

LICENCING REQUIREMENTS FOR FINCH KEEPING in WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Darren Park, June 2021

This article summarises the licencing requirements with respect to the keeping of finches by private aviculturists in Western Australia (WA) as at June 2021. Note that while the licences discussed below also cover the keeping of other bird species, only finches are considered here.

The keeping of native Australian finches in WA is managed within the WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). The keeping of introduced (exotic) finches is separately regulated by the WA Department of Primary industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) but licencing is managed within DBCA on behalf of DPIRD. For more detail and up to date information, refer to the departments website: www.dbca.wa.gov.au.

Most finches kept by private aviculturists in WA are classified for licencing purposes into one of the following five groups described below. To check which group your finch is in, refer to the Finch Category Tables below. For a complete list of all bird species, refer to the downloadable document *Pet keeping and dealing list.pdf* for native (Australian) birds and *Restricted bird permit application.pdf* for introduced (exotic) birds.

GROUP 1: Native (Australian) Finches Category A (species listed in Table 1 below)

Exempt, no licence required.
No annual return required.

GROUP 2: Native (Australian) Finches Category B (species listed in Table 2 below)

Fauna Possessing (Pet Keepers) Licence (Standard) required.
To apply for this licence, use the downloadable form *Fauna possessing (pet keeper's) licence.pdf*.
This licence is issued for a term of 1 or 3 years. A return listing the numbers of Category B species on hand is due at the end of the licence term. Use the downloadable form *Category B Bird Keeping Return.pdf*.

GROUP 3: Native (Australian) Finches Category C (species listed in Table 3 below)

Fauna Possessing (Pet Keepers) Licence (Advanced) required. This licence enables the holder to keep Category B and Category C finches.

To apply for this licence, use the downloadable form *Fauna possessing (pet keeper's) licence.pdf*.
This licence is issued for a term of 1 or 3 years. A return listing the numbers of Category B species on hand is due at the end of the licence term. Use the downloadable form *Category B Bird Keeping Return.pdf*.

A return is required *EVERY* year regardless of the licence term for Category C finches *ONLY*.

For each Category C species the following information is required on the return:

- date of acquisition or disposal.
- method of acquisition or disposal (eg purchased, sold, bred, sold, escaped, died).
- licence number of the supplier or recipient in the case of purchases and sales.

Use the downloadable form *Annual Pet Keeping Return.pdf*.

GROUP 4: Exempt Introduced (Exotic) Finches (species listed in Table 4 below)

No licence required.
No annual return required.

GROUP 5: Restricted Introduced (Exotic) Finches (species listed in Table 5 below)

Restricted Bird Permit required.

To apply for this licence, use the downloadable form *Restricted bird permit application.pdf*.
This licence is issued for a term of 1 or 3 years. A return listing the numbers of Restricted Species on hand is due at the end of the licence term. These may be listed on the licence application form.

FINCH CATEGORY TABLES

Native (Australian) finches are classified into three categories (Category A, listed in Table 1, Category B, listed in Table 2 or Category C, listed in Table 3).

Introduced (Exotic) finches are classified into two categories (Exempt, listed in Table 4 or Restricted, listed in Table 5).

Table 1: Category A Native Species – Exempt – No licence required

Common Name	Scientific Name
Chestnut breasted mannikin	<i>Lonchura castaneothorax</i>
Double barred finch	<i>Stizoptera bichenovii</i> (<i>Taeniopygia bichenovii</i>)
Long tailed finch	<i>Poephila auticauda</i>
Masked finch	<i>Poephila personata</i>
Painted finch	<i>Emblema pictum</i>
Pictorella mannikin	<i>Heteromunia pectoralis</i>
Star finch (Western)	<i>Neochmia ruficauda subclarescens</i>
Zebra finch	<i>Taeniopygia guttata</i>

Table 2: Category B Native Species – Fauna Possessing (Pet Keepers) Standard Licence required

Common Name	Scientific Name
Black-throated finch (northern, black rumped)	<i>Poephila cincta atropygialis</i>
Blue-faced parrot-finch	<i>Erythrura trichroa</i>
Crimson finch (black bellied)	<i>Neochmia phaeton phaeton</i>
Diamond firetail	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>
Gouldian finch	<i>Erythrura gouldiae</i>
Plum-headed finch	<i>Neochmia modesta</i>
Red-browed finch	<i>Neochmia temporalis</i>
Yellow-rumped mannikin	<i>Lonchura flaviprymna</i>

