



British Bird Council

HARDBILL SHOW STANDARDS

Brambling

Size: As large as possible.

Type:

Full head well cushioned at front, well filled bold fronted body of strong upstanding appearance.

Colour & markings:

Well spangled; on head, down back, and flanks, rich even rust brown chest apron extending well down breast and into flank work. All flank markings to be equal both sides.

Hen: Lighter shade of brown, flank work to be extensive and as distinct as possible.

Faults:

Poor or uneven spangling, black headed appearance, poor run of colour or break in apron, lightness at throat or around eyes, (spectacles), poorly defined hood or black in throat.

Notes:

Tendency for cocks to be larger than hens, and buffs of less intensive colour, CYB Birds will usually show some lightness around the eyes.

Points:

Size	10
Type	25
Colour & markings	35
Feather quality & condition	15
Steadiness & presentation	15
Total	100

Bullfinch

Size: As large as possible. (Within the natural limits of the species)

Type:

Broad, full well rounded head with good rise set on full neck and well-rounded short thickset body of strong upstanding appearance.

Colour & markings:

Cocks: to have broad clean cut glossy black cap extending to back of skull. Well defined clean cut facial bib. Light even slate blue back. Glossy black wings and tail with well-defined slate wing bars. Bright rich even crimson colour throughout body extending well down through legs. Clear white vent and rump.

Hens: Back is suffused rich brown with rich even chocolate body colour.

Faults:

Flat head, narrow cap, long bodied, pale or impure colour, wing bars too expansive and light in colour, eye defects, deformities, poor presentation, insufficiently trained.

Notes:

Yellow and buffs very evident. Buffs though of less intensive colour shall be given due consideration.

Points:

Size	10
Type	25
Colour & markings	35
Feather quality & condition	15
Steadiness & presentation	15
Total	100

Chaffinch

Size: As large as possible.

Type:

Full head well cushioned at front, well filled bold fronted body of strong upstanding appearance

Colour & markings:

Cock: head slate blue with greenish brown overlay, chestnut back, olive green rump, body rich even plum colour carried well down between the legs, displaying good white wing markings.

Hen: Warm olive brown above, rich olive-grey- brown below with pinkish hue.

Faults:

Uneven poor run of colour, lightness at throat, eye defects, deformities, poor presentation, insufficiently trained.
Fault in hen: White expanse in chest and throat.

Notes: Tendency for cocks to be larger than hens, buffs of less intensive colour.

Points:

Size	10
Type	25
Colour & markings	35
Feather quality & condition	15
Steadiness & presentation	15
Total	100

Crossbill

Size: As large as possible, (Relative to species)

Type: Short body, very thick set through-out, bold wide head and neck.

Colour & markings:

Even, bright colour. The plumage to be of the highest possible standard. There are three distinct phases in the colour cycle. Juvenile: Grey - green with heavy lacings. Second season cocks: Copper, red when colour fed. Older mature cocks: Yellow, sometimes with copper streaks.

Hens similar to above, but of rich olive-yellow- green hue devoid of smokiness

Faults: Smokiness obscuring the ground colour, Deformities, Twirling.

Points:

Size	10
Type	25
Colour & markings	35
Feather quality & condition	15
Steadiness & presentation	15
Total	100

Greenfinch

Size: As large as possible.

Type:

Broad well rounded head with good rise and well cushioned at front, set on full neck with nicely rounded really short thick set body of strong appearance. Set well across the perch.

Colour & markings:

Cocks; to be a rich bright grass green throughout body. Wings and tail black with slight grey outer webbing, to show rich yellow markings.

Hens: To be of rich brownish and olive hues. Yellow in wings and tail not so extensive.

Faults: Colour impurities such as smokiness or too much grey suffusion, giving a dark appearance, eye defects, deformities, pear shaped, overweight on chest and vent area causing bad posture, poor presentation, insufficiently trained.

Notes: Where yellow and buff exhibits are of equal merit, yellow to take precedence. However where a buff of good rich colour is of a superior type, buff must then take precedence.

Points:

Size	15
Type	25
Colour & markings	30
Feather quality & condition	15
Steadiness & presentation	15
Total	100

Goldfinch

Size: As large as possible. (Within the natural limit of the species)

Type:

Nicely rounded full head with well filled cone shaped body of bold and upstanding appearance.

Colour & markings:

Expansive postage stamp blaze of bright rich vermillion red extending well behind eyes into forehead, with as large as possible drop well down the front, with clean cut razor edge. Brown cheek markings, broad solid black well defined head markings, rich brown tannings on breast and flanks extending well down, contrasting well on whitish body and rich brown back, wings black with even well-defined whitish buttons, and bright golden yellow wing flash. Tail black with well-defined whitish buttons and moons.

Hens: Similar but with less extensive blaze, colour not so bright or clean cut. Head often grizzled or flecked with brown.

Faults:

Long bodied birds, rounded blaze. Too much black in blaze particularly around base of mandible and eyes, showing black guttural lines, or other colour impurities. Flecking or grizzling in head or white spreading into nape. Large white expanse on neck and chest area. Eye defects, deformities, poor presentation, insufficiently trained.

Notes:

Tendency for hens to be smaller than cocks. Hens and also current year cocks may show brown flecking or grizzling on head.

Points:

Size	10
Type	25
Colour & markings	45
Feather quality & condition	10
Steadiness & presentation	10
Total	100

Hawfinch

Size: As large as possible

Type:

Short body, very thick set at shoulders and through body. Broad bold head, with good rise and plenty of back skull. Well defined clean- cut large thumb nail shaped bib,

Colour & markings:

Cap of cinnamon and chestnut brown, dense in centre. Shaded off all around with bluish grey. Body colour rich brown with nut-brown tannings on chest well into the centre and down flanks. Well defined, steel blue glossy wing markings, glossed with purple, well defined white wing markings, and edging to tail.

