Hawfinch

**HAWFINCH** (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*)

**IDENTIFICATION**
17-18 cm. Big and conical bill; head with black line around bill; black bib; brownish upperparts with buff rump; grey vinaceous underparts; tail with black feathers tipped white; wing with white patch on primaries; secondaries with outer black band on **male** and grey on **female**.

**SEXING**
Both sexes with similar pattern, but **male** with bright chestnut on head; outer web of outer secondaries bright black; length of white patch on inner web of the outermost tail feather 17-28 mm. **Female** with dull chestnut on head; outer web of outer secondaries dusky ash-grey; length of white patch on inner web of the outermost tail feather 9-21 mm.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**
This species is unmistakable.
AGEING
3 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with fresh plumage; head, neck and breast yellowish; underparts speckled dark; chin without black bib.

**1st year autumn/2nd year winter** with tail feathers worn and pointed (if all unmoulted); if central pair moulted, then with contrast with neighbor feathers; wing with moult limits between moulted and retained greater coverts; if all or none moulted, then limit is between alula and/or tertials (CAUTION: not always easy to see). In **males**, outermost tail feather with outer web brownish-grey with an off-white spot on tip (CAUTION: some **males** do not have it); 5th primary with outer web about 3,5-5,8 mm width; tip of 7th primary sometimes with less gloss than in **adults**; tip of 8th primary never with gloss. In **females**, 5th primary with outer web about 3-4 mm width; tip of 7th primary with gloss only in few birds; tip of 8th primary never with gloss.

**Adult** without moult limits on wing and tail; tail feathers fresh and squared. In **males** the outermost tail feather with outer web black with a pure white spot on tip (CAUTION: some **males** do not have it); 5th primary with outer web about 5-7,2 mm width; tip of 7th primary always with deep gloss; tip of 8th primary often with gloss. In **females**, 5th primary with outer web about 4-7,2 mm width; tip of 7th primary always with gloss; tip of 8th primary with gloss only in some birds.


Hawfinch. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult; right juvenile (Photo: Ondrej Kauzal).

Hawfinch. Male. Ageing. Pattern of tip of the outermost tail feather: top left adult with white spot on tip; top; right adult without white top on it; left 1st year.


MOULT
Complete postbreeding moult, usually finished in October. Partial postjuvenile moult involving body feathers, lesser, median and usually all greater coverts; some birds extend their moult to tertials; moult of tail feathers very variable, most moult only the central pair, but some can moult all feathers or none; finished in November.

PHENOLOGY

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STATUS IN ARAGON
Breeds scarcely in Pyrenees and Sistema Iberico, more common wintering or in passage.
Hawfinch. Spring. Adult. Female (02-V) (Photo: Ondrej Kauzal).


Hawfinch. Spring. 2nd year. Male (15-IV) (Photo: Ondrej Kauzal).

Hawfinch. Spring. Juvenile. Female ()

Hawfinch. Spring. 2nd year. Female (15-IV) (Photo: Ondrej Kauzal).

Hawfinch. Spring. Adult. Head pattern: top male (15-III); bottom female (02-V) (Photo: Ondrej Kauzal)
Hawfinch. Spring. 2nd year. Head pattern: top male (15-IV) (Photo: Ondrej Kauzal); bottom female (15-IV) (Photo: Ondrej Kauzal).

Hawfinch. Spring. juvenile. Head pattern: top male (16-VII) (Photo: Ondrej Kauzal); bottom female (23-VI) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwin kel).

Hawfinch. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (15-III); right female (02-V) (Photo: Ondrej Kauzal).


Hawfinch. Spring. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (15-III); right female ().
Hawfinch. Spring. 2nd year. Upperpart pattern: left male (); right female ( ).


Hawfinch. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (15-IV) (Photo: Ondrej Kauzal).


Hawfinch. 1st year. Male (29-XII).


Hawfinch. 1st year. Female (26-XII).
Hawfinch. Adult. Head pattern: top male (26-XII); bottom female (10-I).

Hawfinch. Adult. Head pattern: top male (26-XII); bottom female (26-XII).

Hawfinch. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (26-XII); right female (26-XII).

Hawfinch. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (26-XII); right female (26-XII).

Hawfinch. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (26-XII); right female (10-I).

Hawfinch. 1st year. Breast pattern: left male (29-XII); right female (29-XII).

Hawfinch. 1st year. Breast pattern: left male (29-XII); right female (29-XII).
Hawfinch. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (26-XII); right female (10-I).

Hawfinch. 1st year. Tail pattern: left male (29-XII); right female (26-XII).

Hawfinch. Winter. Adult. Male: pattern of alula and primary coverts (26-XII)


Hawfinch. Winter. 1st year. Female: pattern of alula and primary coverts (30-X).

Hawfinch. Winter. Adult. Male: pattern of alula and primary coverts (26-XII)

Hawfinch. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (26-XII)
Hawfinch. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (10-I).


Hawfinch. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries (10-I).

Hawfinch. 1st year. Female: pattern of primaries (26-XII).

Hawfinch. 1st year. Female: pattern of secondaries (26-XII).

Hawfinch. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (26-XII)

Hawfinch. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (10-I)

Hawfinch. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (29-XII)