



Best practices in bird identification training provided by hunting organisations

Wildlife identification, particularly for game species, is one of the fundamental skills that hunters need to acquire to be able to hunt in a responsible manner. This is especially needed when hunting waterfowl and game birds. Proper identification of huntable species is of course required, but also of non huntable species, especially those which can pose misidentification issues (i.e., the so-called “look-a-like species”). This is important to avoid the risk of accidental shooting of non-huntable birds. Hunters who specialise in bird hunting often become very experienced in bird identification.

For hunters, especially new hunters, willing to improve their knowledge on birds and bird identification, national hunting organisations often provide good supporting materials, be it for the preparation to pass the hunting exam or in the form of webpages and free guides for all interested people. Some examples can be found here.

8. Ορντύκι (Coturnix coturnix)
 Μήκος 16 – 18cm. Πόδια, λαιμός και ουρά κοντά. Ράμφος κοντό και ελαφρώς καμπύλο, φτερούγες μακριές και μυτερές.
 Φτέρωμα γκρι/οξάνθο με κατινιωτές και καφέ ραβδώσεις. Πάνω μέρος του κεφαλιού ακούρο –καφέ, με λεπτή επιμήκη κατινιωτή λαιρίδα. Παρόμοια λαιρίδα υπάρχει στα μάγουλα, η οποία περνά πάνω από το μάτι και εκτείνεται προς τα πίσω μέχρι τη βάση του λαιμού. Το αρσενικό φέρει μαύρη λαιρίδα στο κέντρο του λαιμού. Κοιλιά ανοιχτόχρωμη.
 Αναπαράγεται σε ανοιχτές, πεδινές αγροτικές περιοχές. Φυλά στο έδαφος, συχνά ανάμεσα στα σπαρτά. Συχνά το ακούμε, σπάνια όμως το βλέπουμε. Καμουφλάρεται τέλεια. Το μόνο μεταναστευτικό ορνιθόμορφο. Του αρσενίου η ζέση διαχεμάζει στην Αφρική, ωστόσο πολλά άτομα μένουν στην Ελλάδα όλο το χρόνο. Την εποχή της μετανάστευσης συσταντάται σε ομάδες, ενώ τον υπόλοιπο καιρό μοναχικό ή σε ζεύγη.




Ορντοκομάνια (Crex crex)
 Μοιάζει πάρα πολύ με το Ορντύκι! Είναι λίγο μεγαλύτερο από αυτό και μικρότερο από την Πεδιάνη Πέριδικα.
 Παγκοσμίως απειλούμενο είδος.
 (Βλέπε Κεφάλαιο: ΜΗ ΘΗΡΕΥΣΙΜΑ)



In **Greece**, the Hellenic Hunters Confederation produced a [hunting guide](#) which provides a large variety of information, including on the identification and biology of game bird species, as well as non huntable bird species. Special attention is given to look alike species to inform hunters. In addition, the guide provides a wealth of information on other topics such as hunting legislation and safety, firearms handling and maintenance, dogs and game meat.

In **France**, the French Hunters Federation (FNC) provides [instructional videos](#) on its website on several topics, including training in bird identification and biology, both for game species and non huntable bird species. Training videos are also available for mammal species.



LES GRÈBES

Le grèbe huppé
 Grands étangs
 Caractéristiques :
 Perd sa huppe en hiver

Pocket Guide to Quarry Identification

MALLARD
Anas platyrhynchos
 Size: 50–65 cm (20–26 in)

Male Female

Large, heavily-built dabbling duck with rather long head and bill. Adult male characterised by glossy, dark green head, white collar and purple-brown chest; rest of plumage mainly light grey, tail white with black central feathers. Female dull, mottled brown. Both sexes have purple speculum (metallic, coloured feathers on upper wing) bordered by white wing bars, particularly conspicuous in flight. Juvenile plumage similar to female.

Colouring of male resembles male red-breasted merganser (protected). Female similar to female wigeon, pintail, shoveler and gadwall, but both male and female mallard are bigger and more heavily built.

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31									INLAND		
									FORESHORE		

Northern Ireland open season is 1 September to 31 January.

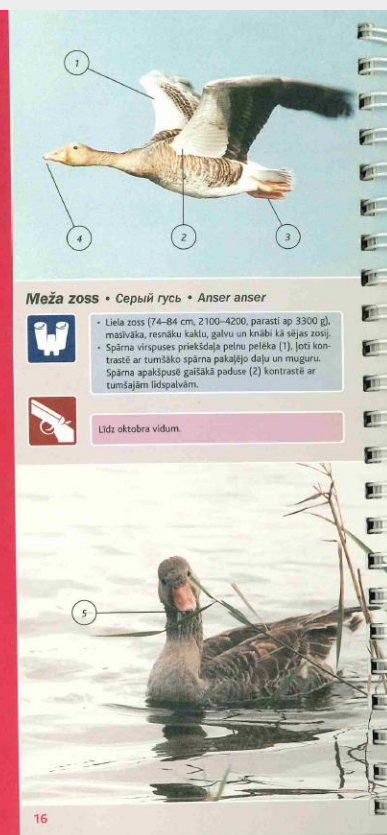
BASC
 The British Association for Shooting & Conservation
www.basc.org.uk £4.00

In the **United Kingdom**, the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) produced a booklet design to train hunters in bird identification. This [pocket ID guide](#) includes descriptions of the most popular game birds and other animals of the UK.

