# 01980 Common Pochard (Aythya ferina)



# AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with narrow tail feathers; lesser and median coverts plain grey-brown, narrow and with rounded tips; greater coverts grey-brown, narrow and with rounded tips, with a little or without whitish pippering; outer primary narrow, without gloss; without pale stripe behid the eye.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** with juvenile feathers retained. **CAUTION:** this species has much variation in moult timing, with birds changing only body feathers till others with moulted tertials and flight feathers

**Adult** with grey wing coverts vermiculated with white, broad and with rounded tips; **female** with pale stripe behind the eye.

## **COMMON POCHARD**

(Aythya ferina)

### **IDENTIFICATION**

42-49 cm. **Male** with red-chesnut head and neck; black breast and tail coverts; grey wings and body. **Female** pale brown, darker on upperparts and paler on head; grey wings.

#### SIMILAR SPECIES

**Male** with unmistakable plumage. The pattern of the body greyer than head; dark bill with a central pale band and a pale strike behind the eye differ the **female** from other **Aythya females**.

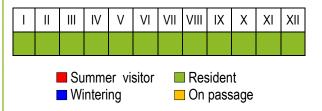
### **SEXING**

Male in breeding plumage unmistakable with head red-chestnut, breast and upper and undertail coverts black; body vermiculated grey; wing coverts vermiculated grey; iris reddish; in non breeding plumage similar to breeding male but with duller colours. Female with brown body, paler on head and breast; wing coverts grey-brown; iris brown or yellow-brown. In juvenile birds, male with wing coverts, mantle and scapulars vermiculated or speckled white at tips; central secondaries with pale speckling on the outer web. Female with wing coverts, mantle and scapulars usually plain grey-brown, slightly speckled near the tip; secondaries without speckling.

#### **MOULT**

Complete **postbreeding** moult, acquiring eclipse plumage, usually finished in October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult changing body feathers; this species moults during all the winter and some birds can change tertials, all or some tail feathers and some flight feathers. Both types of age have a partial **prebreeding** moult acquiring breeding plumage.

#### **PHENOLOGY**



http://blascozumeta.com http://www.aranzadi.eus