

Bird of the fortnight

Local birds in focus brought to you by Karumba Progress Association

Star Finch (Neochmia ruficauda)



Photos by Glenn Newton



Description

Small, compact finch with rounded head and slender bill.

Moderately long tail with rounded tip. Plain olive brown with a pale belly. It has a red face and bill and is spotted white on the face, breast and flanks. The tail is reddish brown dotted white on the upper tail coverts.

Population estimate

100,000-499,999

our Subspecies *clarescens* has a stable population of c.5,000 individuals located here through to Cape York Peninsula

Population trend overall

decreasing

Size

10 - 12 cm

Environment

grassland near water

Food

insects and seeds

Breeding.

Nesting globe of grass lined with feathers, 3-7 eggs



In our area quite a healthy population can be found usually in a flock near water. The airport is always good ,opposite Karumba Point Tourist Park, the pond opposite the rubbish tip, opposite the clinic or the grass behind Shellie's.

Star finches are on the International red list as Near Threatened