Crimson Finch Neochmia phaeton Species No.: 664 Band size: 02



Morphometrics:

Measurements provided here are for the nominate *N.p. phaeton*. *N.p. evangelina* is slightly smaller:

Adult Male Adult Female

THL: 24.7 – 25.3 (2 specimens)

 Wing:
 49 – 55 mm
 47 – 54 mm

 Tail:
 58 – 74 mm
 59 – 64 mm

 Weight:
 8.0 – 11.0 mm
 7.5 – 11.5 mm

Ageing:

Adult (2+) Juvenile

Bill: mostly red or pink-red; dark brown or greyish-black with dirty

pink tinge, gradually changing to red; Iris: light brown, brown, yellow-brown, orange- dark brown, light olive, light brown, buff

brown or pale scarlet; light olive-brown or cream-brown;

Head: crimson and brown; lacks crimson colouration though some

may have a faint crimson suffusion;

Near complete post-juvenile moult to adult-like plumage and bare parts within a few months of fledging, but some primary coverts may be retained until the next post-breeding moult period when the bird has entered its second year ¹. Thus adults with no juvenile primary coverts are aged (2+); Forehead and crown of males may become darker with age.

Sexing:

Sexes are plumage dimorphic – see illustrations above;

Incubation by both sexes, but male only incubates for a short period at a time and does not develop a brood patch ¹.