

Post-juvenile moult in a Mediterranean population of Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Fulvio Fraticelli & Marco Gustin

Stazione Romana per l'Osservazione e la Protezione degli Uccelli; c/o Oasi Naturale WWF "Bosco di Palo"

Via Palo Laziale 2 - 00055 Ladispoli (ROMA)

In August and September 1984, 1985 and 1986 we trapped 150 Goldfinches *Carduelis carduelis* in the ringing station of Palo Laziale (Ladispoli, 40 km North of Rome, 41° 56'N-12° 05'E), 82% of which were first year birds (EURING code 3). Only two of the birds (1.6%) were undergoing a complete post-juvenile moult. One individual, ringed on 30 August 1986, had 19 and 16 moult scores for the primaries on the right and left wings respectively; the secondaries were completely moulted, the tertials were apparently to be moulted and the tail was still old. In a second individual, ringed on 27th September 1986, we found a primary moult score of 39 for both wings, the secondaries were about to be moulted (except for the first two, score 5 and 4 respectively), while the tertials had almost completed their moult (scores 4, 5 and 5) and the tail was old. According to Ginn & Melville (1983), the percentage of Goldfinches with a complete juvenile moult is 3-4% in England, 20-30% in Portugal, and almost 100% in Spain, Sicily and Greece. Our study population stands apart from others further South in that they have a percentage of individuals with a complete post-juvenile moult that is lower than that found in England.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. We are grateful to S. Frugis and F. Spina for critical revision of manuscript.

RIASSUNTO - Muta post-giovanile in una popolazione mediterranea di Cardellino *Carduelis carduelis*

Su 150 Cardellini inanellati in agosto e settembre 1984, 1985 e 1986 nella stazione di inanellamento di Palo Laziale l'82% erano giovani nel primo anno di vita. Tra questi solo l'1,6% presentava una muta completa. Ciò è in contrasto con quanto conosciuto sulle strategie di muta delle popolazioni meridionali di questa specie.

OPERE CITATE

Ginn, H.B. & Melville, D.S. 1983. Molt in Birds. Guide 19. British Trust Ornithology, Tring.

Ricevuto 26 novembre 1986