shelduck. Spring. Bill pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile ().



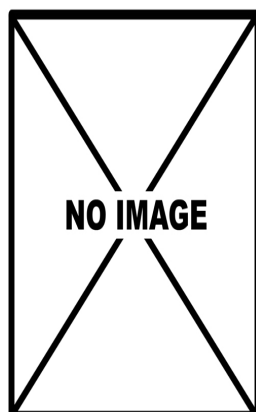
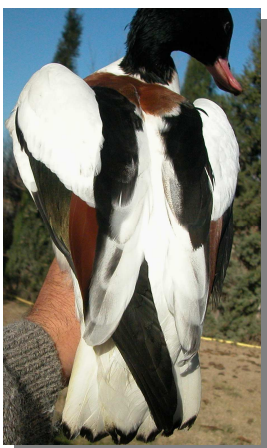
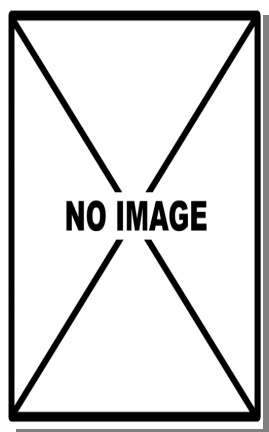
Shelduck. Spring. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile ().

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Shelduck. Spring. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (10-III); right female ().

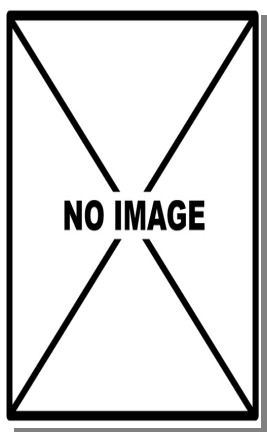
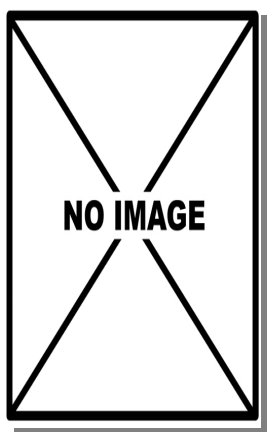


Shelduck. Spring. Upperpart pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile ().

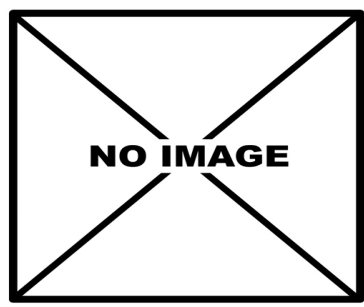
Shelduck. Spring. 4th year. Upperpart pattern: left male (); right female (04-I).



Shelduck. Spring. Pattern of legs: top male (10-III); middle female (04-I); bottom juvenile ().

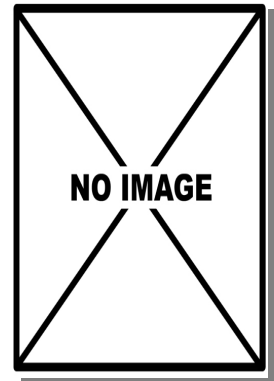
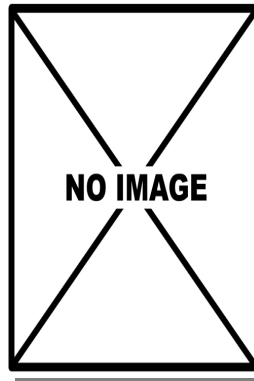
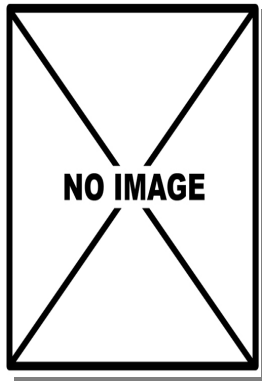


Shelduck. Spring. 3rd year. Upperpart pattern: left male (); right female ().

