

16660 Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)



Red Crossbill. Adult. Male (19-XI).

RED CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*)

IDENTIFICATION

16-17 cm. Strong head and curved bill. **Male** reddish; **female** yellowish green. **Juveniles** greyish with dark streaks.



Red Crossbill. Pattern of bill.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

Male with throat always with red, orange or yellow feathers; upperparts red, pale pink or yellowish-green. **Female** with throat always grey, sometimes speckled dark; upperparts grey-green, with yellowish-green rump. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage characteristics. **CAUTION:** a few number of **males**, no strictly aged related, have very little orange on body and resemble yellow coloured **females**.



Red Crossbill. Sexing. Pattern of breast: left male; right female.



Red Crossbill. Sexing. Pattern of upperparts: left male; right female.

AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile greyish coloured, strongly streaked dark; greater coverts fringed whitish; very fresh plumage.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring usually with moult limit on wing feathers (if retained, **juvenile** greater coverts have white fringes; in any case primary coverts are usually retained); **2nd year** birds have retained **juvenile** flight feathers very worn.

Adult/postjuvenile with complete moult with grey greater coverts, without whitish edges.

CAUTION: **juveniles** and **adults** can start their moult in **spring** to be suspended in **summer** and finished in **autumn**, so both types of age can be found with moult limit (but **adult** birds never have feathers with **juvenile** pattern).

16660 Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)



Red Crossbill. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult female; right juvenile.



Red Crossbill. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult female; right juvenile.



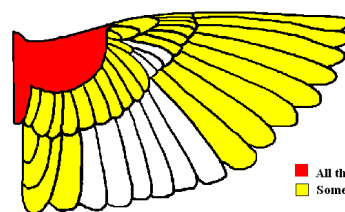
Red Crossbill. Ageing. Pattern of tips of greater coverts: left adult; right juvenile.



Red Crossbill. Ageing. Mould limit on wing coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult; most of the specimens moult between August and October, but there are some that start in **spring** and stop the moult to finish it in **autumn**. Partial **postjuvenile** moult, which is very variable, with birds moulting only some body feathers and others moulting all the wing coverts and most of the flight feathers; it's possible to find specimens in active moult during all the year since birds hatched in **winter** start their moult in **spring** and they can suspend it and continue in **autumn**.



Red Crossbill. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

■ All the specimens
■ Some specimens

PHENOLOGY

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

■ Summer visitor ■ Resident
■ Wintering ■ On passage

16660 Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)



Red Crossbill. Adult. Female (17-XII).



Red Crossbill. Juvenile (17-VII).



Red Crossbill. 1st year. Male (19-XI).



Red Crossbill. Adult. Head pattern: top male (19-XI); bottom female (17-XII).



Red Crossbill. Head pattern: top 1st year male (19-XI); middle 2nd year female (13-V); bottom juvenile (17-VII).



Red Crossbill. 2nd year. Female (13-V).



16660 Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)



Red Crossbill. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (19-XI); right female (17-XII).



Red Crossbill. Breast pattern: top left 1st year male (19-XI); top right 2nd year female (13-V); left juvenile (17-VII).



Red Crossbill. Upperparts pattern: top left 1st year male (19-XI); top right 2nd year female (13-V); left juvenile (17-VII).



Red Crossbill. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (19-XI); right female (17-XII).



Red Crossbill. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (19-XI); right female (17-XII).

16660 Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)



Red Crossbill. Tail pattern: top left 1st year male (19-XI); top right 2nd year female (13-V); left juvenile (17-VII).



Red Crossbill. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (19-XI).



Red Crossbill. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (13-V).



Red Crossbill. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (19-XI).



Red Crossbill. Juvenile: pattern of wing (24-V)



Red Crossbill. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (17-XII).