

The Chaffinch

The Chaffinch is a member of the Finch Family. It is the most common finch in Ireland.



Male Chaffinch

Scientific name: *Fringilla coelebs*

Males: The male Finch has a pinkish orange/brown breast, face and underside. This can become a darker shade during the winter. The back of its neck and top of its head are a blue/grey colour. Just like the female the male has black wings with large white patches.

Female: The female is much greyer. It is a dull grey colour on top and paler on its underside. Just like the male the female has black wings with large white patches.

Song: The Chaffinch has a loud song which starts high and then descends.

Length: Approximately 15cm

Diet: Mainly seeds, split grain and beechnuts but it will also eat spiders. It feeds its young insects. It likes to visit bird tables and feeders.

Breeding: The Chaffinch is found throughout Ireland, mainly in or near woodland, but also in parks and gardens. It makes a nest of moss and dried grass in a fork near the end of a branch. It lays between 5 and 7 eggs. The eggs are a pale blue with red blotches and are laid in May and June. It is estimated that there are between 1 and 2.5 million Chaffinches in Ireland.



Female Chaffinch

Interesting Fact: The Chaffinch also has a special song it sings called the Rain Call which it sings just before it starts to rain. If you hear it be sure to take an umbrella with you.