

88 Tufted Duck

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AGEING

Since this species doesn't breed in Aragon only 2 types of age can be recognized:

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with a variable number of **juvenile** feathers retained on body, tail and wings; retained **juvenile** wing coverts narrow, dull sooty-brown; if **juvenile** tertials retained then short and dull brown; some of all **juvenile** tail feathers retained.

Adult with wing coverts broad and with rounded tips, dusky black, often with greenish bloom; black tertials.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, acquiring eclipse plumage, usually finished in September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult changing body feathers, tertials and tail feathers. Both types of age have a partial **prebreeding** moult acquiring breeding plumage.

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*)

IDENTIFICATION

40-47 cm. In **winter, male** with black plumage; white flank and belly; with a long drooping crest; dark wings with a white band; grey blue bill. **Female** with dark brown upperparts, paler on breast and flanks; pale underparts; short crest; wings with a pale band; grey bill.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Male with unmistakable plumage. The pattern of the head, uniformly dark, and presence of the small tuft differ the **female** from other *Aythya* **females**.

SEXING

In **breeding** plumage, **male** unmistakable with black, glossed violet, head and breast; long tuft on head; body with white sides. **Female** with dull black-brown head and breast; head with a small crest; body with brown sides.

It is not probable to find this species with **non breeding** plumage in Aragon.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

A winter visitor, being a very scarce species in any wet place of the Region.