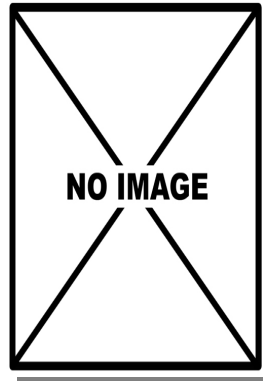
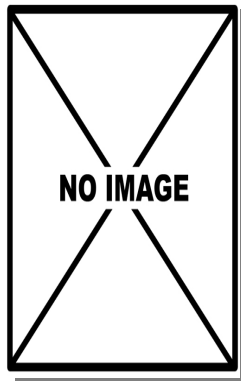


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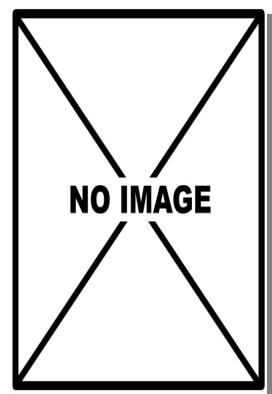
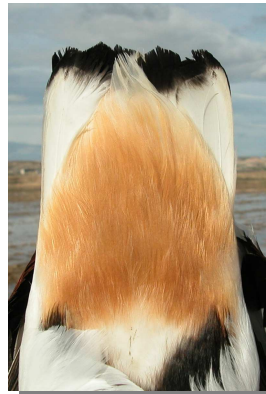
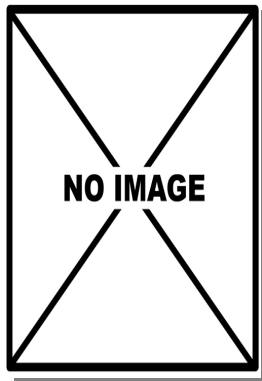
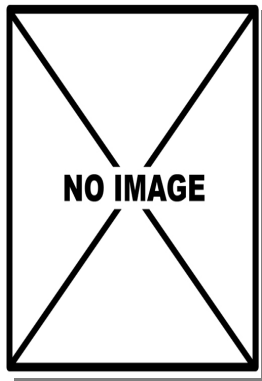


Shelduck. Spring. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (10-III); right female ().



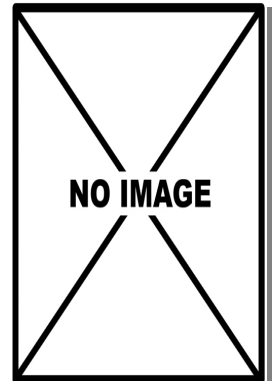
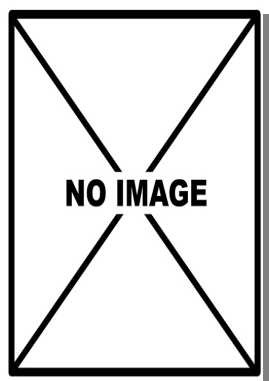
Shelduck. Spring. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile ().

Shelduck. Spring. 4th year. Tail pattern: left male (); right female (04-I).



Shelduck. Spring. Adult. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (10-III); right female ().

Shelduck. Spring. 3rd year. Tail pattern: left male (); right female ().

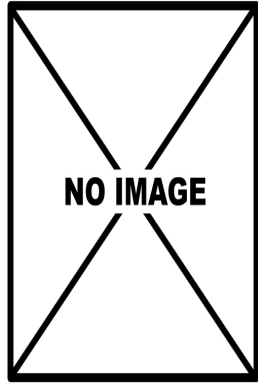
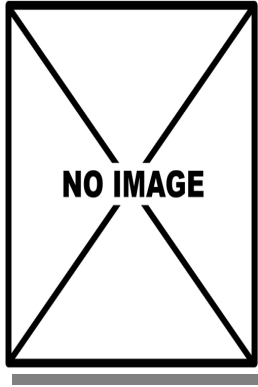


Shelduck. Spring. 4th year. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (); right female ().

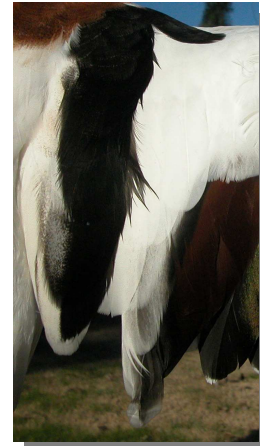
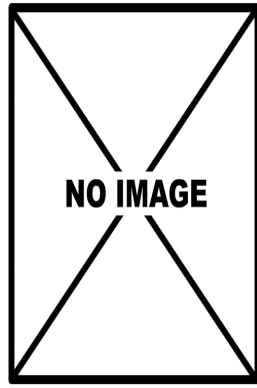


