

**15590 Red-billed Chough** (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)



Red-billed Chough. Adult (06-l).

**RED-BILLED CHOUGH** (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)

**IDENTIFICATION**

36-42 cm. Glossy black plumage; pointed and decurved bill; red bill and legs.



Red-billed Chough. Colour of bill and legs.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**

Similar to **Alpine Chough**, which has yellow bill.



Alpine Chough

**SEXING**

Both sexes alike in plumage. Size can be helpful with extreme birds: **male** with tarsus about 55,7 mm and wing longer than 288 mm. **Female** is smaller with tarsus about 51,5 mm and wing shorter than 268 mm. Usually **males** have a longer bill (more than 65 mm) than **females** (less than 50 mm) but many birds cannot be confidently sexed due to size overlap.



Red-billed Chough. Sexing. Adult. Length of bill: top male; bottom female.

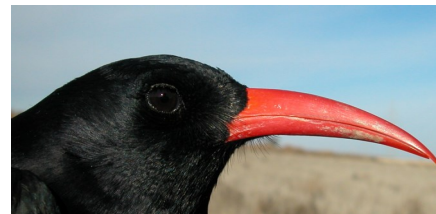
**AGEING**

3 age groups can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with fresh plumage; dull orange legs; dull orange or yellow bill; dark iris.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** with dull blackish-brown **juvenile** wing and tail feathers contrasting with moulted glossy black lesser coverts and body feathers; worn flight and tail feathers.

**Adult** with fresh and glossy black plumage on wing and tail, without moult limits; red bill and legs; red-dish iris.



Red-billed Chough. Ageing. Colour of bill: top adult; bottom juvenile.

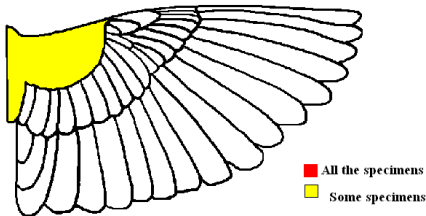
**15590 Red-billed Cough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)**



Red-billed Cough. Ageing. Colour of iris: left adult; right juvenile.

**MOULT**

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined to body feathers, lesser coverts and some median wing coverts; usually finished in October.



Red-billed Cough. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

**PHENOLOGY**

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage



Red-billed Cough. 2nd year (06-I).



Red-billed Cough. Juvenile (18-VI).



Red-billed Cough. Length and colour of bill: top adult male (06-I); middle adult female (06-I); bottom juvenile (18-VI)



Red-billed Cough. Iris colour: top left adult (28-V); top right 2nd year (18-II); left juvenile (22-V).



**15590 Red-billed Chough** (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)



Red-billed Chough. Breast pattern: top left adult (06-I); top right 2nd year (06-I); left juvenile (18-VI).



Red-billed Chough. Upperpart pattern: top left adult (06-I); top right 2nd year (06-I); left juvenile (18-VI).



Red-billed Chough. Tail wear: top left adult (18-II); top right 2nd year (06-I); left juvenile (18-VI).



Red-billed Chough. Legs colour: left adult (06-I); right juvenile (18-VI).



Red-billed Chough. Adult: pattern of alula (18-II).





Red-billed Chough. 2nd year: pattern of alula (18-II).



Red-billed Chough. Juvenile: pattern of alula (18-VI).



Red-billed Chough. Adult: pattern of wing (18-II).



Red-billed Chough. 2nd year: pattern of wing (18-II).



Red-billed Chough. Juvenile: pattern of wing (18-VI).