

Chiloé wigeon

The **Chiloé wigeon** (*Mareca sibilatrix*), also known as the **southern wigeon**, is one of three extant species of wigeon in the genus *Mareca* of the dabbling duck subfamily. This bird is indigenous to the southern part of South America, including the Chiloé Archipelago. In its native range, it is called the *pato overo* ("piebald duck") or *pato real* ("royal duck"), although the latter name also refers to the Muscovy in the wild. Its specific epithet, *sibilatrix*, means 'whistler', referring to the bird's call.

Contents

Description

Distribution and habitat

Ecology and behavior

References

Works cited

External links

Description



A male

The Chiloé wigeon has a body length of 46 to 56 cm (18 to 22 in) and a wingspan of 75 to 86 cm (30 to 34 in). The wing length is about 25 cm (9.8 in) and the weight is approximately 800 g (28 oz).^{[2][3]}

This bird has an iridescent green-blue cap on its head, and a bluish gray bill with a black tip. The cheeks and forehead are white, the eyes are dark brown, and there is a white auricular patch. The neck and occipital part of the head are black. The breast is barred black and white and the plumage of the wings is gray and white. The flanks of males are rust colored, and light brown on females. The legs and feet are gray.

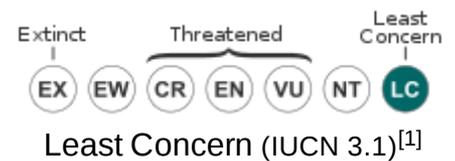
Sexual dimorphism is relatively subtle in this species of wigeon. Males are usually somewhat larger and heavier, and with somewhat brighter plumage and more strongly pronounced iridescence of the cap. Apart from these features, it can be difficult to distinguish the two sexes.^[4] Juveniles resemble adult birds, but the rust coloring on the flanks is diminished or absent.

Chiloé wigeon



Male (rear) and female (front)

Conservation status



Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Aves
Order:	Anseriformes
Family:	Anatidae
Genus:	<i>Mareca</i>
Species:	<i>M. sibilatrix</i>

Binomial name

Mareca sibilatrix
(Poeppig, 1829)

Synonyms

Anas sibilatrix Poeppig, 1829

Distribution and habitat



Swimming Chiloé wigeon

This duck is indigenous to the southern part of South America, where it is found on freshwater lakes, marshes, shallow lagoons and slow flowing rivers. Vagrants have been observed in South Georgia, South Orkney and the South Shetland Islands.

It breeds primarily in Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile. The northern border of the breeding range is in Argentina at 36° S and Chile at 40° S. It also breeds sparingly in the Falkland Islands.^[5] It migrates to southeastern Brazil for the winter.^[6]

It was first introduced to Europe in 1870; it soon bred in zoos.

Because the Chiloé wigeon is widely distributed and has a large, stable wild population, it is categorized as least concern by the IUCN.^[1]

Ecology and behavior

The Chiloé wigeon displays a variety of behaviors depending on habitat. It is an omnivore, feeding predominantly on aquatic plants and grass, and occasionally coastal algae.^[4]

This monogamous species breeds in the austral spring, between September and December. Pairs inhabit very small breeding territories, building their nests in grasses and under bushes. The female lays eight to ten white or cream-colored eggs. After a gestation period of approximately 24–25 days the ducklings are born. The father helps raise the ducklings; however, he leaves the family after the offspring molt.



A family in Patagonia, Chile

References

1. BirdLife International (2012). "*Mareca sibilatrix*" (<https://www.iucnredlist.org/details/22680167/0>). *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. 2012. Retrieved 26 November 2013.
2. Heinzel, H; Fitter, RSR; Parslow, JLF (1979). *The birds of Britain and Europe with North Africa and the Middle East* (4th ed.). London: Collins. p. 52. ISBN 978-0002192347.
3. Ogilvie, MA; Young, S (1999). *Photographic handbook of the wildfowl of the world*. Frenchs Forest, New South Wales: New Holland Books. ISBN 978-1853686252.
4. Shirihai H: *A Complete Guide to Antarctic Wildlife - The Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic Continent and Southern Ocean*, Alula Press, Degerby 2002, p. 247. ISBN 951-98947-0-5
5. Wood, p. 86
6. Clements J (2007) *The Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World* (http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/cup_detail.taf?ti_id=4566), Cornell University Press, Ithaca



Searching for food

Works cited

- Kolbe, Hartmut; *The Ducks of the World*, Ulmer Verlag 1999, ISBN [3-8001-7442-1](#)
- Woods, A, Woods, R: *Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Falkland Islands*, Anthony Nelson, Shorpshire 1997, ISBN [0-904614-60-3](#)



Mareca sibilatrix - MHNT

External links

- [Anas sibilatrix videos, photos & sounds \(http://ibc.lynxeds.com/species/chiloe-wigeon-anas-sibilatrix\)](http://ibc.lynxeds.com/species/chiloe-wigeon-anas-sibilatrix) on the Internet Bird Collection
- [Sea World \(https://web.archive.org/web/20120308214410/http://www.seaworld.org/animal-info/Animal-Bytes/animalia/eumetazoa/coelomates/deuterostomes/chordata/craniata/aves/anseriformes/chiloe-wigeon.htm\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20120308214410/http://www.seaworld.org/animal-info/Animal-Bytes/animalia/eumetazoa/coelomates/deuterostomes/chordata/craniata/aves/anseriformes/chiloe-wigeon.htm)

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Chiloé_wigeon&oldid=932710970"

This page was last edited on 27 December 2019, at 19:35 (UTC).

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.