

426 Common Chaffinch

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

COMMON CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*)

IDENTIFICATION

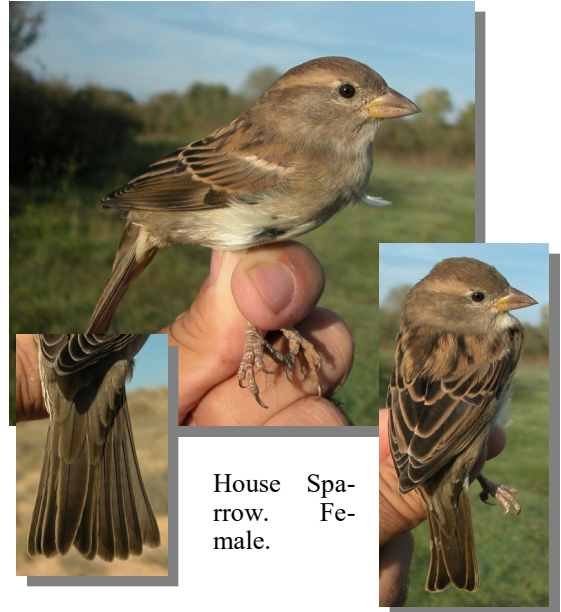
14-16 cm. **Male** with head and neck grey; breast and cheeks pinkish, duller in winter. **Female** and **juveniles** brownish. Both sexes with white patches on wing, shoulders and tail.



Chaffinch.
Male: pattern
of head.



Chaffinch. Fe-
male: pattern of
head and upper-
parts.



SEXING

Male with grey crown and reddish-pink cheeks and breast (with duller colours in **winter**). **Female** with grey-brown head and breast. **Juveniles** can be sexed in extreme cases: **male** with head and breast tinged suede-brown, richer coloured on wing and tail compared to **female**. **Female** with grey-brown head and breast, duller coloured on wing and tail compared to **male**.



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



SIMILAR SPECIES

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

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Chaffinch. Summer. Juvenile. 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.

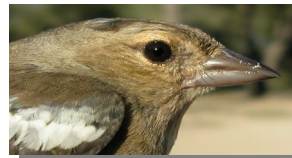
Adult without moult limits on wing; sometimes central pair of tail feathers with a dark patch near the tip; tail feathers with quite rounded tips; in **summer** with worn plumage.



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



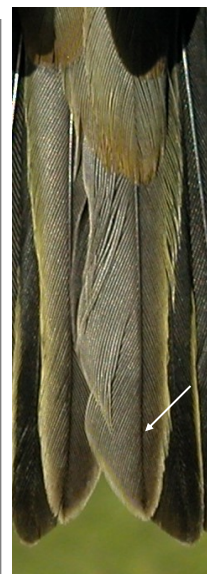
Chaffinch. Summer. Juvenile. Sexing. Pattern of breast: left male; right female.



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



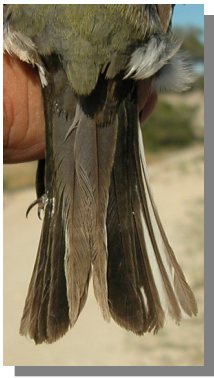
Chaffinch. Winter. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



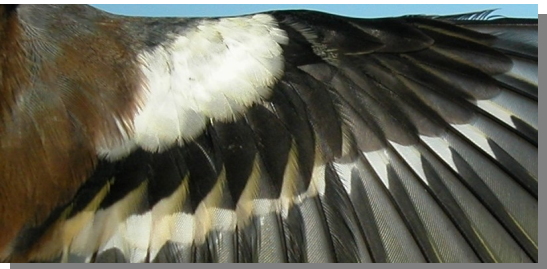
Chaffinch. Male. Ageing. Pattern of the central tail feather: left adult; right 1st year.

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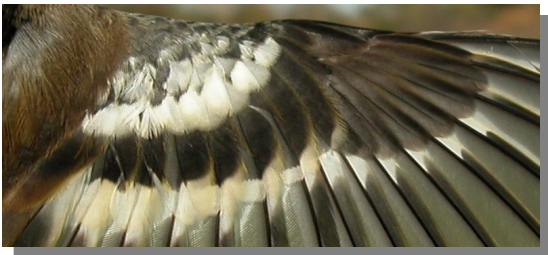
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Chaffinch. Summer. Ageing. Wear of tail feathers: top left adult female; top right 2nd year female; left juvenile.



