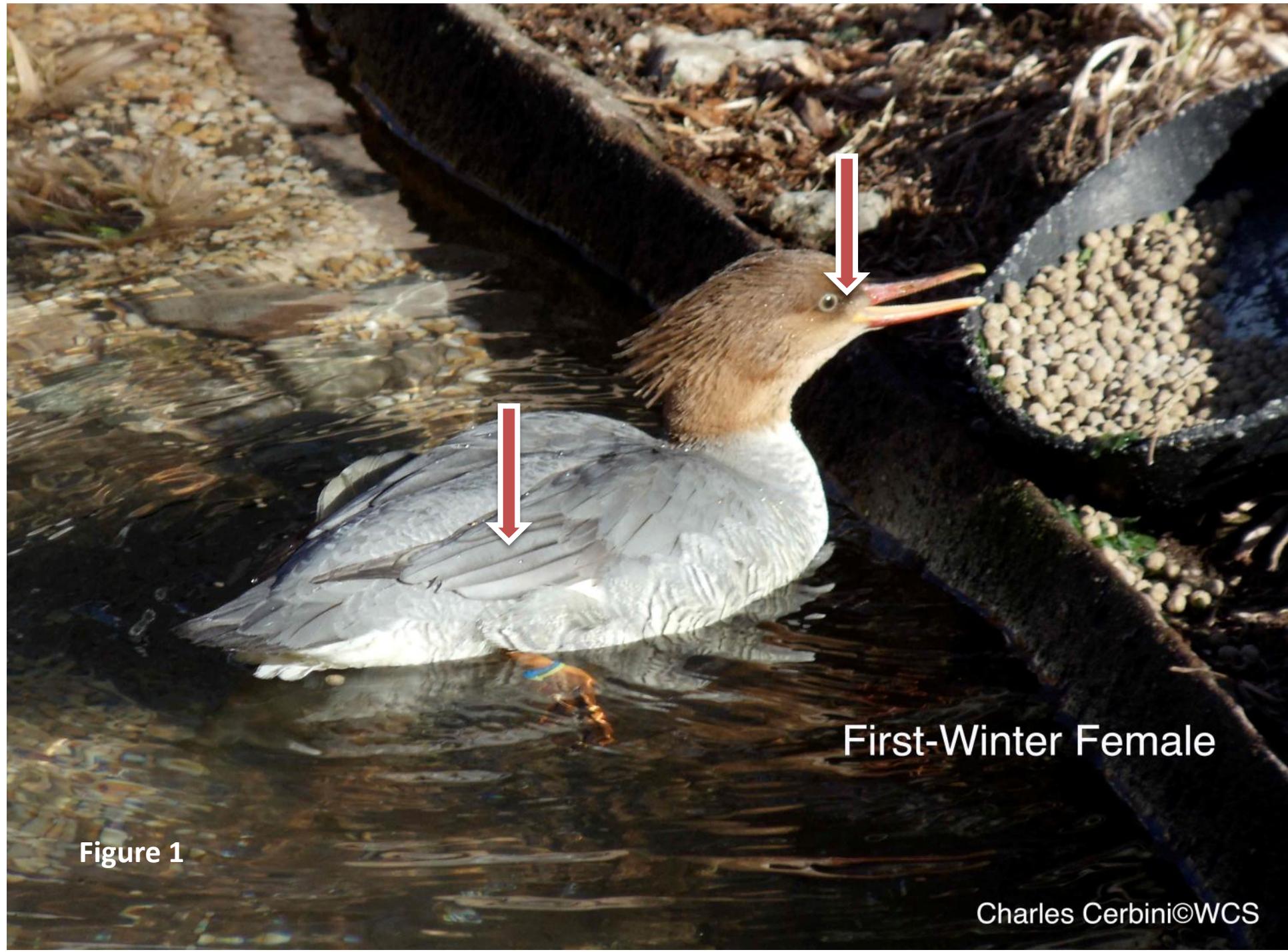


# Ageing of SSME females

Ageing of females is possible when we catch incubating hens on their nest. It is very important to age females to monitor age-dependent nesting chronology and productivity.

