

Common Name/*Scientific name*: **Red-browed Finch / *Neochmia temporalis***

Often seen foraging for grass seeds on the ground, the Red-browed Finch usually occurs in flocks of up to 10 birds and sometimes more. It often forages with other seed-eating birds, especially other finches and parrots, such as Red-rumped Parrots. Red-browed Finches also often associate with small insectivorous species, especially family groups of Superb Fairy-wrens, as well as Yellow-rumped Thornbills. The association with the fairy-wrens is especially interesting, as the simple song of the Red-browed Finch sometimes sounds superficially similar to the contact call of the Superb Fairy-wren. Generally, the call of a Red-browed Finch is hard to distinguish from many other birds.



**Description:** The Red-browed Finch is most easily recognised by its bright red eyebrow, rump and beak, on an otherwise green and grey bird. Upperparts are olive green with grey underneath. Both sexes are similar in appearance. Often observed in small flocks, which feed on the grass. They will fly into dense undergrowth when disturbed. Red-browed Finches are also called Red-browed Firetails.

**Where seen in the gardens:** The Red-browed Finch is found in grassy areas interspersed with dense understorey vegetation, often along creek lines in coastal eastern Australia. In the gardens they may be seen around the edges of the lawn areas, as well as most bushland forest areas (but probably not the dense riparian vegetation along the perennial creeks).

**Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens:** The Red-browed Finch feeds on seeds and insects on the ground, and sometimes perches on seeding grass heads.

**Nesting:** The nest of the Red-browed Finch is large and domed, with a side tunnel for an entrance. It is a rough construction of twigs and grass stems built in a dense shrub between 1 and 2 metres from the ground. Both parents share nest-building, incubation of the eggs and feeding of the young when they hatch.

**Similar Species in the gardens:** The Silvereye, a small bird with a conspicuous ring of white feathers around the eye, but not the bright red above the eye and on the rump.