00090 Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus)



AGEING

4 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with remnants of nestling pattern (brown streaked and down) on sides of head and neck; grey secondaries; greater coverts with dark grey inner web; iris orange with narrow yellow ring.

1st year winter similar to **adults** in **winter**, but scapulars with remnants of down on tips; grey secondaries and inner webs of outer greater coverts greybrown, sometimes with a white edge; hind rim of tarsus only slightly serrated.

2nd year spring with flight feathers and outer greater coverts with juvenile pattern; ornaments on head poorly developed; hind rim of tarsus slightly serrated. Adult in any season with white secondaries; outermost greater coverts with pure white inner web; scapulars without remnants of down on tips; red iris with narrow orange ring; hind rim of tarsus strongly serrated. In breeding plumage with well developed ornaments on head.

IDENTIFICATION

46-51 cm. In **breeding** plumage with dark upperparts; white underparts; head with dark and reddish ornaments. In **non breeding** plumage with duller colours; without ornaments on head.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

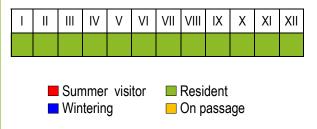
SEXING

Both sexes with similar plumage. Size can be useful for sexing in extreme birds: **male** with wing longer than 205 mm; bill longer than 60 mm. **Female** with wing shorter than 175 mm; bill shorter than 60 mm.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in November. Partial **postjuvenile** moult, confined to upperparts and some wing coverts; finished between August and November. Both types of age have a **prebreeding** moult to acquire the breeding plumage.

PHENOLOGY



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http://blascozumeta.com http://www.aranzadi.eus