

Basics: Postjuvenile moult comprises body-feathers, lesser and median coverts and 2-8 greater coverts. On average, 4.9 greater coverts are renewed (mostly 5 – n=133). 2.2% of individuals moult the carpal covert or AL1; and 6.6% moult one to three tertials.

Adults have a complete post-nuptial moult.

1Y birds in autumn: According to present data, all 1Y birds show a moult break in the greater coverts. This break is easily seen, and is usually in the region of GCs 4-6; there can also be noticeable step change in length. The unmoulted outer greater coverts are recognised by an individually variable light outer fringe and by a more or less distinct light tip, which on the innermost unmoulted greater coverts can extend into a white shaft-streak. The outer webs are tinged with pale-brown or pale bronze. Moulted greater coverts show individually variable grey ends, which merge into the brown ground-colour. In addition, their outer fringes are more intensely brown or red-brown coloured than those of 1Ys. Should 1Ys be found with no moulted greater coverts, these could still be recognised by the shaft-streak on the inner greater coverts. 1Y Tail feathers are on average narrower and more pointed than in adults.

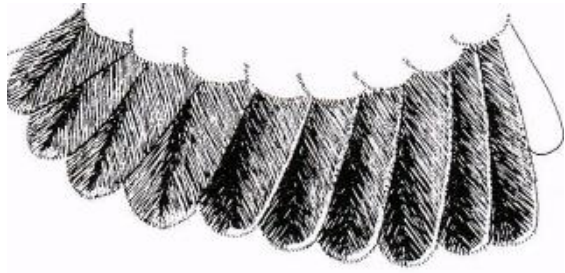
Adults: No moult limit in the greater coverts. All greater coverts with more or less grey ends merging into the brown ground-colour. Tail feathers broader and more rounded.

Ageing in winter and spring: There is no pre-breeding moult, so the same autumn ageing criteria remain valid. However, wear into spring can result in the disappearance of the 1Y light tips to the greater coverts, particularly the inner ones. In such cases any moult limit can only be determined from the different ground-colour, and sometimes from a step-change in length.

Sex difference: After the post-juvenile moult it is possible to sex most individuals. The best character is the crown.

Males: Crown feathers with broad black centres. A few males have narrow black centres like females. Additionally helpful (though with considerable overlap with females): back feathers darker brown, often with black centres; tail darker.

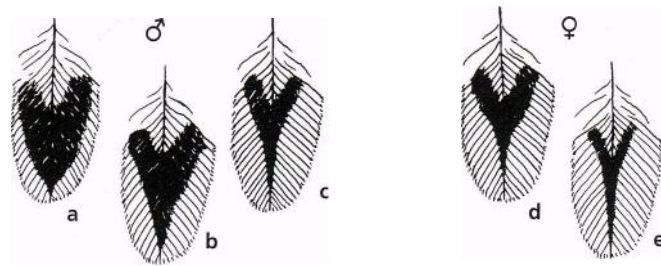
Females: Crown feathers with narrow, pointed black centres (though sometimes similar to those of males). Additionally helpful: back feathers lighter brown, with fewer dark centres; tail on average lighter.



Upper: 1Y Fieldfare greater coverts showing a moult limit (right wing). GCs 1-6 are unmoulted, with light tips, pale outer fringes and light-brown outer webs (individually variable). GCs 7-10 are moulted, with grey ends and more intense brown outer webs



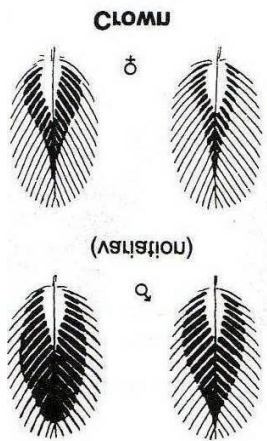
Lower: GCs 7-10 of a 1Y Fieldfare, with individually variable light shaft-streaks (right wing).



Fieldfare crown-feathers:

Male – **a** and **c** extreme cases; **b** a typical example

Female – **d** an extreme case; **e** a typical example



Fieldfare crown-feathers from Svensson – inverted, female at top