

16530 Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)



Goldfinch. Spring. Adult. Male (20-IV).

GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*)

IDENTIFICATION

11-13 cm. **Adult** with chestnut upperparts and pale underparts; light rump; black and white tail feathers; black wings with a broad yellow bar; red, black and white head. **Juvenile** with grey-brown head.



Goldfinch. Juvenile: pattern of wing, head and tail.

SIMILAR SPECIES

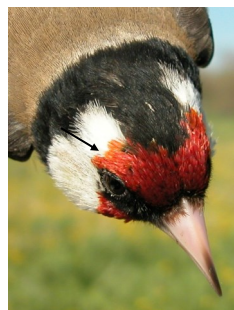
Adults are unmistakable with their head pattern; **juveniles** are easily recognized by their wing and tail pattern.

SEXING

(CAUTION: distinction is not always possible due to overlap of sexing characteristics). **Male** with extensive red patch on head, going behind the eye; black nasal bristles; black of head intensely coloured; lesser coverts black, sometimes narrowly tipped brown. **Female** with small red patch on head, going slightly behind the eye; grey or black-grey nasal bristles; black on head dull; lesser coverts broadly tipped grey-brown (sometimes as narrow as in **males**). **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage characteristics.



Goldfinch. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.



Goldfinch. Sexing. Pattern of crown: top male; bottom female.

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Goldfinch. Sexing. Pattern of lesser coverts: top male; bottom female.



Goldfinch. Ageing. Moulting limit on wing coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.

AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with grey-brown head, without red, black and white colours; tail feathers with pointed tips; with very fresh plumage.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with moult limit between moulted glossy black inner greater coverts, with yellow tips, and the duller outer **juvenile** retained with whitish tips; if all greater coverts moulted, then limit is between greater and primary coverts, within tertials or between tertials and secondaries.

Adult/postjuvenile with complete moult with all feathers on wing with the same age, without moult limits (**CAUTION:** often black on primary coverts looking slightly less intense); tail feathers with rounded tips.

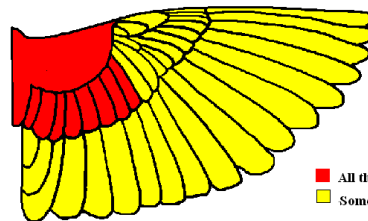


Goldfinch. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult; bottom juvenile.



MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, often finished in October. **Postjuvenile** moult usually partial, moulting body feathers, lesser and median coverts and most of the greater coverts; there are birds that extend their moult to all greater coverts, tertials and tail feathers, being a complete moult in some birds; usually finished in November.



Goldfinch. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage

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Goldfinch. Spring. Adult. Female (04-IV).



Goldfinch. Spring. 2nd year. Male (08-IV).



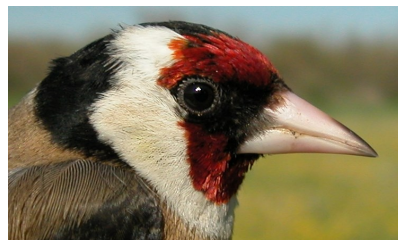
Goldfinch. Spring. 2nd year. Female (08-IV).



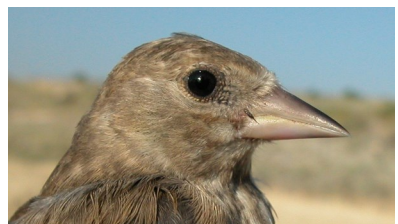
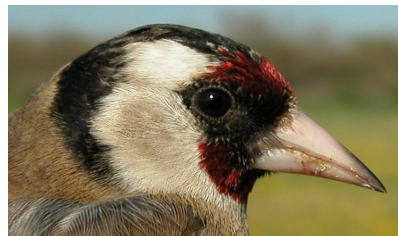
Goldfinch. Spring. Juvenile (29-VII).



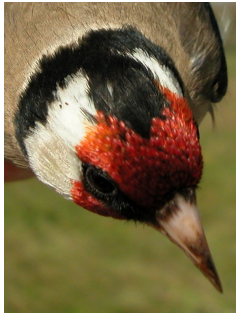
Goldfinch. Spring. Adult. Head pattern: top male (20-IV); bottom female (04-IV).



