



NUNGURNER LANDCARE JUNE SIGHTING
featuring the
Red-Browed Finch



If you've spotted a small bird with red eyebrows around Nungurner it's sure to be the Red-Browed Finch. Sometimes called Red-Browed Firetails but not of the same genus they are easy to identify due to their distinctive scarlet eye stripes. Only 10-12cm long, their upperparts are olive green, underparts grey and their rump is bright red. The adults have red bills but the juveniles' are black and they also lack the red eyebrow.



Due to its wide habitat tolerance along the entire east coast of Australia and varied diet, which includes seeds, herbs, fruits and insects this is one of our most familiar grass-finches.

It is highly sociable, and is usually seen in small flocks of 10 to 20 birds foraging for food. They prefer forests clearings, coastal shrubbery and gardens, seldom far from water. If disturbed, the flock departs with a slightly undulating flight and re-congregates near-by.

They build a bulky, flask shaped nest of interwoven grasses with a side entrance tunnel leading to a chamber. In the Nungurner area the most common breeding months are September and November. Both parents share nest building, incubation of the eggs, and feed the young together. Juveniles are fully independent within 28 days.

You may hear their short, piping, high-pitched cheeps, a barely audible 'tsee' and observers are sure to be captivated by the vivid colours and cheerful disposition of this lively local bird.



**The Red-Browed Finch
(*Neochmia Temporalis*)**