

**16360 Common Chaffinch** (*Fringilla coelebs*)



Chaffinch. Summer. Adult. Male (01-VI).

**COMMON CHAFFINCH** (*Fringilla coelebs*)

**IDENTIFICATION**

14-16 cm. **Male** with head and neck grey; breast and cheeks pinkish, duller in winter. **Female** and **juveniles** brownish. Both sexes with white patches on wing, shoulders and tail.



Chaffinch. Male: pattern of head.

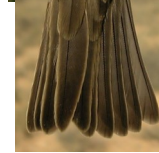


Chaffinch. Female: pattern of head and upperparts.

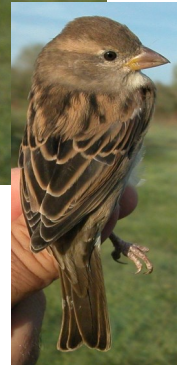


**SIMILAR SPECIES**

**Male** is unmistakable. **Female** and **juveniles** recall that of **female House Sparrow** which lacks white on tail and shoulders.



House Sparrow. Female.



**SEXING**

**Male** with grey crown and reddish-pink cheeks and breast (with duller colours in **winter**). **Female** with head and breast brown. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed safely using plumage characteristics.



Chaffinch. Summer. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



Chaffinch. Summer. Sexing. Pattern of breast: left male; right female.

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Chaffinch. Winter. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



Chaffinch. Winter. Sexing. Pattern of breast: left male; right female.

**AGEING**

3 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** resembles a **female** but with fresh plumage; tail feathers with pointed tips.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** with moult limit on wing between darker moulted feathers and brownish **juvenile** retained (easy to see in **males** and more difficult in **females**); if unmoulted, then central pair of tail feathers without a dark patch near the tip; unmoulted tail feathers with pointed tips; in **summer** with very worn feathers.

**Adult** without moult limits on wing; sometimes central pair of tail feathers with a dark patch near the tip; tail feathers with quite rounded tips; in **summer** with worn plumage.



Chaffinch. Ageing. Pattern of head: left adult female; right juvenile.

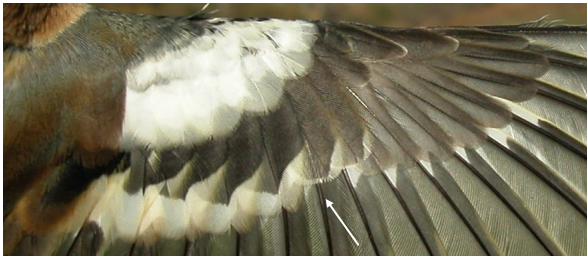
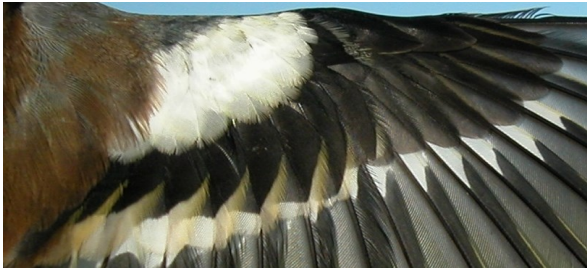


Chaffinch. Summer. Ageing. Wear of tail feathers: top left adult female; top right 2nd year female; left juvenile.



Chaffinch. Male. Ageing. Pattern of the central tail feather: left adult; right 1st year.

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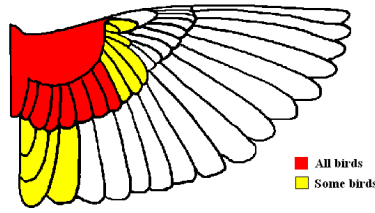
Chaffinch. Male. Ageing. Moulting limit on wing covers: top adult; bottom 1st year.



Chaffinch. Female. Ageing. Moulting limit on wing covers: top adult; bottom 1st year.

**MOULT**

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including body feathers, lesser and median coverts and most or all greater coverts; some birds can moult alula feathers, tertials and some tail feathers (usually the central pair); depending on the date of hatching it can be completed from the end of July to the middle of October.



Chaffinch. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

**PHENOLOGY**

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage



Chaffinch. Summer. Adult. Female (01-VI).



Chaffinch. Summer. 2nd year. Male (11-VI)

**16360 Common Chaffinch** (*Fringilla coelebs*)



Chaffinch. Summer. 2nd year. Female (11-VI)



Chaffinch. Summer. Juvenile (07-VI).



Chaffinch. Summer. Adult. Head pattern: top male (01-VI); bottom female (01-VI).



Chaffinch. Summer. Head pattern: top 2nd year male (11-VI); middle 2nd year female (11-VI); bottom juvenile (07-VI).



Chaffinch. Summer. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (01-VI); right female (01-VI).



Chaffinch. Summer. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (11-VI); top right 2nd year female (11-VI); left juvenile (07-VI).

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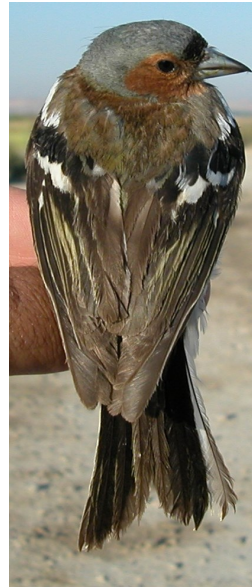
Chaffinch. Summer. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (01-VI); right female (01-VI).



Chaffinch. Summer. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (11-VI); top right 2nd year female (11-VI); left juvenile (07-VI).



Chaffinch. Summer. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (01-VI); right female (01-VI).



Chaffinch. Summer. Upperpart pattern: top left 2nd year male (11-VI); top right 2nd year female (11-VI); left juvenile (07-VI).



Chaffinch. Summer. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (01-VI).



Chaffinch. Summer. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (01-VI).



Chaffinch. Winter. Adult. Male (30-XI).



Chaffinch. Summer. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (11-VI).



Chaffinch. Winter. Adult. Female (30-XI).



Chaffinch. Summer. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (11-VI).



Chaffinch. Winter. 1st year. Male (30-XI).



Chaffinch. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of wing (07-VI).



Chaffinch. Winter. 1st year. Female (30-XI).



Chaffinch. Winter. Adult. Head pattern: left male (30-XI); right female (30-XI).



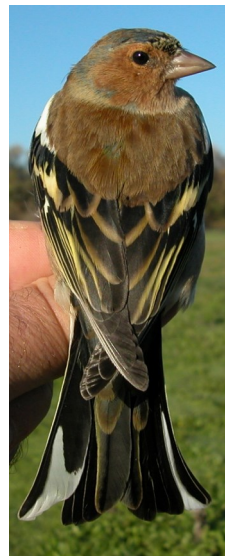
Chaffinch. Winter. 1st year. Head pattern: left male (30-XI); right female (30-XI).



Chaffinch. Winter. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (30-XI); right female (30-XI).



Chaffinch. Winter. 1st year. Breast pattern: left male (30-XI); right female (30-XI).



Chaffinch. Winter. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (30-XI); right female (30-XI).



Chaffinch. Winter. 1st year. Upperpart pattern: left male (30-XI); right female (30-XI).



Chaffinch. Winter. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (30-XI); right female (30-XI).



Chaffinch. Winter. 1st year. Tail pattern: left male (30-XI); right female (30-XI).



Chaffinch. Winter. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (30-XI).



Chaffinch. Winter. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (30-XI).



Chaffinch. Winter. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (30-XI).



Chaffinch. Winter. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (30-XI).