Table 3: Category C Native Species – Fauna Possessing (Pet Keepers) Advanced Licence required

Common Name	Scientific Name
Black-throated finch (southern, white-rumped)	<i>Poephila cincta cincta</i>
Crimson finch (white-bellied)	<i>Neochmia phaeton evangelinae</i>

Table 4: Exempt Introduced Species – No licence required

Common Name	Scientific Name
Canary, common	<i>Serinus canaria</i>
Cardinal, Red-crested	<i>Paroaria coronata</i>
Firefinch, Red-billed, African fire	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
Goldfinch; European	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Grassquit, Blue-black; Jacarini Finch	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>
Grassquit, Cuban; Cuban Finch	<i>Tiaris canora</i>
Parrotfinch, Red-throated; Red-faced Parrotfinch	<i>Erythrura psittacea</i>
Pytilia, Crimson-winged; Aurora Finch	<i>Pytilia phoenicoptera</i>
Pytilia, Green-winged; Melba Finch	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Waxbill, Lavender; Lavender Finch	<i>Estrilda caerulescens</i>
Waxbill, Zebra; Golden-breasted Waxbill; Orange-breasted Waxbill	<i>Amandava subflava</i>

Table 5: Restricted Introduced Species – Restricted Bird Permit required

Common Name	Scientific Name
Canary, Yellow-fronted; Green Singing Finch	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Cordon-bleu, Blue-breasted; Blue-breasted Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>
Cordon-bleu, Blue-capped; Blue-headed Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus cyanocephalus</i>
Cordon-bleu, Red-cheeked	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>
Fody, Madagascar Red; Madagascar Weaver	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i> (max. 10)
Greenfinch, Oriental	<i>Carduelis sinica</i>
Greenfinch; European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
Grenadier, Purple	<i>Uraeginthus ianthinogaster</i> (south of 26° parallel of latitude only)
Mannikin, Nutmeg; Spicefinch; Spotted Munia; Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
Munia, Black-headed; Black-headed Nun	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>
Munia, Green; Green Strawberry Finch, Green Avadavat	<i>Amandava formosa</i> (max. 20)
Munia, Red; Red Strawberry Finch; Red or Indian Avadavat; Tiger Finch; Red Waxbill	<i>Amandava amandava</i>
Munia, White-headed	<i>Lonchura maja</i> (max. 20)
Munia, White-rumped; Bengalese Mannikin	<i>Lonchura striata</i> (max. 20)
Parrotfinch, Bamboo; Tawny-breasted Parrotfinch	<i>Erythrura hyperythra</i>
Parrotfinch, Red-headed	<i>Erythrura cyaneovirens</i>
Parrotfinch, Tri-coloured; Three-coloured Parrotfinch; Tanimbar Parrotfinch	<i>Erythrura tricolor</i>
Pytilia, Yellow-winged	<i>Pytilia hypogrammica</i>
Red Bishop, Northern; Orange Bishop	<i>Euplectes francisanus</i>
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>
Silverbill, Indian; White-throated Munia; Common Silverbill	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>
Siskin, European; Spruce Siskin; Eurasian Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i> (max. 30)
Siskin, Hooded; Yellow Siskin; Black-hooded Yellow Siskin	<i>Carduelis magellanica</i>
Siskin, Red; Venezuelan Siskin; Black-hooded Red Siskin	<i>Carduelis cucullate</i> (max. 30)
Sparrow, Java; Paddy Finch	<i>Padda oryzivora</i> (south of 26° parallel of latitude only)
Sparrow, Paradise; Aberdeen Finch; Red-headed Amadina	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i> (max. 20)
Twinspot, Dybowski's	<i>Euschistospiza dybowskii</i>
Twinspot, Peters's	<i>Hypargos niveoguttatus</i>
Waxbill, Black-rumped; Red-eared Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>
Waxbill, Common; St Helena Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i> (max. 20)
Waxbill, Orange-cheeked	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i> (max. 30)
Waxbill, Violet-eared	<i>Uraeginthus granatinus</i> (south of 26° parallel of latitude only)
Weaver, Cut-throat; Cut-throat Finch; Ribbon Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i> (max. 30)
Weaver; Grenadier; Red Bishop; Red Bishop, Southern	<i>Euplectes orix</i> (max. 10)
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>