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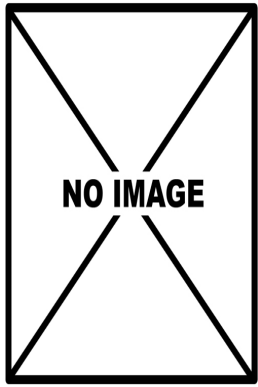
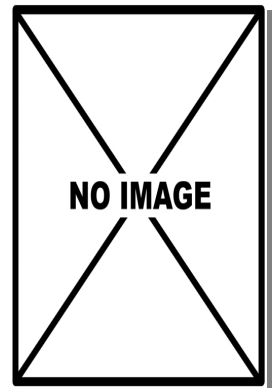
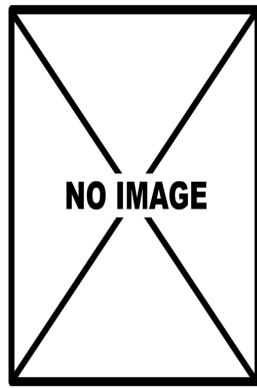
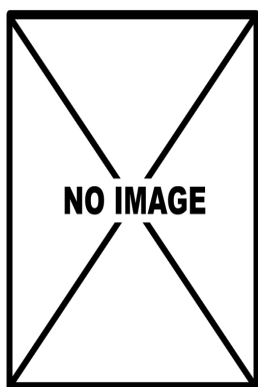
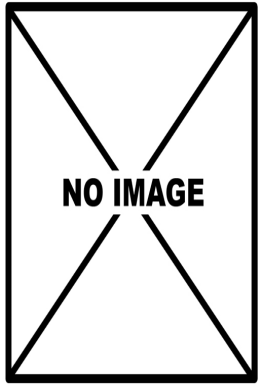
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Shelduck. Spring. 3rd year. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (); right female ().

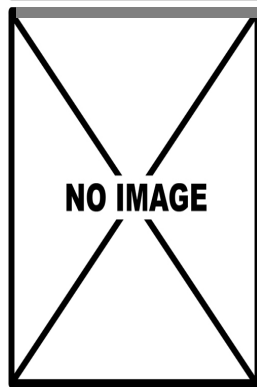
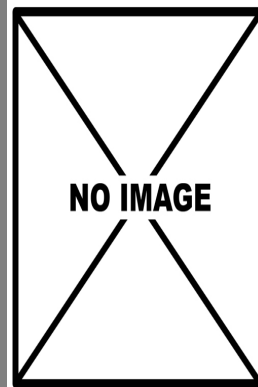
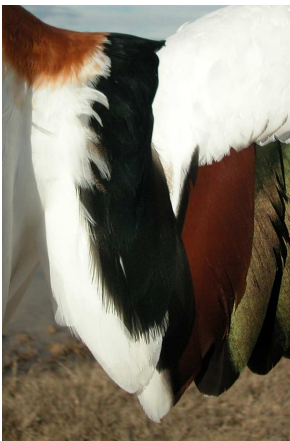
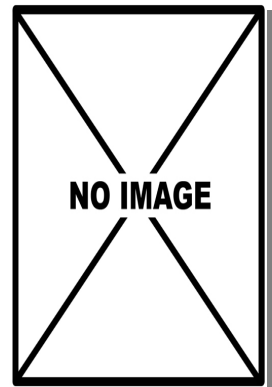
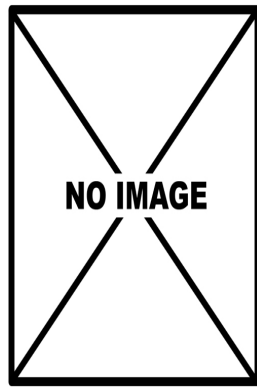


Shelduck. Spring. 4th year. Pattern of tertials: left male (); right female (04-I).



Shelduck. Spring. Pattern of undertail coverts: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile ().

Shelduck. Spring. 3rd year. Pattern of tertials: left male (); right female ().

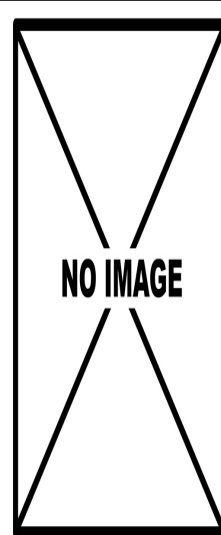
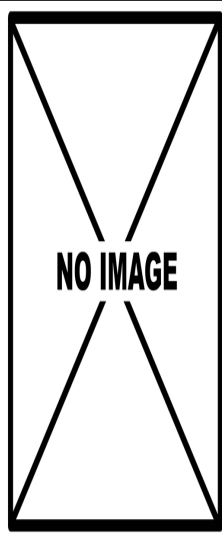
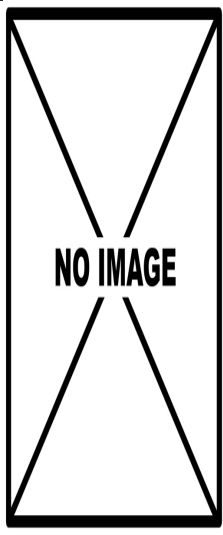


Shelduck. Spring. Pattern of tertials: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile ().

