



Gadwall. Summer. Non breeding plumage. Adult.

### **GADWALL** (*Mareca strepera*)

#### **IDENTIFICATION**

46-56 cm. **Male** in winter brown-grey; white underparts; black undertail coverts; grey wings with a chestnut band; white and black speculum. **Female** brown, with dark mottled and streaked; speculum similar to male.

#### **SIMILAR SPECIES**

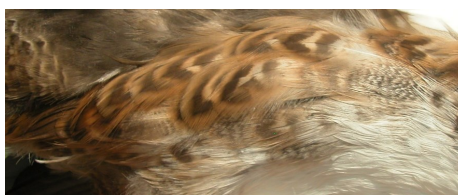
**Male** with unmistakable plumage. Pattern of the speculum differs the **female** from other brown ducks.

#### **SEXING**

**Male** in **breeding** plumage unmistakable, with grey colour; dark bill; vermiculated grey flanks; chestnut median wing coverts; vermiculated scapulars and black undertail coverts. **Male** in **non breeding** plumage resembles a **female** but the orange bill lacks black spots; with large speculum and extensive chestnut on median coverts; brown patches on upper scapulars; flanks with V-shaped marks (**CAUTION:** not always, there is a little individual variation), white undertail coverts irregularly spotted. **Female** brown; orange bill usually with black spots; buff flanks with U-shaped brown marks (**CAUTION:** not always, there is a little individual variation); median wing coverts with only small traces of chestnut; scapulars never vermiculated, with U-shaped marks (**CAUTION:** not always, there is a little individual variation); brown undertail coverts mottled blackish.



Gadwall. Sexing. Pattern of bill. Top breeding male; middle non breeding male; bottom female.



Gadwall. Sexing. Pattern of flank. Top breeding male; middle non breeding male; bottom female.



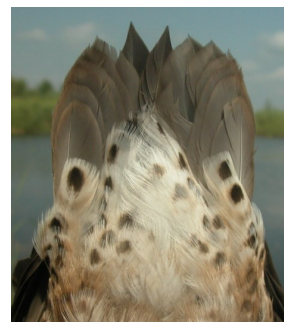
**01820 Gadwall** (*Mareca strepera*)



Gadwall. Sexing. Pattern of wing coverts: top male; bottom female.



Gadwall. Sexing. Pattern of scapulars: left male; right female.



Gadwall. Sexing. Pattern of undertail coverts. Top left breeding male; top right non breeding male; left female.

### AGEING/SEXING

It is unlikely to find **juveniles** in Aragon, so only 2 age groups can be recognized:

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** resembles **adults** but with retained wing and tail feathers which will be eroded. **Male** rufous only on a part of median coverts; lesser coverts not vermiculated, with some pale bars and pale edge; black greater coverts always exceeding the white speculum; 5th to 7th greater coverts with whitish tips and broad edge, sometimes with a bit of black or rufous on the outer web. **Female** with rufous rarely present on median coverts, which have 1 or 2 pale bars and a pale fringe; lesser coverts always with a creamy band; dusky black greater coverts never exceeding the white speculum; 5th to 7th greater coverts with whitish tips and broad edge, never with a bit of black or rufous on the outer web.

**Adult** with fresh flight and tail feathers. **Male in breeding** and **non breeding** plumage with a lot of rufous lesser and median coverts; lesser coverts closest to the leading edge of the wing finely vermiculated, sometimes plain pale grey; 5th to 7th greater coverts with a lot of black or rufous on the outer web without whitish edge; outer web of the innermost greater coverts deep black without pale edge. **Female** with median coverts with pale edge and with rufous only in a few feathers; lesser coverts always with a pale edge and never vermiculated; dark greater coverts always exceeding the white speculum; 5th to 7th greater coverts with white tips and little or no black or rufous on the outer web; outer web of the innermost greater coverts black sometimes with pale edge.





Gadwall. Ageing. Wear of tail feathers (03-XI): left adult; right 1st year.



