

431 Goldfinch

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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.



SIMILAR SPECIES

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

SEXING

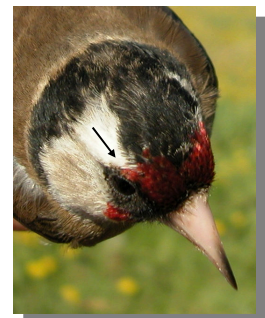
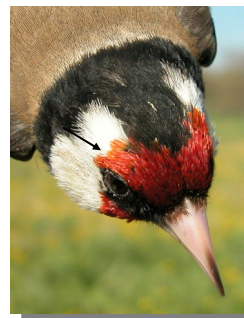
(**CAUTION:** distinction is not always possible due to overlap of sexing characteristics). **Male** with extensive red patch on head, going behind the eye; black nasal bristles; black of head intensely coloured; lesser coverts black, sometimes narrowly tipped brown. **Female** with small red patch on 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.



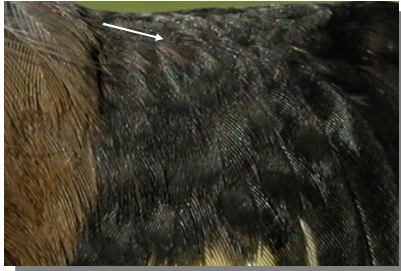
Goldfinch. Juvenile: pattern of wing, head and tail.



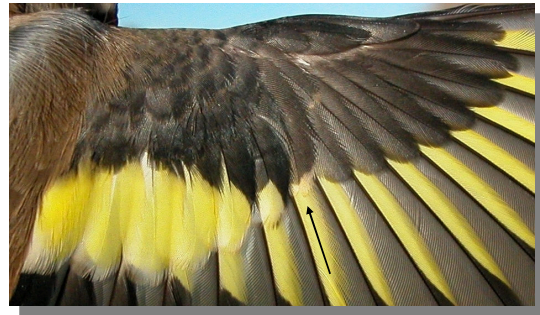
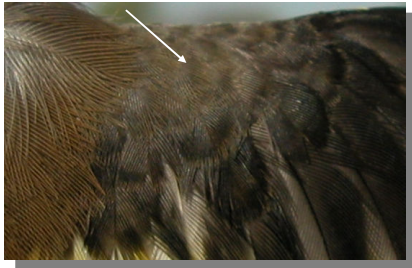
Goldfinch. Sexing. Pattern of crown: top male; bottom female.

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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.

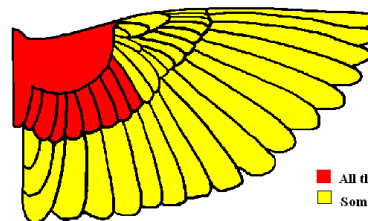


Goldfinch. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult; bottom juvenile.



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.

■ All the specimens
■ Some specimens

PHENOLOGY

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

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STATUS IN ARAGÓN

Resident, with contribution of wintering European birds. Widely distributed throughout the Region, absent from the highest zones of the Pyrenees and the most deforested areas of the Ebro Basin.



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



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



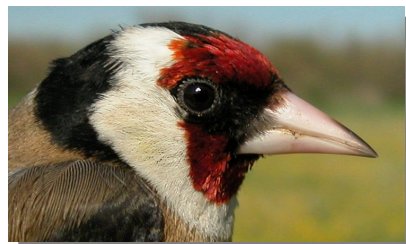
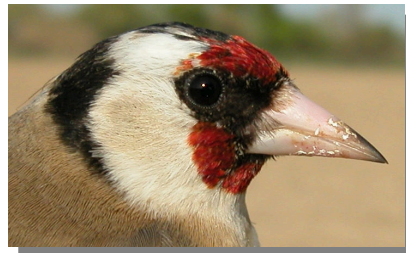
Goldfinch. Spring. 2nd year. Female (08-IV).



Goldfinch. Spring. Juvenile (29-VII).



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

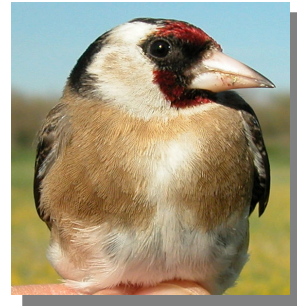
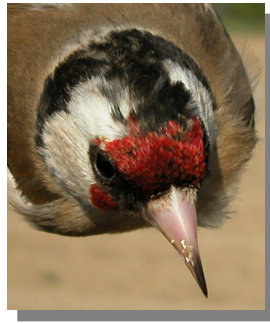
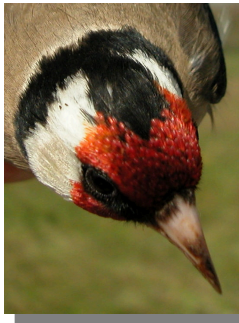


Goldfinch. Spring. Head pattern: top 2nd year male (08-IV); middle 2nd year female (08-IV); bottom juvenile (03-VII).