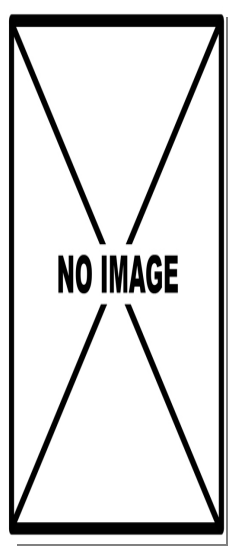
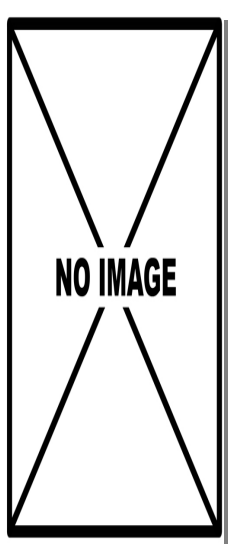
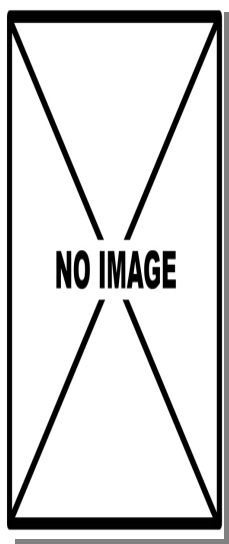
Shelduck. Spring. Adult. Pattern of tertials: left male (10-III); right female ().

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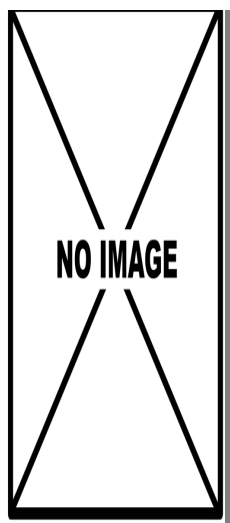
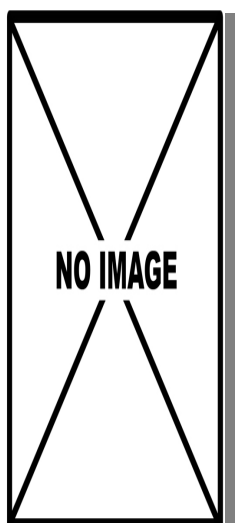


Shelduck. Spring. Adult. Pattern of the innermost tertial: left male (10-III); right



Shelduck. Spring. Pattern of the innermost tertial: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year female (); left juvenile ().

Shelduck. Spring. 4th year. Pattern of the innermost tertial: left male (); right female ().

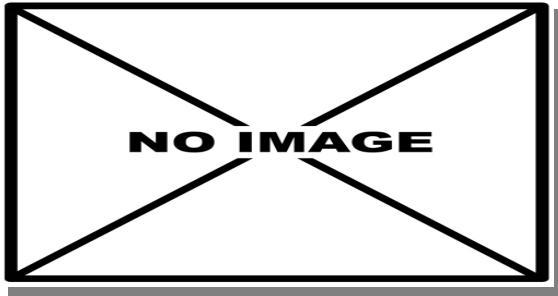


Shelduck. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (10-III).

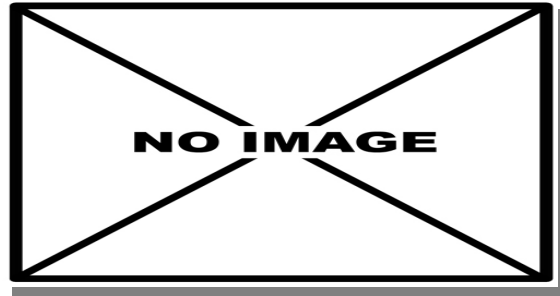
Shelduck. Spring. 3rd year. Pattern of the innermost tertial: left male (); right female ().