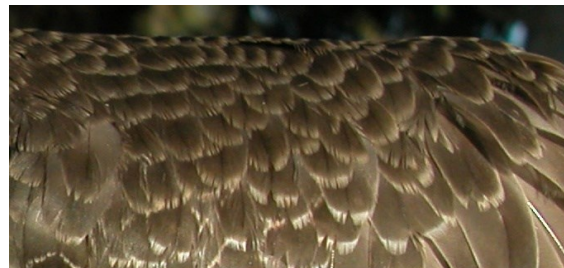
Gadwall. Ageing. Male. Pattern of wing coverts: top adult; bottom 2nd year.



Gadwall. Ageing. Female. Pattern of wing coverts: top adult; bottom 2nd year.



Gadwall. Ageing. Male. Pattern of lesser wing coverts: top adult; bottom 2nd year.



Gadwall. Ageing. Female. Pattern of lesser wing coverts: top adult; bottom 2nd year.

## MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult acquiring **eclipse** plumage, usually finished in July (**males**) or August (**females**). Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined to body and sometimes tail feathers, usually finished in October. Both types of age, starting in September, have a partial **prebreeding** moult involving body feathers to acquire **breeding** plumage.



# 01820 Gadwall (*Mareca strepera*)

## PHENOLOGY

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

■ Summer visitor    ■ Resident  
■ Wintering        ■ On passage



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Male (04-IV).

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

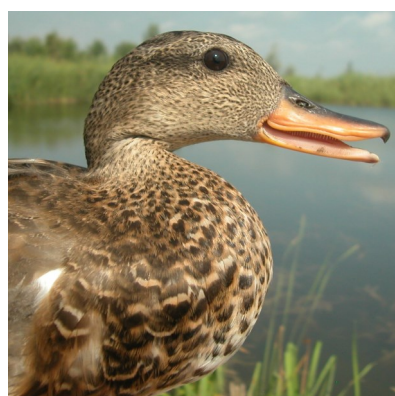
Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Female ().



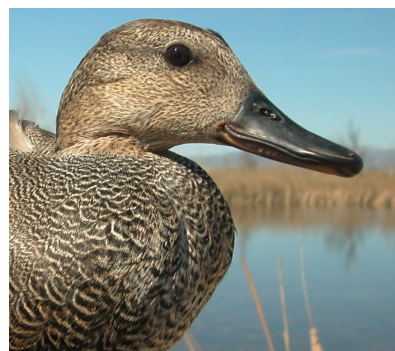
Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Male (04-IV).

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Female ().



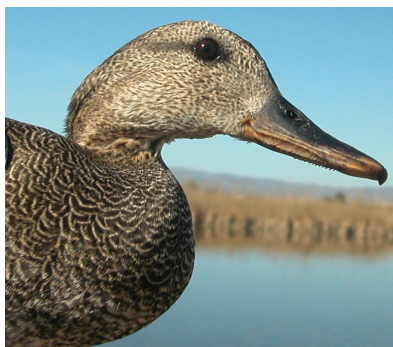
Gadwall. Summer. Non breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of head and bill (06-VIII).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Pattern of head and bill: top male (04-IV); bottom female (21-X) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).



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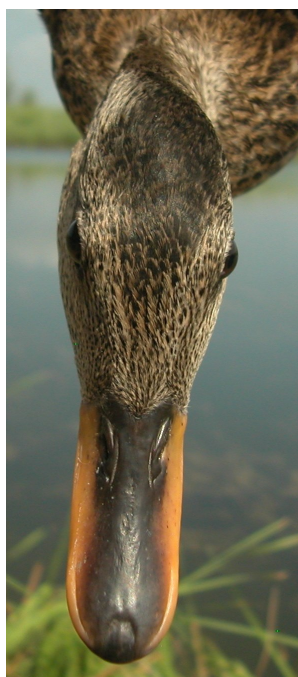
G a d w a l l .  
Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Pattern of head and bill: top male (04-IV); bottom female ().