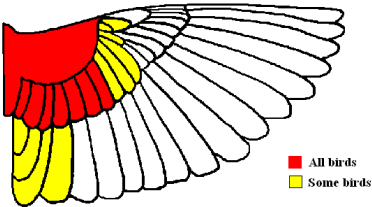
Chaffinch. Male. Ageing. Moult limit on wing coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.



Chaffinch. Female. Ageing. Moult limit on wing coverts: 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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident, with contribution of wintering European birds. Widely distributed throughout the Region, absent only from deforested zones.

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



Chaffinch. Summer. Juvenile. Male (07-VI).



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



Chaffinch. Summer. Juvenile. Female (07-VI).



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



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

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



Chaffinch.
Summer.
Juvenile.
Head pat-
tern: top
male (07-
VI); bottom
female (07-
VI).



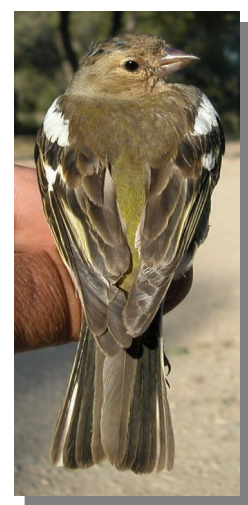
Chaffinch. Summer. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (01-VI); right female (01-VI).



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



Chaffinch. Summer. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male (07-VI); right female (07-VI).



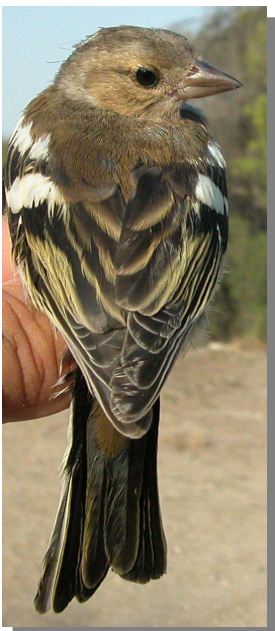
Chaffinch. Summer. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (01-VI); right female (01-VI).

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Chaffinch. Summer. 2nd year. Upperparts pattern: left male (11-VI); right female (11-VI).



Chaffinch. Summer. Juvenile. Upperparts pattern: left male (07-VI); right female (07-VI).



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



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



Chaffinch. Summer. Juvenile. Tail pattern: left male (07-VI); right female (07-VI).



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

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



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



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



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



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



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



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

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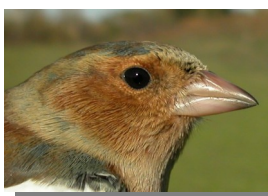
Chaffinch. Winter. 1st year. Male (30-XI).



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



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



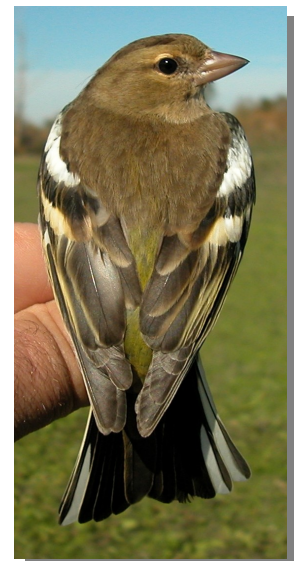
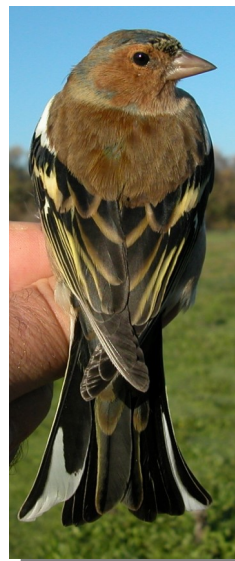
Chaffinch. Winter. 1st year. Head pattern: left male (30-XI); right female (30-XI).



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).

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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).