In **Italy**, the *Federazione Italiana Della Caccia* (FIDC) is preparing online courses on identification of duck species which were identified in some situations (e.g., in poor light conditions) as “look-a-like” species of the Ferruginous Duck, a non huntable species. These courses aim to up-skill hunters in identification to prevent any accidental shooting of Ferruginous Duck, mainly in confusion with the Tufted Duck. These online courses will be shared with the regions for dissemination to Italian hunters.



In **Bulgaria**, hunters were part of a LIFE project coordinated by the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB) which produced a booklet on both game and non-game bird species. The booklet provides good information on identification, including highlighting the huntable and non huntable species which may pose issues in identification.



In **Latvia**, a booklet was produced by the State Forests of Latvia (Latvijas Valsts Meži) to provide information on game and non-game waterbird species.

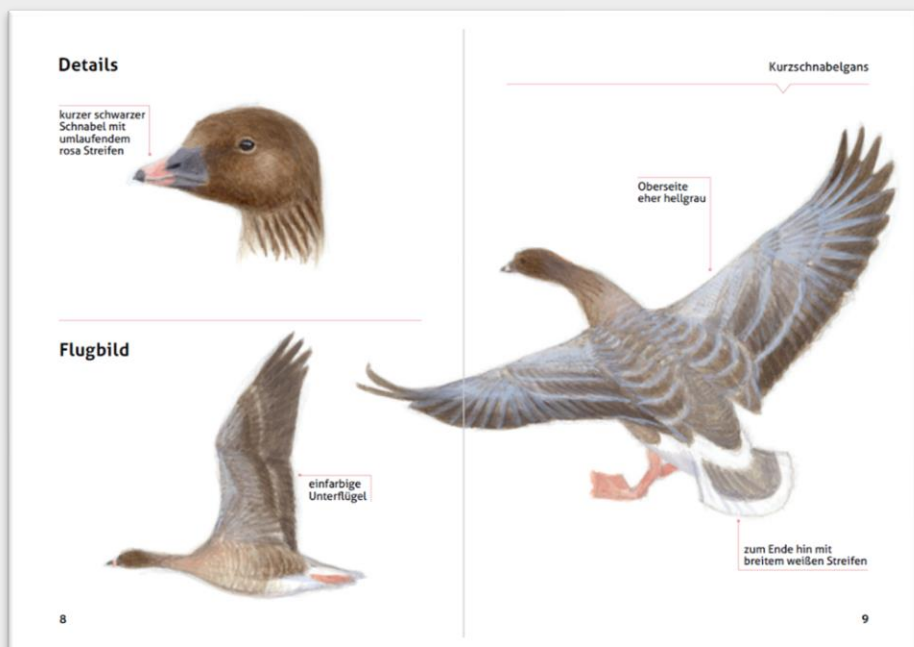
In **Estonia**, a [booklet](#) was produced by the Estonian Hunters Society to provide guidance to hunters on waterfowl identification. Information is provided for both huntable and non-huntable species.

In **Poland**, [identification training material](#) regarding game duck species is available on the Polish Hunting Association in the form educational boards. These boards contain a male duck of each of the twelve species in three positions, allowing to identify the most important details in the appearance of the bird. This information allows for a correct assessment of the individual before the shot. The Polish Hunting Association encourages hunters to carefully study this educational material and to download it to have access to this valuable knowledge at any time.



In other countries, such as **Denmark** and **Sweden**, species information is displayed on the hunting associations' websites, where hunters can easily find the information they seek. The Swedish Hunting Association [webpage](#) provides information on all game bird species (as well as other game species). On the Danish Hunting Association's website, the webpage provides information on all [game bird species](#) and [non-game bird species](#).

In **Slovakia**, the Slovak Hunters Chamber routinely produces bird identification material to improve hunter's knowledge, not only for game species but for all species present in the country, via its magazine for example. Also, they are the coeditors and sponsors of books about birds compiled for universities and for the general public, such as the "Songbirds of Slovakia in Photography". This book is a professional photographic publication dealing with all the species of songbirds (140 species) found on the territory of the Slovak Republic. It provides photography, technical information as well as maps of species distribution in the country and in the world.



In **Germany**, the hunting organization (Deutscher Jagdverband - DJV) just produced a new [identification aid for wild geese](#). The 60-page brochure presents 10 geese species that occur in Germany and provides information on identification, age determination or risk of confusion with other species. It contains QR codes leading to detailed profiles on the DJV website and audio files with species-typical calls to listen to.

Hunting offers much in terms of the connection with the natural world, but it also comes with serious responsibilities. As such, **harvesting game in a responsible and ethical manner is of the highest priority for hunters**. This is why they seek to continually improve their knowledge regarding the quarry species they pursue and why hunting organisations across Europe provide such information. For these reasons education materials are produced and are made freely available for anyone interested in learning more about birds and other wildlife.



**FACE – European Federation
for Hunting and Conservation**

www.face.eu