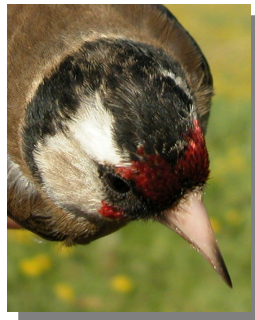
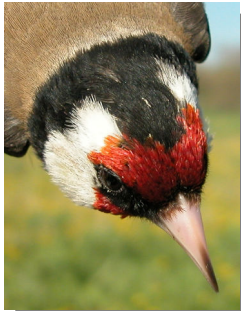


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Goldfinch. Spring. Adult. Crown pattern: left male (20-IV); right female (04-IV).



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



Goldfinch. Spring. Crown 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).

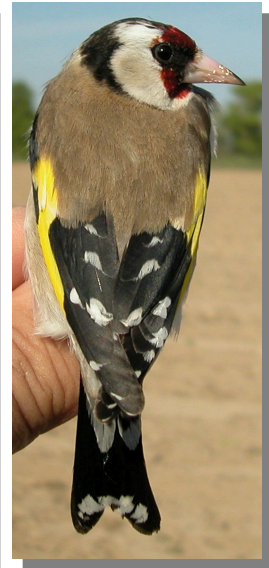
Goldfinch. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (20-IV); right female (04-IV).

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



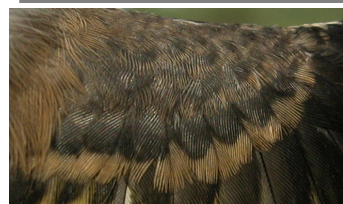
Goldfinch. Spring. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (20-IV); right female (04-IV).



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



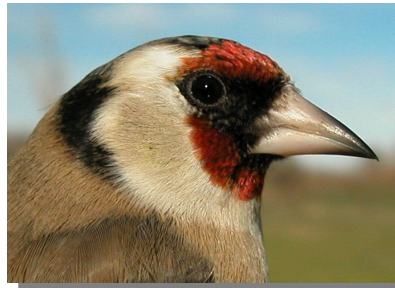
Goldfinch. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (08-IV).

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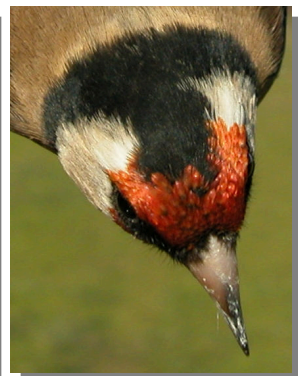
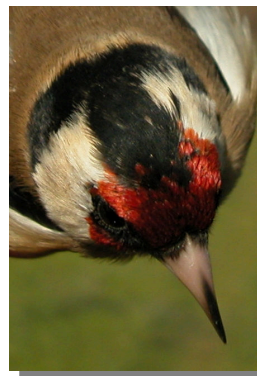
Goldfinch. Winter. 1st year. Male (30-XI).



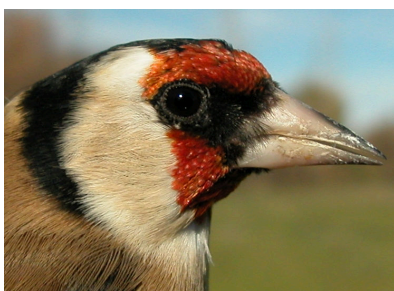
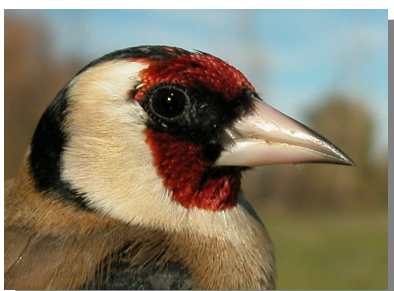
Goldfinch.
Winter. 1st
year. Head
pattern: top
male (30-XI);
bottom female
(30-XI).



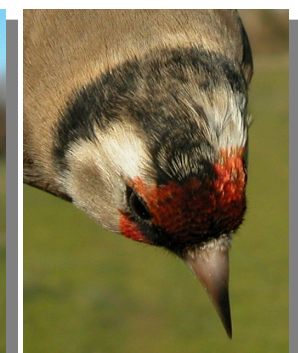
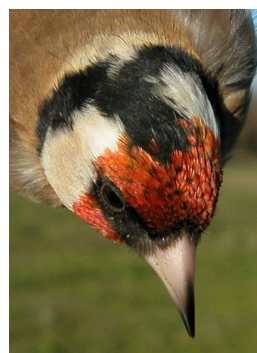
Goldfinch. Winter. 1st year. Female (30-XI).



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



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



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