

15580 Alpine Chough (*Pyrrhocorax graculus*)



Alpine Chough. Adult (16-II)

ALPINE CHOUGH (*Pyrrhocorax graculus*)

IDENTIFICATION

37-38 cm. Glossy black plumage; pointed and decurved bill; yellow bill and red legs.



Alpine Chough. Pattern of bill.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Similar to **Red-billed Chough**, which has red bill.



Red-billed Chough

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. Size can be helpful with extreme specimens: **male** with wing longer than 279 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 250 mm.

AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with fresh plumage, which is brownish-dark without gloss; dark legs with orange tinge; dull yellow bill; mouth pinkish then yellow.

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; legs dark becoming red in spring; mouth still yellow in spring.

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; legs red to orange; mouth black.



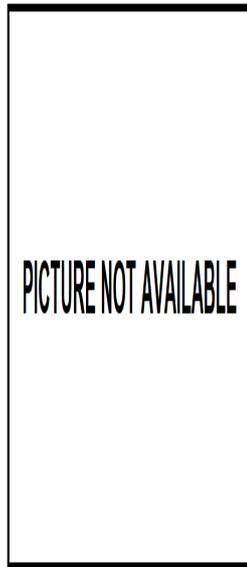
Alpine Chough. Ageing. Colour of bill: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Alpine Chough. Ageing. Colour of legs: top adult; bottom juvenile.



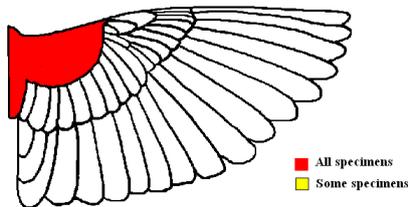
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Alpine Chough. Ageing. Pattern of tips of tail feathers: left adult; right juvenile.

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.

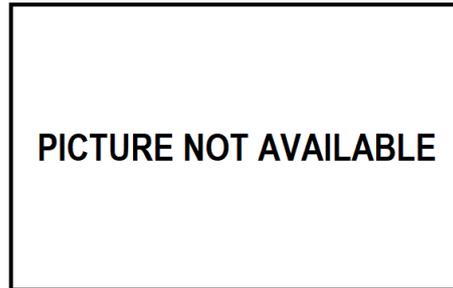


Alpine Chough. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

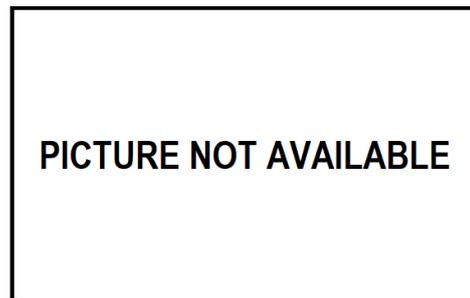
PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor ■ Resident
- Wintering ■ On passage



Alpine Chough. 2nd year ()



Alpine Chough. Juvenile ()



Alpine Chough. Head pattern: top adult (16-II); middle 2nd year (); bottom juvenile ().



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PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE



Alpine Chough. Legs pattern: top adult (16-II); middle 2nd year (); bottom juvenile ().

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

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

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE



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PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

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

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

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



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 ()



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)

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

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

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

Alpine Chough. Juvenile: pattern of wing ()