# What to monitor

- Age when the light stripe in front of and behind the eye disappear(see Figures 1 and 2 to compare).
- Age when iris become dark-brown from dark-yellow (see Figures 1 and 2 to compare).
- Please record presence/absence of black tips on the upper coverts of secondaries (compare tips on Figure 3 and 4). Record presence/absence of black tips on the secondaries. My guess is black tips disappear by the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the female's life.



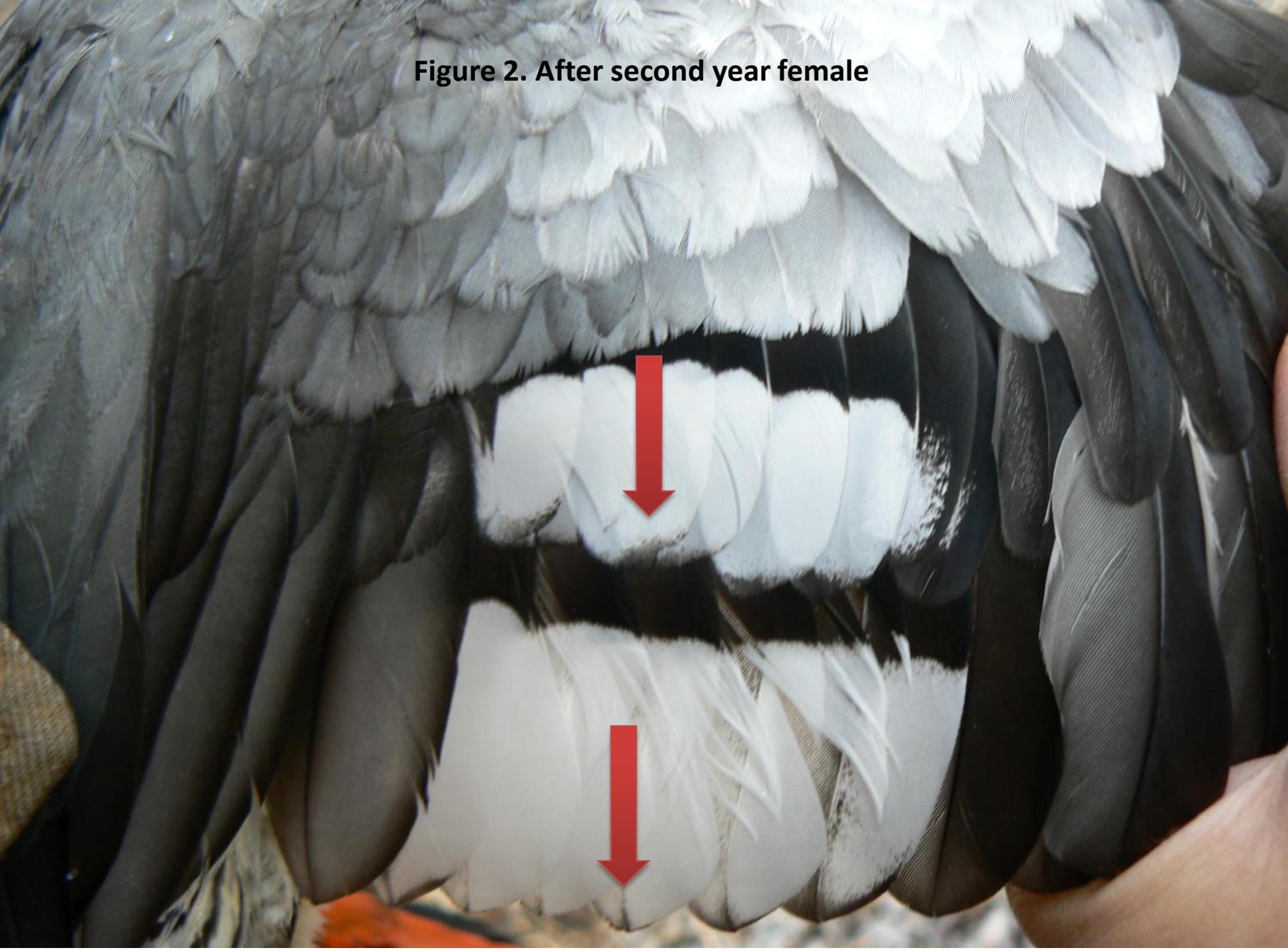
First-Winter Female

Figure 1

**Figure 2. Adult female**



**Figure 2. After second year female**



**Figure 3. Adult female (after 4 year)**