# 71 Common Shelduck

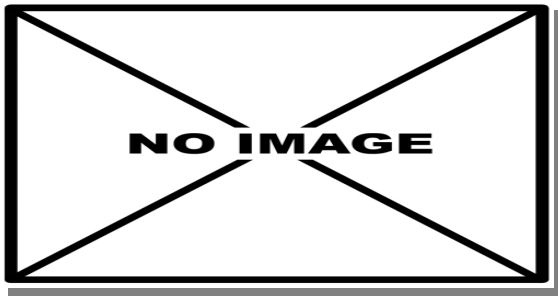
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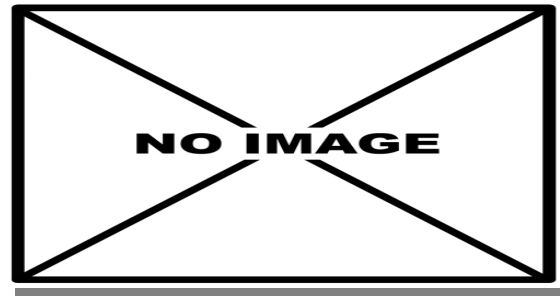
Shelduck. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries ().



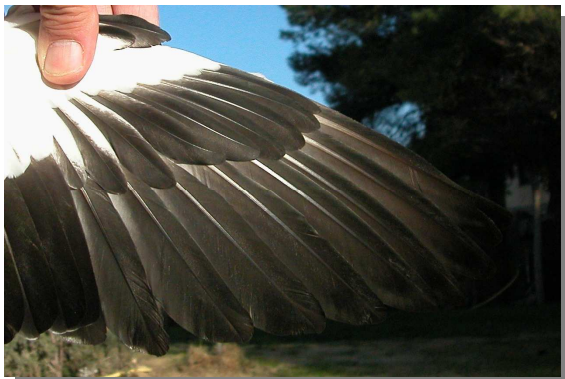
Shelduck. Spring. 3rd year. Female: pattern of primaries ().



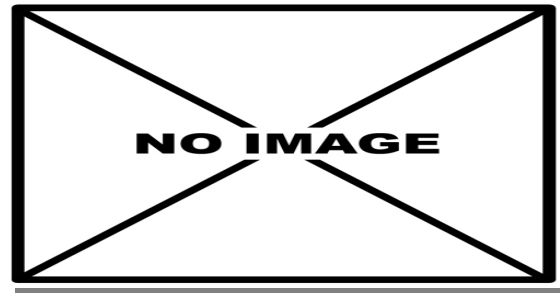
Shelduck. Spring. 4th year. Male: pattern of primaries ().



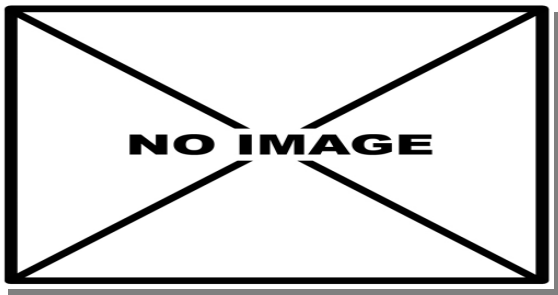
Shelduck. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primaries ().



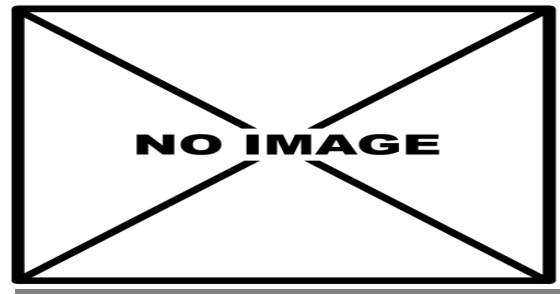
Shelduck. Spring. 4th year. Female: pattern of primaries (04-I).



Shelduck. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primaries ().



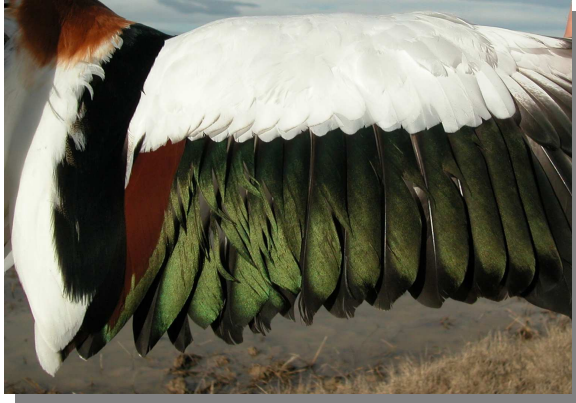
Shelduck. Spring. 3rd year. Male: pattern of primaries ().