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

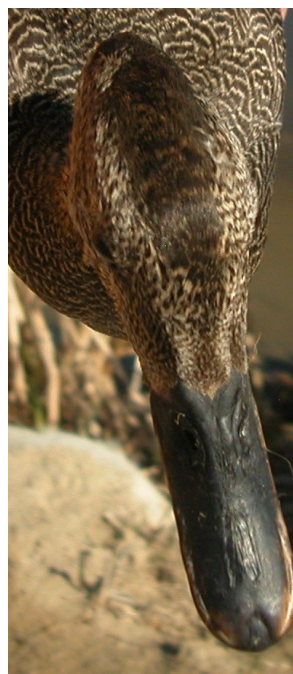


PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Pattern of crown: left male (04-IV); right female ().



G a d w a l l .  
Summer. Non breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of crown and bill (06-VIII).



PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Pattern of crown: left male (04-IV); right female ().



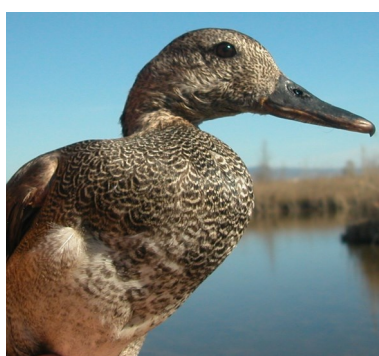
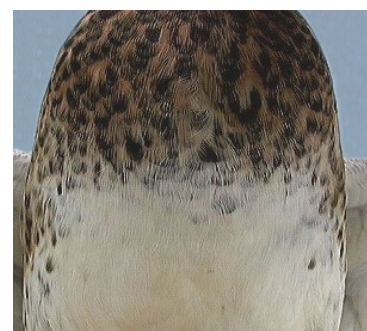
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Gadwall.  
Summer.  
Non breeding  
plumage.  
Adult. Male:  
pattern of  
breast (06-  
VIII).

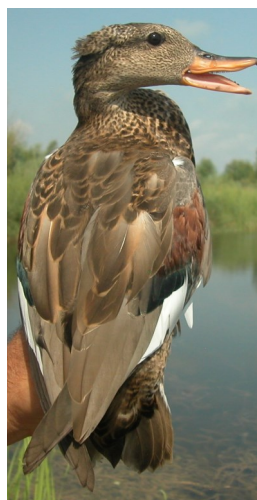


Gadwall.  
Spring. Bre-  
eding pluma-  
ge. Adult.  
Pattern of  
breast: top  
male (04-IV);  
bottom fe-  
male (21-X)  
(Photo: Rein-  
hard Vohwin-  
kel).

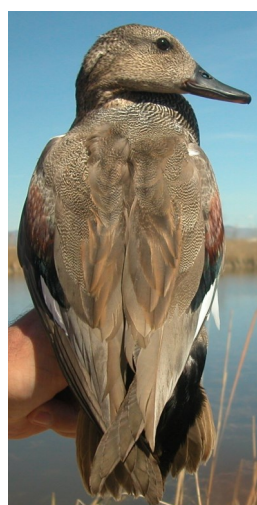


Gadwall.  
Spring. Bre-  
eding pluma-  
ge. 2nd year.  
Pattern of  
breast: top  
male (04-IV);  
bottom fe-  
male (21-X).

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

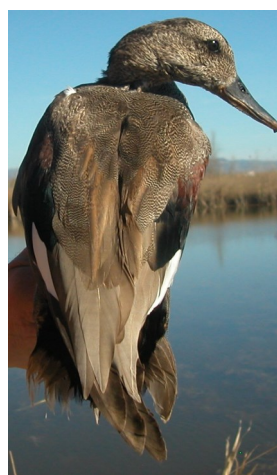


Gadwall.  
Summer.  
Non breeding  
plumage.  
Adult. Male:  
pattern of  
upperparts  
(06-VIII).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Pattern of upperparts: left male (04-IV); right female (21-X).

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Pattern of upperparts: left male (04-IV); right female (21-X).

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE



**01820 Gadwall** (*Mareca strepera*)



Gadwall. Summer. Non breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of flank (06-VIII).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Female: pattern of flank (02-II).



