



Firecrest. Adult. Male (29-XII).

COMMON FIRECREST (*Regulus ignicapilla*)

IDENTIFICATION

9-10 cm. **Adults** with green-yellowish plumage; head with crown yellow (**female**) or orange (**male**); white and black bands on face. **Juvenile** without crest on the crown and has the face pattern attenuated.



Firecrest. Adult. Pattern of head.



Firecrest. Juvenile. Pattern of head.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Goldcrest has similar crown pattern, but head without white and black bands on face. **Juveniles Goldcrest** lack a whitish supercilium.



Goldcrest. Adult.



Goldcrest. Juvenile.

SEXING

Male with crown patch bright orange with yellow at the edges; upper mantle bright yellow-green; wing longer than 53 mm. **Female** with crown patch yellow, sometimes with some orange; upper mantle dull yellow-green; wing shorter than 52 mm. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage pattern.



Firecrest. Adult. Sexing. Pattern of crown: left male; right female.

13150 Common Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*)

AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile without crest on crown; fresh plumage.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with most of the wing feathers unmoulted; central alula feather, if unmoulted, lacks green edge; tail feathers with very pointed tips.

Adult with central alula feather with green edge; tail feathers with not very pointed tips or rounded.

CAUTION: shape of tail feathers is not always usable due to overlap.



Firecrest. Ageing. Pattern of crown: left adult; right juvenile.



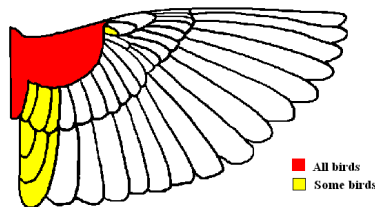
Firecrest. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Firecrest. Ageing. Pattern of tips of tail feathers: left adult; right juvenile.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers, lesser and median coverts and some inner greater coverts; some birds moult some or all tertials; usually finished in September.



Firecrest. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Resident
- Wintering
- On passage



Firecrest. Adult. Female (21-X).

13150 Common Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*)



Firecrest. 1st year. Male (22-X).



Firecrest. 1st year. Female (29-X)



Firecrest. Juvenile (02-VII).



Firecrest. Adult. Head pattern: top male (29-XII); bottom female (21-X).

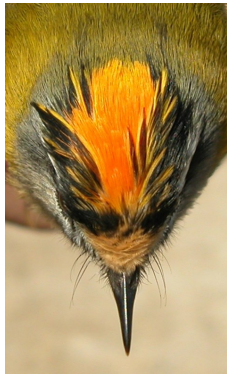


Firecrest. Head pattern: top 1st year male (14-X); middle 1st year female (29-X); bottom juvenile (02-VII).



Firecrest. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (29-XII); right female (21-X).

13150 Common Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*)



Firecrest. Crown pattern: top left 1st year male (14-X); top right 1st year female (29-X); left juvenile (12-VII).



Firecrest. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (29-XII); right female (21-X).



Firecrest. Breast pattern: top left 1st year male (14-X); top right 1st year female (29-X); left juvenile (02-VII).



Firecrest. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (29-XII); right female (21-X).



Firecrest. Upperpart pattern: top left 1st year male (14-X); top right 1st year female (29-X); left juvenile (02-VII).

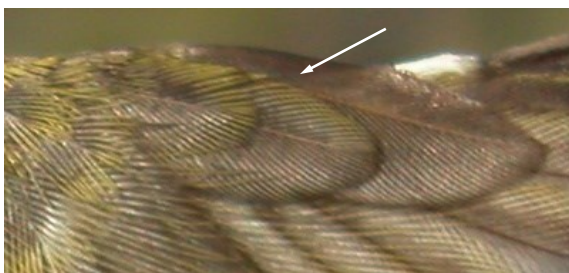
13150 Common Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*)



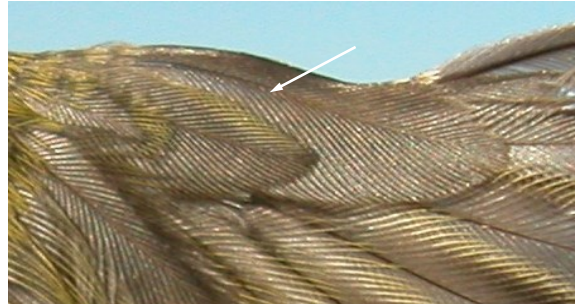
Firecrest. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (29-XII); right female (21-X).



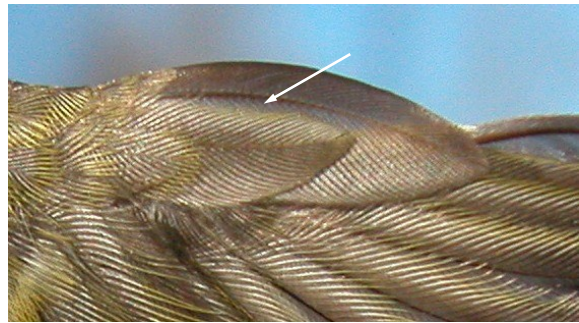
Firecrest. Tail pattern: top left 1st year male (14-X); top right 1st year female (29-X); left juvenile (12-VII).



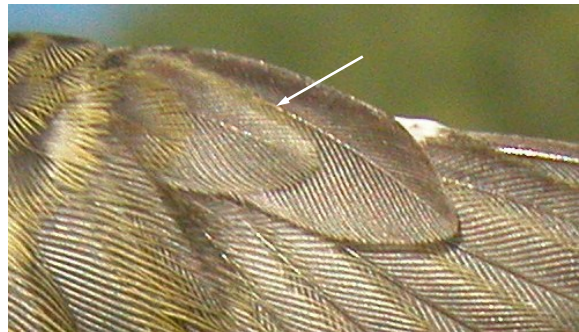
Firecrest. Adult. Male: pattern of central alula (29-XII)



Firecrest. Adult. Female: pattern of central alula (21-X)



Firecrest. 1st year. Male: pattern of central alula (14-X)



Firecrest. 1st year. Female: pattern of central alula (29-X)



Firecrest. Juvenile: pattern of central alula (12-VII)



Firecrest. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (29-XII)



Firecrest. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (29-X)



Firecrest. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (21-X).



Firecrest. Juvenile: pattern of wing (12-VII)



Firecrest. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (21-X)