

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.

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