Shelduck. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of primaries ().

# 71 Common Shelduck

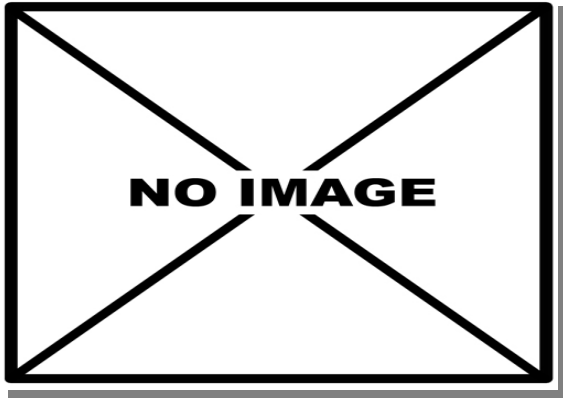
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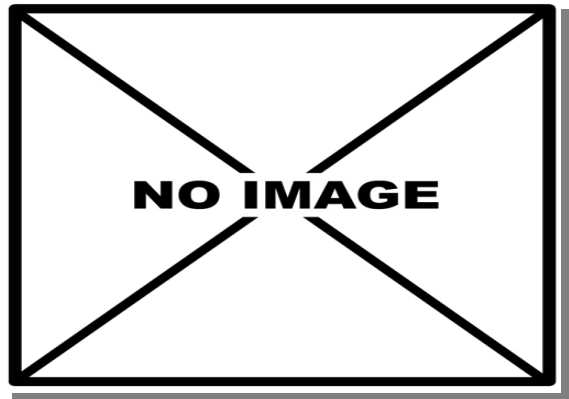
Shelduck. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries (10-III).



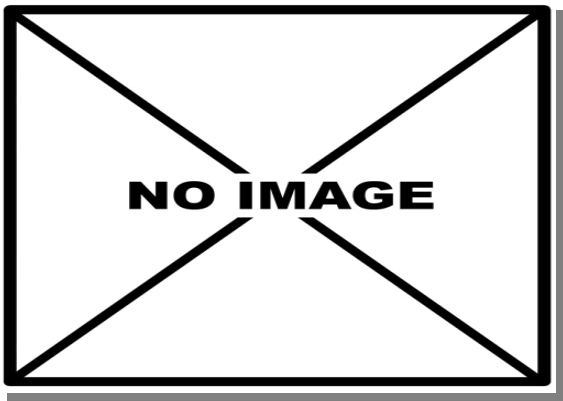
Shelduck. Spring. 4th year. Female: pattern of secondaries (04-I).



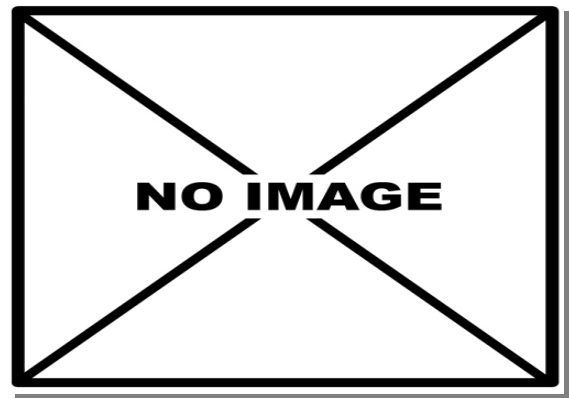
Shelduck. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries ().



Shelduck. Spring. 3rd year. Male: pattern of secondaries ().



Shelduck. Spring. 4th year. Male: pattern of secondaries ().

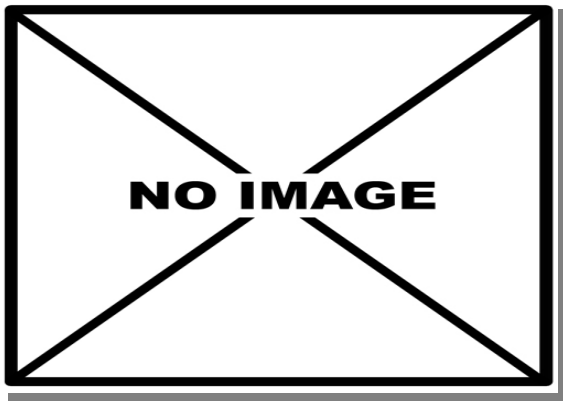


Shelduck. Spring. 3rd year. Female: pattern of secondaries ().



