

Estrilda astrild

System: Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Estrildidae

Common name avadavat (English, Saint Helena), red-cheeked waxbill (English), waxbill (English), common waxbill (English)

Synonym

Similar species

Summary The common waxbill, *Estrilda astrild* is native to tropical and southern Africa, but has been introduced to many island nations where it has shown mixed success in establishment. It feeds mainly on grass seeds and is commonly found in open long grass plains and close to human habitation. *E. astrild* shows a high reproductive rate which is attributed to its ability to naturalize easily.



[view this species on IUCN Red List](#)

Species Description

Estrilda astrild tends to move in small flocks (Hughes *et al*, 1994) and concentrates around human habitation and good vegetation cover. The main foodstuff for *E. astrild* is mainly grass seeds (Lewis, 2008). The large success of *E. astrild*'s success in naturalisation in its introduced range is due to its high reproductive rate and being able to breed all year round in certain regions (Reino & Silva, 1998). *E. astrild* collects carnivore scat and places it around its nests, thus trying to camouflage them from predators (Schuetz, 2004).

Habitat Description

Estrilda astrild inhabits open country with long grass, reed stands near water, cultivated areas, forest edges and in the vicinity of human habitations (Goodwin 1982; as seen in Reino & Silva, 1998).

Nutrition

Estrilda astrild feeds mainly on grass seeds (Lewis, 2008).

Principal source:

Compiler: IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) with support from the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP) project XOT603, a joint project with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment

Review:

Publication date: 2010-06-08

ALIEN RANGE

[1] BERMUDA

[1] CAPE VERDE

[1] BRAZIL

[1] COMOROS

[1] FIJI	[2] FRENCH POLYNESIA
[1] MADAGASCAR	[2] MAURITIUS
[1] NEW CALEDONIA	[1] PORTUGAL
[1] PUERTO RICO	[1] REUNION
[2] SAINT HELENA	[2] SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE
[2] SEYCHELLES	[2] SPAIN
[1] TAIWAN	[2] UNITED STATES
[1] URUGUAY	[1] VANUATU

Red List assessed species 2: LC = 2;

[Emberiza schoeniclus](#) LC

[Serinus serinus](#) LC

BIBLIOGRAPHY

31 references found for *Estrilda astrild*

Management information

[IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group \(ISSG\), 2010. A Compilation of Information Sources for Conservation Managers.](#)

Summary: This compilation of information sources can be sorted on keywords for example: Baits & Lures, Non Target Species, Eradication, Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Weeds, Herbicides etc. This compilation is at present in Excel format, this will be web-enabled as a searchable database shortly. This version of the database has been developed by the IUCN SSC ISSG as part of an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme funded project XOT603 in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment. The compilation is a work under progress, the ISSG will manage, maintain and enhance the database with current and newly published information, reports, journal articles etc.

Real, Raimundo; Marquez, Ana L.; Estrada, Alba; Munoz, A. Roman; Vargas, J. Mario, 2008. Modelling chorotypes of invasive vertebrates in mainland Spain. *Diversity & Distributions*. 14(2). MAR 2008. 364-373.

Reino, Luis; Moya-Larano, Jordi; Heitor, Antonio Claudio, 2009. Using survival regression to study patterns of expansion of invasive species: will the common waxbill expand with global warming? *Ecography*. 32(2). APR 2009. 237-246.

General information

Agoramoorthy, Govindasamy & Minna J. Hsu, 2007. Ritual Releasing of Wild Animals Threatens Island Ecology. *Hum Ecol* (2007) 35:251-254

[Avibase, 2010. Common waxbill \(*Estrilda astrild*\) \(Linnaeus, 1758\)](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://avibase.bsc-eoc.org/species.jsp?lang=EN&avibaseid=ED43F1A8D71D5B16> [Accessed 3 July 2010]

Birchenough, A.C., G.W. Douglas and S.M. Evans, 2003. Assessing the distribution of estrildid finches on Vanuatu using local knowledge. *Bird Conservation International* (2003), 13:1:29-44

[BirdLife International 2010. Species factsheet: *Estrilda astrild*](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/index.html?action=SpcHTMDetails.asp&sid=8656&m=0> [Accessed 3 July 2010]

[Blair, Mike, 1987. The Rafos Expedition to Ascension Island 1987.](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://www.aos-uk.com/files/AscensionFieldReports/Report02.pdf> [Accessed 3 July 2010]

Bourne, W. R. P, 1954. The birds of the Cape Verde Islands. *IBIS* 97

Brooke, Richard K., Julie L. Lockwood and Michael P. Moulton, 1995. Patterns of success in passeriform bird introductions on Saint Helena. *Oecologia* Volume 103, Number 3 / August, 1995

De Naurois, 1988. Birds of the Genera *Passer* and *Estrilda* in the Cape Verde Archipelago Portugal. *Boletim do Museu Municipal do Funchal*.(40). 1988. 253-273.

