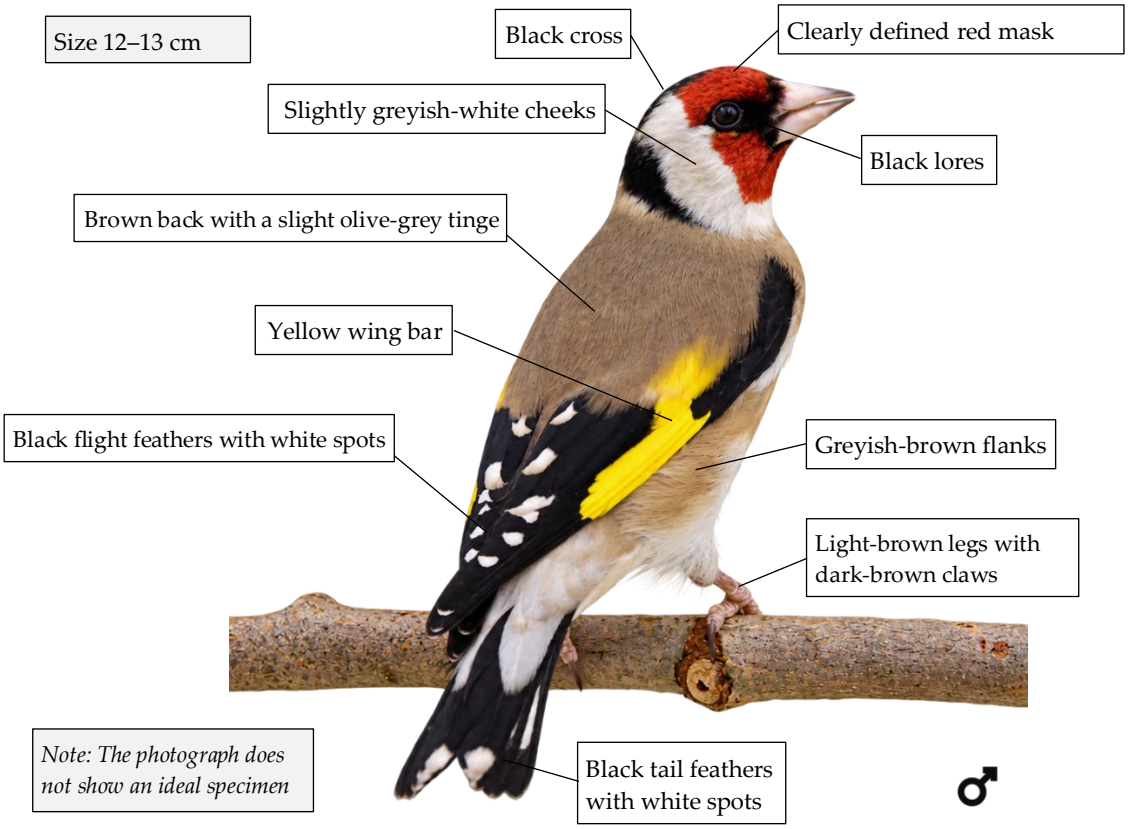
ORNISINJ

Carduelis carduelis balcanica
STANDARD

The standard for *Carduelis carduelis balcanica* is the result of discussions with a number of ornithologists, breeders and ornithological judges, and is based primarily on the original scientific description of the subspecies. This standard arose from the need for standardised breeding of *C. c. balcanica*, prompted by the large number and diversity of 'small' goldfinches exhibited at the international OrniSinj exhibition. Guided by the desire to preserve biodiversity, we hope that this standard will provide a sound foundation for future selective breeding.

Carduelis c. balcanica is similar in size to the nominate subspecies *Carduelis carduelis carduelis* (L.). Its principal difference from the nominate subspecies is the duller, greyer coloration of all the 'brown' parts of the body. The brown back lacks the reddish tone characteristic of the nominate form and is instead slightly olive-grey. On the underside, *Carduelis c.* ***balcanica*** differs in having larger patches on the breast, more extensive coloration of the flanks and a more pronounced ring around the crop. Here, too, the brown is not reddish-cinnamon as in *Carduelis c. carduelis*, but much darker and greyer—except for the collar below the neck, which is just as light and reddish-brown as in the nominate form. Furthermore, the subspecies *balcanica* is distinguished by the clean appearance of its white areas, which are slightly greyish-white in males, while females have somewhat less clean greyish-white areas.



SIZE: 12–13 cm.
SHAPE: Compact and slender, yet somewhat stocky.
POSTURE: Upright and lively.

