

# 63 Greylag Goose

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## MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in August. Partial **postjuvenile** moult, changing body feathers, tail and some wing coverts; some birds have finished by November but others still moulting in February.

## PHENOLOGY

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

## STATUS IN ARAGON

A winter visitor, with very scarce presence in any wet place throughout the Region.

## GREYLAG GOOSE (*Anser anser*)

### IDENTIFICATION

75-90 cm. Brown-grey plumage; grey-ash head and neck; whitish vent; white tail coverts; pink or orange bill; pink legs.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

Very similar to **Bean Goose** (*Anser fabalis*), with bill with black tip and orange legs, but this is a very rare species in Aragon.

### SEXING

Both sexes with similar plumage. Size can be useful for sexing only in extreme birds: **male** with wing longer than 467 mm. **Female** with wing shorter than 445 mm.

### AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** with **juvenile** wing coverts, which are narrow and pale grey with buffish tips; belly bars absent; dull eye ring.

**2nd year autumn/3rd year spring** only in birds with **juvenile** worm median wing coverts retained.

**Adult** with wing coverts broad and rounded, pale blue grey with white tips; belly with small black bars; eye ring pink or yellow.