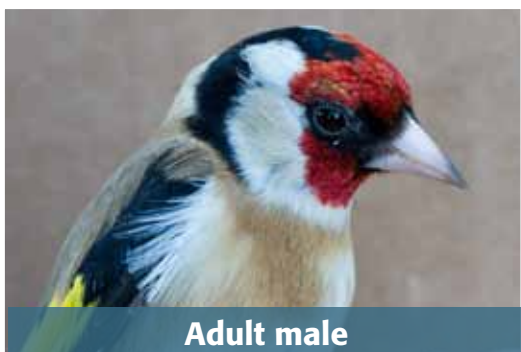


# GOLDFINCH [*Carduelis carduelis*]

## SEX

male



Adult male



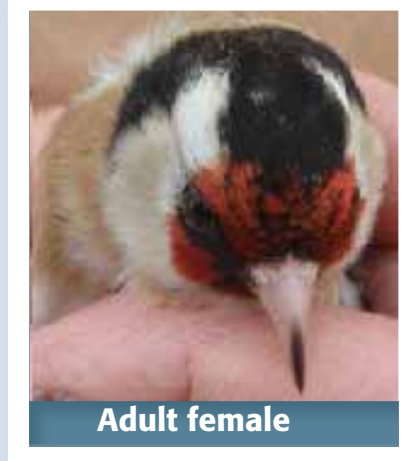
Adult male

- Red on face extends above and behind eye
- Nasal hairs black
- Lesser coverts black or brown black

female



Adult female



Adult female

- Red on face not so extensive often stopping in front or level with eye
- Nasal hairs sometimes grey or blackish grey
- Lesser coverts broadly tipped grey-brown

- Goldfinches are notoriously variable with many encountered with a misleading combination of the above features, they should be sexed with caution and lesser coverts especially used only as a supporting criterion
- Colour [sometimes orange] of red face provides no positive guide to a birds age or sex, both juveniles and some adults can show an orange colouration to the red face in the early stages of body moult.

Cautionary notes

ALL PHOTOS BY WALTER BURNS, GRAMPIAN RINGING GROUP



Adult male



Adult female/Juvenile female



Juvenile female