BILL: Whitish-grey to muted pink (ivory-coloured), with a fairly long, dark tip. Its length does not detract from the bird's overall shape.

EYES: Dark brown.

HEAD: In males, the lores and bristles (at the base of the bill) are black, and the mask is carmine-red, with less rounded contours, extending behind the eye. In females, the mask reaches only halfway across the eye, is more rounded, and the lores and bristles are greyish-brown. The cross-shaped marking, in the form of an inverted T on the crown, is a broad, deep-black band that extends laterally and frames the greyish-white cheeks. In females, a less pronounced black colour of the head's cross-shaped marking is tolerated.

NECK: White, with a light-brown band (narrow stripe) on the back of the neck (nape).

BACK: Brown with a slight olive-grey tinge (chestnut-brown with a reddish tinge, as in the nominate subspecies, is not tolerated).

THROAT: The red mask and the white throat are well defined and clearly demarcated.

BREAST: Dull greyish-brown with a smaller white, mushroom-shaped breast patch. A pronounced, uninterrupted and clearly defined collar, slightly lighter brown (with a reddish tinge as in the nominate subspecies).

FLANKS: Brown, distinct and well defined, extending to the rump. A suggestion of greyish-brown streaks on the flanks is preferred.

BELLY: White.

WINGS: The primary flight feathers are black; the outer webs of the central flight feathers are yellow, while the outermost feather has no yellow coloration. The tips of the wing feathers bear greyish-white terminal spots; brownish-white is tolerated in females. In males, the shoulder coverts are black, while in females they are blackish-brown with a hint of olive-green.

TAIL: The feathers are black; the two outermost feathers have an elongated white spot on the inner web. The tips of the tail feathers bear a white terminal spot; the upper tail coverts are black with a yellowish terminal fringe, while the undertail coverts are pale with a beige terminal fringe.

LEGS: Light brown.

CLAWS: Dark brown.

TYPICAL FAULTS:

Incorrect length.
Incorrect shape (excessively spindle-shaped or excessively stocky; resembling the subspecies *frigoris*).
A shade of brown lacking a greyish tone (chestnut-brown with a reddish tinge).
Markedly impure white areas.
Flanks absent or overly pronounced.
Mask not well defined or clearly demarcated.
Mushroom-shaped breast patch not clearly visible.
Breast and flanks incorrectly shaded
(the neck collar is not lighter than the remainder of the mushroom-shaped breast patch; black spots on the breast).
Irregular markings on the wings or tail.
Incorrect colour of the nape band (intrusion of yellow to red feathers).

TECHNICAL NOTE:

When judging, particular attention should be paid to:

The length of the bird (12–13 cm). Specimens whose size (length and shape) clearly indicates that they belong to other subspecies (*frigoris*, *parva* or *tschusii*) must be declassified.

The greyish-brown coloration of the 'brown' areas (back, breast and flanks).

The presence of cleaner white coloration (cheeks, mushroom-shaped breast patch and belly), especially in males.

JUDGING SHEET – *Carduelis carduelis balcanica*

Criterion	Description	Ideal	Start	Maximum
Design	Design	30	27	29
1. Breast and flank design	Markings of the breast patch and flanks	11	10	11
2. Head design	Design of the mask and cross	11	10	11
3. Wing and tail markings	Distribution and shape of the yellow wing bar and white markings (spots) on wings and tail	8	7	7
Colour	Colour	30	27	29
4. Head colour	Colour of the mask, cross, cheeks, lores and nape	10	9	10
5. Back, breast and flank colour	Brown coloration of the back, flanks and breast, including the white breast patch and belly	10	9	10
6. Wing and tail colour	Colour of the wings, yellow wing bars and white markings (spots) on wings and tail	8	7	7
7. Leg, claw and bill colour	Colour of the legs, claws and bill	2	2	2
Format and size	Format and size	20	18	19
8. Length (12–13 cm)	Length of the bird (12–13 cm)	12	10	11
9. Shape	Overall shape and proportions of the bird in relation to bill size	8	8	8
Plumage	Plumage	10	9	10
10. Plumage	Plumage	10	9	10
Attitude, maintien & condition	Attitude, maintien & condition	10	9	10
11. Attitude, maintien & condition	Attitude, maintien & condition	10	9	10
	Total:	**100**	**90**	**95 ***

* The maximum total score (95) is not the sum of the maximum scores for the individual criteria.

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Prepared for OrniSinj by:
Davor Skejić
OMJ/COM Group D
ZOSH/HOS Groups D, G and H