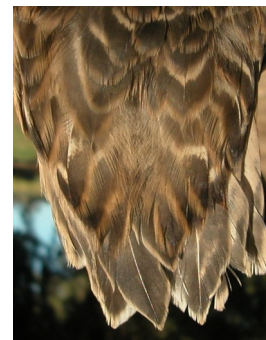
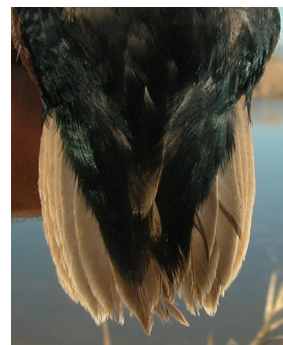
Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of flank (04-IV).



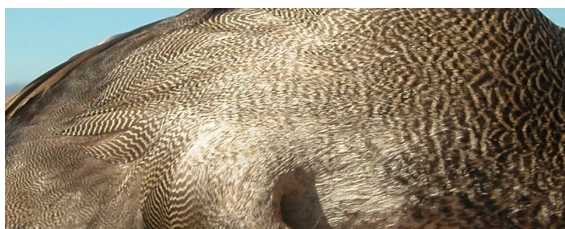
Gadwall. Summer. Non breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of tail (06-VIII).



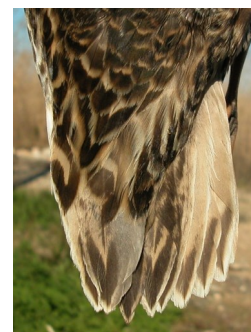
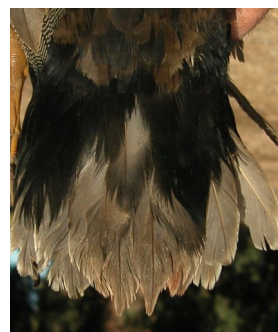
Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Female: pattern of flank (03-XI).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Pattern of tail: left male (04-IV); right female (03-XI).



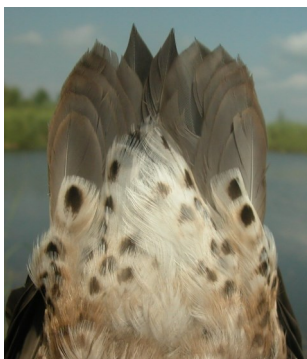
Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Male: pattern of flank (04-IV).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Pattern of tail: left male (03-XI); right female (02-II).



**01820 Gadwall** (*Mareca strepera*)



Gadwall. Summer. Non breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of undertail coverts (06-VIII).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (04-IV); right female (03-XI).



PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. 1st year. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (03-XI); right female ().



Gadwall. Summer. Non breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of tertials (06-VIII).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Pattern of tertials: left male (04-IV); right female (03-XI).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Pattern of tertials: left male (04-IV); right female (02-II).



Gadwall. Summer. Non breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of wing coverts (06-VIII).





Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of wing coverts (04-IV).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Female:



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing coverts (04-IV).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing coverts (02-II).



Gadwall. Summer. Non breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (06-VIII).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (04-IV).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (03-XI).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primaries (04-IV).





Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primaries (02-II).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries (03-XI).



Gadwall. Summer. Non breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries (06-VIII).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Male: pattern of secondaries (04-IV).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries (04-IV).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Female: pattern of secondaries (02-II).





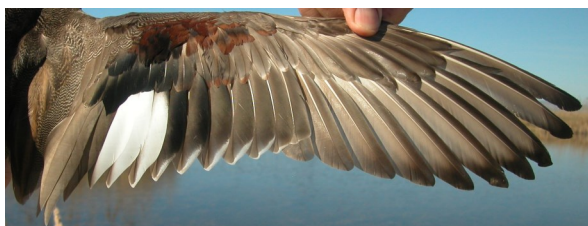
Gadwall. Summer. Non breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (06-VIII).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (04-IV).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (03-XI).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (04-IV).



Gadwall. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (02-II).