**71 Common Shelduck**

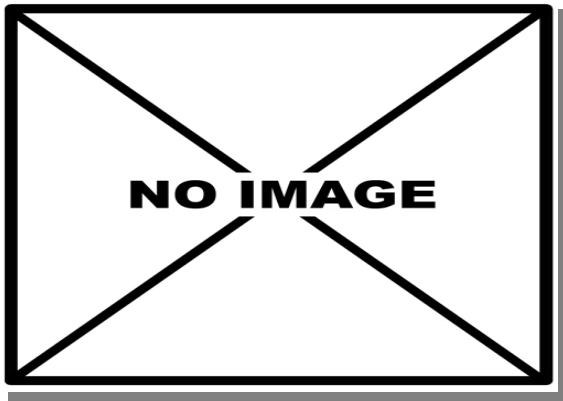
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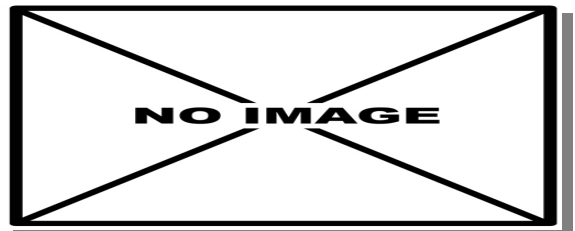
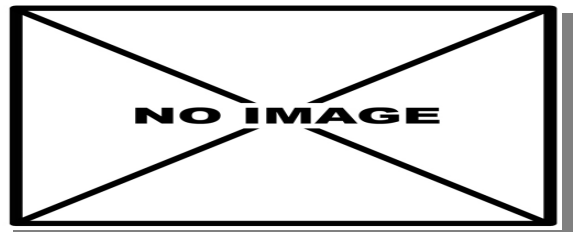
Shelduck. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of secondaries ().



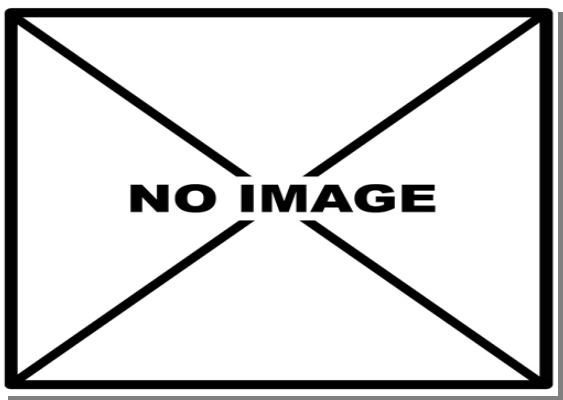
Shelduck. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (10-III).



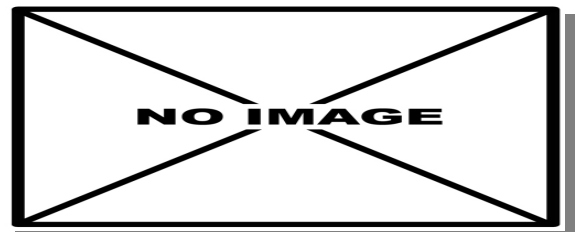
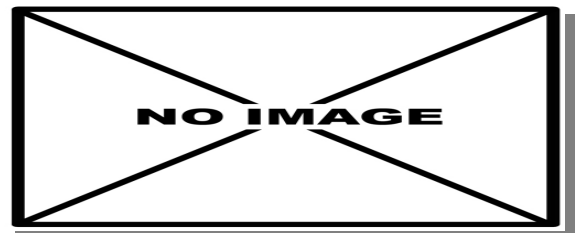
Shelduck. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of secondaries ().



Shelduck. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing ().



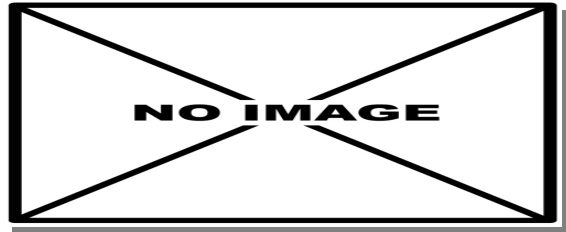
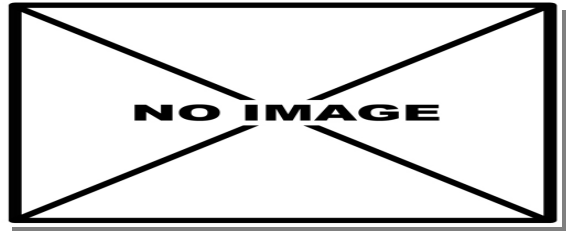
Shelduck. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries ().



