

# 436 Common Crossbill

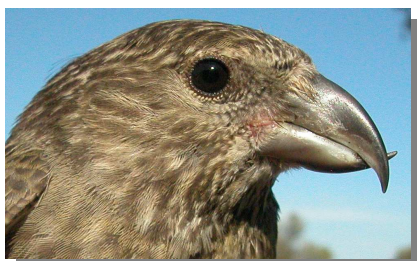


Common Crossbill. Adult. Male (18-VII).

## COMMON CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*)

### IDENTIFICATION

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



Common Crossbill. Pattern of bill.

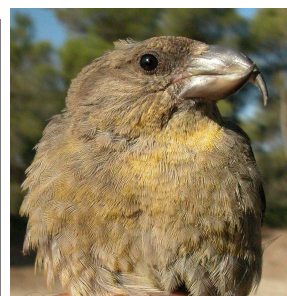
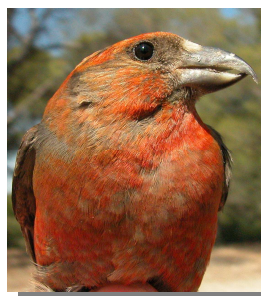
### SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

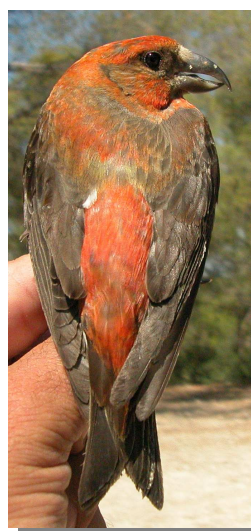
### SEXING

**Male** with reddish body feathers. **Female** with yellowish-green body feathers. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed using plumage characters.

**CAUTION:** a few number of **males**, no strictly aged related, have very little orange and resemble yellow coloured **females**.



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



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

### AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** greyish brownish-green, strongly streaked dark; greater coverts fringed whitish; pointed tail feathers.

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

**Adult** with grey greater coverts, without whitish tips; rounded tail feathers.

**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.

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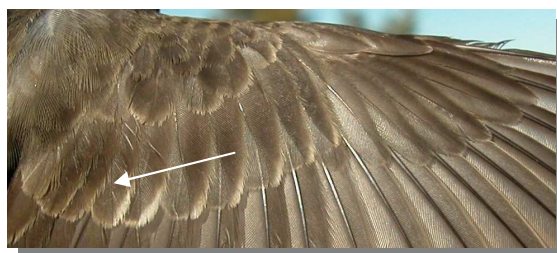
Common Crossbill. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult female; right juvenile.



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



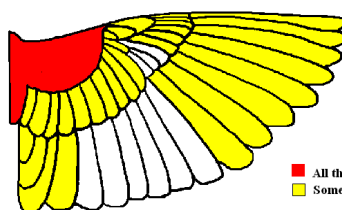
Common Crossbill. Ageing. Pattern of tips of greater coverts: left adult; right juvenile.



Common Crossbill. Ageing. Moult limit on wing coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.

## MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult; most of the specimens moult between August and October, but a few number start moult in **spring**, then suspend moult temporarily and complete 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 complete their moult in **autumn**.



Common Crossbill. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

## PHENOLOGY

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

## STATUS IN ARAGÓN

Resident. Distributed pine forests of the Region.



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Common Crossbill. Adult. Female (12-VII).



Common Crossbill. Juvenile (17-VII).



Piquituerto. 2º año. Macho (24-V).



Common Crossbill. Adult. Head pattern: top male (18-VII); bottom female (12-VII).



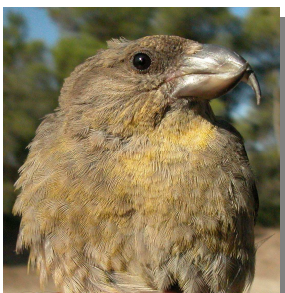
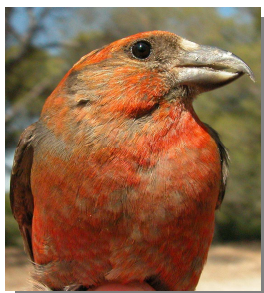
Common Crossbill. Head pattern: top 2nd year male (24-V); middle 1st year female (28-XII); bottom juvenile (17-VII).



Common Crossbill. 1st year. Female (28-XII).



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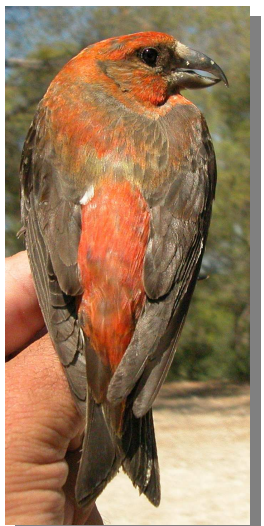
Common Crossbill. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (18-VII); right female (12-VII).



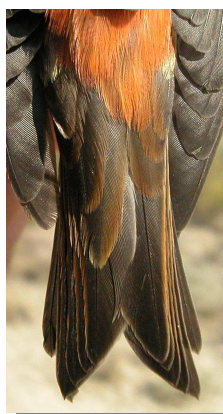
Common Crossbill. Breast pattern: top left 2nd year male (24-V); top right 1st year female (28-XII); left juvenile (17-VII).



Common Crossbill. Upperparts pattern: top left 2nd year male (24-V); top right 1st year female (28-XII); left juvenile (17-VII).



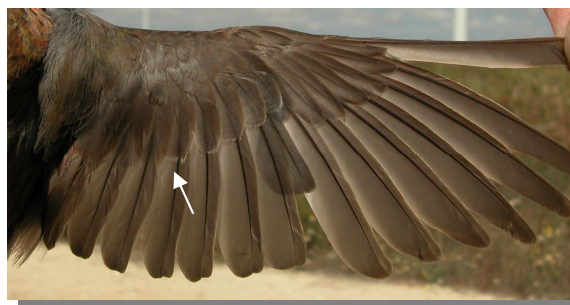
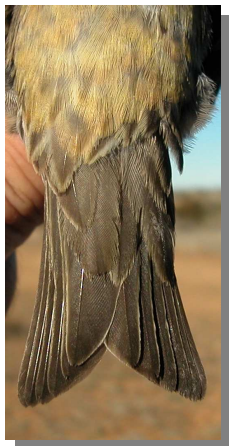
Common Crossbill. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (18-VII); right female (12-VII).



Common Crossbill. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (18-VII); right female (12-VII).



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Common Crossbill. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (24-V).



Common Crossbill. Tail pattern: top left 2nd year male (24-V); top right 1st year female (28-XII); left juvenile (17-VII).



Common Crossbill. 1st year. Female: pattern of wing (28-XII).



Common Crossbill. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (18-VII).



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



Common Crossbill. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (12-VII).