**ALPINE CHOUGH** (*Pyrrhocorax graculus*)

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

**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 orante 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.

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

---

Alpine Chough. Adult (16-II)

Alpine Chough. Pattern of bill.

Red-billed Chough

---

A PHOTO IS WELLCOME

---

http://blascozumeta.com
410 Alpine Chough

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.

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

STATUS IN ARAGÓN
Resident. Breeding in the highest areas of the Pyrenees, wintering in lower zones.
Alpine Chough. Breast pattern: top left adult (16-II); top right 2nd year (); left juvenile ().

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

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

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. Adult: pattern of primaries (16-II)

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

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

Alpine Chough. Juvenile: pattern of alula ()

Alpine Chough. Juvenile: pattern of primaries ()
Alpine Chough. Adult: pattern of secondaries (16-II)

Alpine Chough. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries ()

Alpine Chough. Adult with a retained secondary: pattern of secondaries (16-II)

Alpine Chough. Adult with a retained secondary: pattern of wing (16-II)

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

Alpine Chough. Juvenile: pattern of wing ()