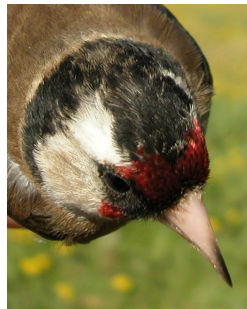
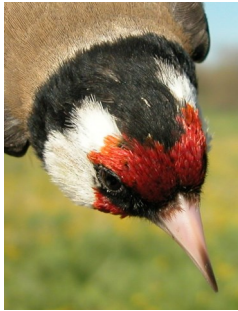
Goldfinch. Spring. Head pattern: top 2nd year male (08-IV); middle 2nd year female (08-IV); bottom juvenile (03-VII).



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Goldfinch. Spring. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (20-IV); right female (04-IV).



Goldfinch. Spring. Crown pattern: top left 2nd year male (08-IV); top right 2nd year female (08-IV); left juvenile (03-VII).



Goldfinch. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (20-IV); right female (04-IV).



Goldfinch. Spring. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (08-IV); top right 2nd year female (08-IV); left juvenile (03-VII).



Goldfinch. Spring. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (08-IV); top right 2nd year female (08-IV); left juvenile (03-VII).

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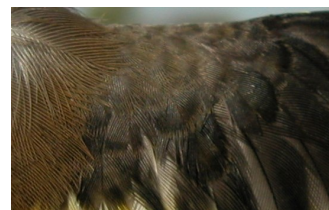
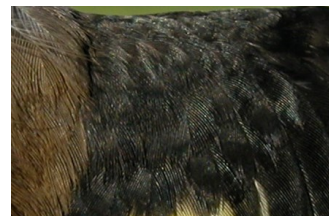
Goldfinch. Spring. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (20-IV); right female (04-IV).



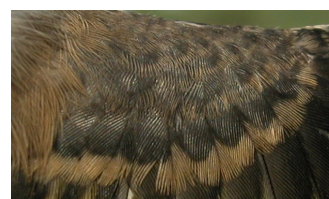
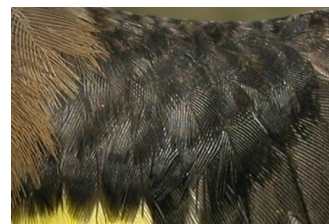
Goldfinch. Spring. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (20-IV); right female (04-IV).



Goldfinch. Spring. Upperpart pattern: top left 2nd year male (08-IV); top right 2nd year female (08-IV); left juvenile (03-VII).



Goldfinch. Spring. Adult. Pattern of lesser coverts: top male (20-IV); bottom female (04-IV).



Goldfinch. Spring. Pattern of lesser coverts: top 2nd year male (08-IV); middle 2nd year female (08-IV); bottom juvenile (03-VII).

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Goldfinch. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (20-IV).



Goldfinch. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (07-VI).



Goldfinch. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (04-IV).



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



Goldfinch. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (08-IV).



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



Goldfinch. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (08-IV).

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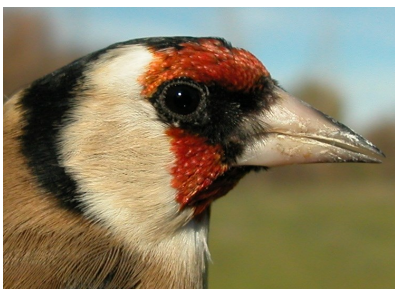
Goldfinch. Winter. 1st year. Male (30-XI).



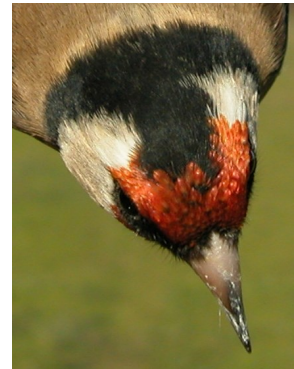
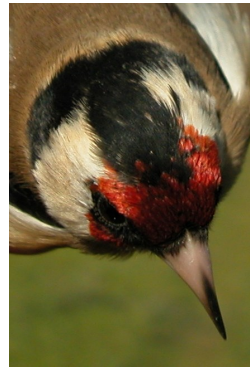
Goldfinch. Winter. 1st year. Female (30-XI).



Goldfinch. Winter. Adult. Head pattern: top male (30-XI); bottom female (30-XI).



Goldfinch. Winter. 1st year. Head pattern: top male (30-XI); bottom female (30-XI).



Goldfinch. Winter. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (30-XI); right female (30-XI).



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

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



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



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



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



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



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

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Goldfinch. Winter. Adult. Pattern of lesser coverts: top male (30-XI); bottom female (30-XI).



Goldfinch. Winter. 1st year. Pattern of lesser coverts: top male (30-XI); bottom female (30-XI).



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



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



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



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