Faults: Flat heads, necky, long thin body, narrow head.

Notes: Hens similar to above but not so rich in colouring

Points:

Size	10
Type	25
Colour & markings	35
Feather quality & condition	15
Steadiness & presentation	15
Total	100

Linnet

Size: As large as possible

Type: Nicely rounded full head, well filled cone shaped body of strong bold appearance.

Colour & markings:

Rich nutty brown throughout, distinct throat markings, well defined even tickings giving well filled chest and carried well down flanks. Well defined whites in wings and tail.

Hen: Darker brown with plentiful heavy working on head, chest and flanks. Less distinct whites in wings and tail.

Faults: Poor colour, (greyish or pale birds) lack of workings giving open chest effect, eye defects, deformities, poor presentation, insufficiently trained.

Notes: Buffs of less intensive colour, allowance should be made for natural movement; even well trained Linnets have a tendency for more movement than many other species.

Points:

Size	10
Type	25
Colour & markings	30
Feather quality & condition	15
Steadiness & presentation	20
Total	100

Common Redpoll

Size: As large as possible. (Within the natural limits of the species)

Type:

Nicely rounded full head of good width on short cobby thickset body, set well across perch.

Colour & markings:

Warm, rich nutty brown throughout with plentiful well defined flank workings, reasonably well defined bib and crimson poll. Devoid of too large a white split on chest. When colour fed to show rich pink flushes on breast and rump.

Hens: More profuse working carried well into chest, lack pink flush on chest.

Faults: colour impurities any tendency towards black, greyish brown or mealy colour, lack of working, eye defects deformities, poor presentation, insufficiently trained.

Notes: Buffs are of less intensive colour, current year birds difficult to sex and carry profuse working and well defined dark bib. Lack pink flush on breast and rump.

Points:

Size	10
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Type	25
Colour & markings	35
Feather quality & condition	15
Steadiness & presentation	15
Total	100

Mealy Redpoll

Size: As large as possible.

Type: Full head of good width on short thickset body, set well across perch.

Colour & markings:

According to variety, rich silvery grey brown with plentiful heavy well defined flank workings. Reasonably well defined bib and crimson poll. When colour fed to show rich pink flush on breast and rump.

Hens: More profuse working carried well into chest. Lack pink flush on chest.

Rostrata – Darker brown with dark heavy working

Hornemanni – Light – silvery with less distinct working, has conspicuous wing bars and white rump.

Faults: Poor colour, lack of working, eye defects, deformities, poor presentation, insufficiently trained.

Notes:

Current year birds difficult to sex and carry profuse working and well defined dark bib. Also lack pink flush on breast and rump.

Points:

Size	10
Type	25
Colour & markings	35
Feather quality & condition	15
Steadiness & presentation	15
Total	100

Reed Bunting

Size: As large as possible.

Type: Nicely rounded full head, well filled cone shaped body of strong bold appearance.

Colour & markings:

Head black flecked brown, well extended black beard, distinct white collar, dark rufous brown. upper parts streaked black. Grey-white below with well-defined flank working.

Hens: Rich rufous brown with darker streaking well defined moustache and flank working.

Faults: Eye defects, deformities, poor presentation, insufficiently trained.

Notes: Tendency for cocks to be larger than hens. Buffs of less intensive colour.

Points:

Size	10
Type	25
Colour & markings	35
Feather quality & condition	15
Steadiness & presentation	15
Total	100

Siskin

Size: As large as possible.

Type: Nicely rounded full head, cobby body.

Colour & markings:

Cock: to be rich even colour throughout, yellow green upper parts, yellow breast, well defined faintly laced black cap, and reasonably well defined bib. Distinct lacing (striations) in the back and down flanks, well defined yellow in wings and tail.

Hen: Greyish and yellow, lack black cap and bib, must have profuse lacings on head back and flanks and carried well into chest.

Faults:

Smokiness poor or impure colour, erratic lacing in cocks, lack of lacing in hens, eye defects, deformities, poor presentation, insufficiently trained.

Notes:

Yellow and buffs are very evident, buffs though of less intensive colour must excel in type and lacing.

Points:

Size	10
Type	25
Colour & markings	35
Feather quality & condition	15
Steadiness & presentation	15
Total	100

Twite

Size: As large as possible.

Type: Nicely rounded full head, cobby body.

Colour & markings:

Rich dark nut brown throughout, distinctly lined on head and back, plentiful working on chest and flanks, well defined whites in wings.

Faults:

Poor colour, (pale or greyish birds). lack of working. Eye defects, deformities, poor presentation, insufficiently trained.

Notes: Sexes similar, cocks plum colour in rump. Buffs of less intensive colour.

Points:

Size	10
Type	25
Colour & markings	35
Feather quality & condition	15
Steadiness & presentation	15
Total	100

Yellow Bunting

Size: As large as possible.

Type:

Nicely rounded full head, well filled body of good length and strong bold appearance.

Colour & markings:

Rich deep yellow ground colour with rich chestnut overlay and distinct working, darker brown well defined cheek mark and well filled in expansive chestnut apron. Well defined V-marking on head.

Hens: Darker with profuse working well filled in on head.

Faults:

Deformities. Poor or uneven ground colour, eye defects, poor presentation, insufficiently trained.

Notes:

All cocks will carry some flecking within the V- head marking, but should be as clear as possible. Tendency for cocks to be larger than hens, buffs of less intensive colour. Hens to be devoid of cock markings, i.e. yellow patches in head and neck

Points:

Size	10
Type	25
Colour & markings	35
Feather quality & condition	15
Steadiness & presentation	15
Total	100

