

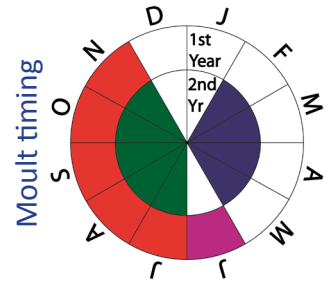
Golden-crowned Sparrow

Zonotrichia atricapilla

Account #: 9858



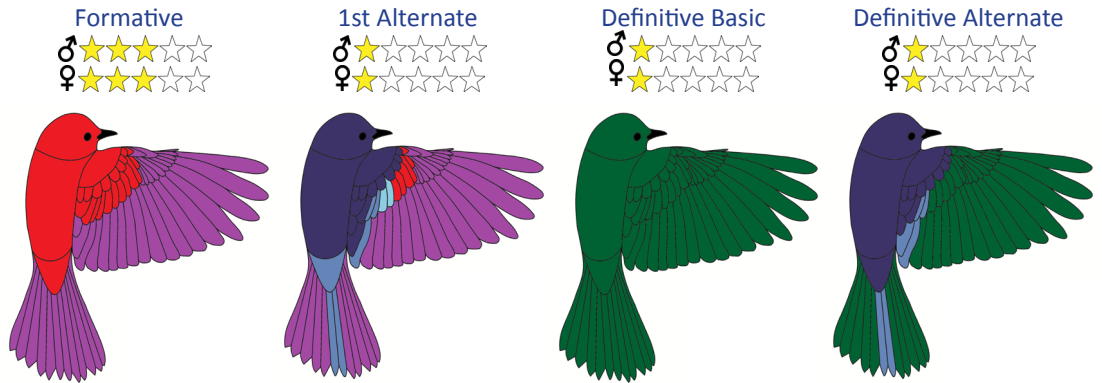
Species code: GCSP
 Band size: 1B-1A
 Skull: 15 Nov
 Pyle: p591
 Sibley: p494



Moult



95% 50% 5%
 likelihood moulted
 9 visible primaries
 9 secondaries
 12 tail feathers



Differences between plumage generations are subtle. Prebasic moults can be prolonged and suspended over the winter.

Ageing

♀ ★★☆☆☆☆

♂ ★★☆☆☆☆

Few reliable ageing techniques known. Use skull when possible. Tail shape appears of limited use.

Crown

Formative: Lateral crown stripe with little to no black

Basic/Alternate: Lateral crown stripe at least some black.

Considerable overlap occurs

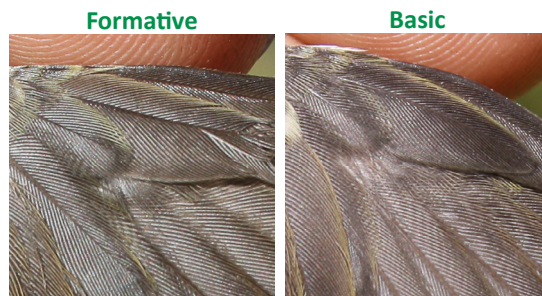


Only useful before 1st prealternate moult

Alula moult limit

Colour along edge of lesser alula (A2) is less distinct in juvenile than basic generation feather.

Vane and rachi of formative alula covert (A1) is darker than adjacent lesser alula (A2). **The reliability of this character is untested.**



Sexing

Juvenile ☆☆☆☆☆

Formative ☆☆☆☆☆

Basic ☆☆☆☆☆

No plumage techniques known. Use cloacal protuberance and brood patch during breeding season.