Duffey, Eric, 1964. The Terrestrial Ecology of Ascension Island. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, Vol. 1, No. 2 (Nov., 1964), pp. 219-251

Ferreira, L. F. F., 1980. Information on the distribution of *Estrilda astrild* (Aves Estrildidae) in Portugal. *Boletim da Sociedade Portuguesa de Ciencias Naturais*. 20(2). 1980, 1981. 19-24.

[Garcia Del-Rey, E., 2007. Exotic, introduced and invasive fauna on Tenerife: are these species a serious threat? *Vieraea* 35: 131-138.](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://www.avescanarias.com/pdfs/PDF%2011.pdf> [Accessed 3 July 2010]

[Hughes, Maj B.J., SSgt R.G.Thompson, J.G.Walmsley and Maj M.J. Varley, 1994. Exercise Booby IV Ascension Island, 12 -28 1994.](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://www.aos-uk.com/files/AscensionFieldReports/Report06.pdf> [Accessed 3 July 2010]

[Integrated Taxonomic Information System \(ITIS\), 2010. *Estrilda astrild* \(Linnaeus, 1758\)](#)

Summary: Available from: http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=179610 [Accessed 3 July 2010]

Lewis, Colin A., 2008. Late Glacial and Holocene avifauna of St Helena, South Atlantic Ocean. *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa* Vol. 63(2) 128 -144

Lockwood, Julie L. and Michael P. Moulton, 1984. Ecomorphological pattern in influence of competition and preserves Bermuda birds: implications for nature preserves. *Evolutionary Ecology*, 1994, 8, 53-60

Michael, Moulton and James, S. Anderson, 1997. Predicting the Fates of Passeriform Introductions on Oceanic Islands. *Conservation Biology*, Volume 11, Issue 2 (p 552-558)

Moulton, Michael P. and David K. Ferris, 1991. Summer Diets of Some Introduced Hawaiian Finches. *The Wilson Bulletin*, Vol. 103, No. 2 (Jun., 1991), pp. 286-292

[Nash, Maj R.H.J., Maj B.J.Hughes, J.G.Walmsley, 1990. Exercise Booby II ABWS Expedition to Ascension Island March 1990](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://www.aos-uk.com/files/AscensionFieldReports/Report04.pdf> [Accessed 3 July 2010]

[Olson, L. Storrs, 1975. Paleornithology of St. Helena Island, South Atlantic Ocean. *Smithsonian Contributions to Paleobiology* Number 23](#)

Summary: Available from: http://si-pddr.si.edu/dspace/bitstream/10088/1952/2/SCtP-0023-Lo_res.pdf [Accessed 3 July 2010]

Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) 2025. Species profile *Estrilda astrild*. Available from:

<https://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=1633> [Accessed 18 December 2025]

Petronilho, Joao M. S.; Vingada, Jose V.; Ferreira, Joao, 2004. Exotic birds in Quiaios-Mira coast (Beira litoral, Portugal) AIRO. 14 2004. 114-120.

Reini, Luis Miguel & Tiago Silva, 1998. The distribution and expansion of the Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*) in the Iberian Peninsula. *Biol. Cons. Fauna* 102 (1998): 163-167

Summary: Available from: <http://webpages.icav.up.pt/PTDC/BIA-BEC/098414/2008/Reino%20e%20Silva%201998.pdf> [Accessed 3 July 2010]
Reino, Luis, 2005. Variation partitioning for range expansion of an introduced species: the common waxbill *Estrilda astrild* in Portugal. *Journal of Ornithology*. 146(4). OCT 2005. 377-382.

Schuetz, Justin G., 2005. Common waxbills use carnivore scat to reduce the risk of nest predation. *Behavioral Ecology*. 16(1). January 2005. 133-137.

Shieh, Bao-Sen; Ya-Hui Lin; Tsung-Wei Lee; Chia-Chieh Chang and Kuan-Tzou Cheng, 2006. Pet Trade as Sources of Introduced Bird Species in Taiwan. *Taiwania*, 51(2): 81-86, 2006

Summary: Available from: <http://tai2.ntu.edu.tw/taiwania/pdf/tai.2006.51.2.81.pdf> [Accessed 3 July 2010]

Silva, Tiago; Reino, Luis M.; Borralho, Rui, 2002. A model for range expansion of an introduced species: The common waxbill *Estrilda astrild* in Portugal. *Diversity & Distributions*. 8(6). November 2002. 319-326.

Stonehouse, Bernard, 1962. Ascension Island and the British Ornithologists Union Centenary Expedition 1957-59. *The IBIS* Vol. 103b, No. 2, 1962

Tenreiro, Paulo J. Q.; Petronilho, Joao M. S., 2002. Nesting period and biometrics of the Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* in Central Portugal. *AIRO*. 12 2002. 125-128.

Voss, W. A., 1979. Occurrence of the Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* in the city of Novo-Hamburgo Brazil Estrildidae Aves. *Pesquisas Zoologia (Porto Alegre)*.(31). 1979. 25-28.