Shelduck. Spring. 4th year. Male: pattern of wing ().

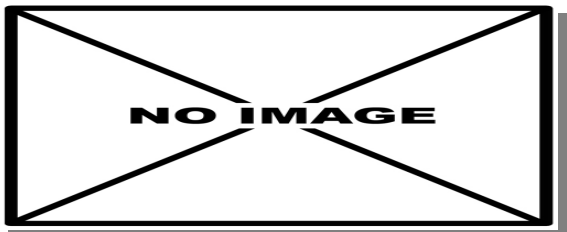
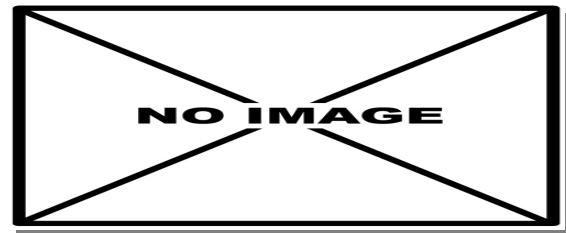
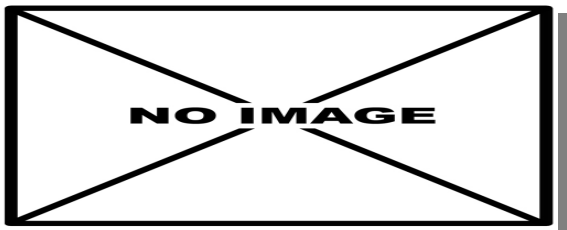
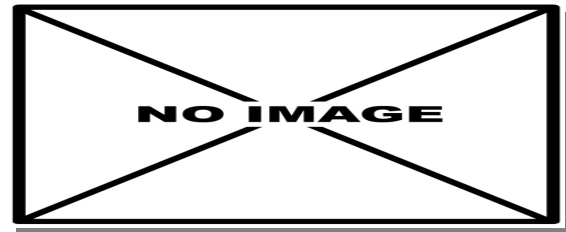
# 71 Common Shelduck

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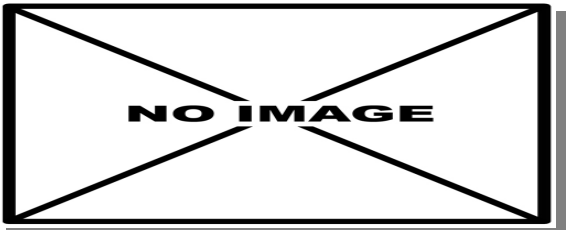
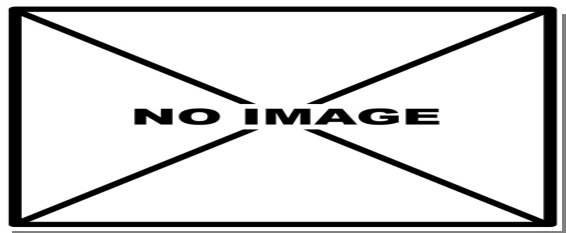
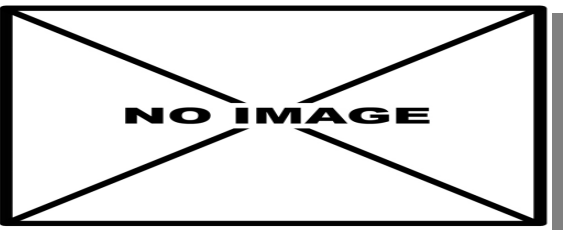
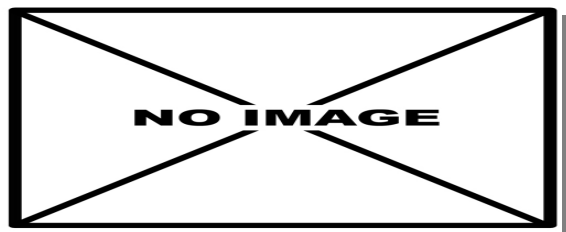
Shelduck. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing ().

Shelduck. Spring. 4th. Female: pattern of wing (04-I).



Shelduck. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing ().

Shelduck. Spring. 3rd year. Male: pattern of wing ().



Shelduck. Spring. 3rd year. Female: pattern of wing ().

Shelduck. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing ().