GREENFINCH

**Family** Fringillidae  
**Species** *Carduelis chloris*  
**Common name** Greenfinch  
**Status** Introduced  
**Abundance** Common  
**Size** 150 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Chaffinch 150 mm)  
**Habitat** Found everywhere from suburban gardens to rural pastureland, and especially in areas which are hedged. It is does not penetrate heavy forest.  
**Worldwide range** Europe to western Asia.

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CHAMBERS, S. 2009.  
Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.  
Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.  
New Zealand range  Found throughout New Zealand and on some offshore islands.

Description – male


Description – female

Upper and underparts  Similar to the male bird but much duller.

Conspicuous features

•  Dark eye.
•  Green head and back.
•  Yellow leading edge of wing.

Conspicuous characteristics

•  Sings from high in conifers.
•  Flocks in winter and spring with other finches.
•  During the breeding season, singing males will fly from perch to perch assuming bat-like flight with wings beaten in a staccato fashion.
•  Tail is slightly forked and slightly splayed in flight.

Call  Song delivered by the male bird is a drawn out “tuusweet”. Also a melodious “chichichichi – tuu tuu tu” warble. Songs are uttered from high perches especially from conifer trees. Note that its song is often mistaken for that of the Long-tailed Cuckoo. The Greenfinch though, has notes arranged on a descending scale while the cuckoo has notes arranged on an ascending scale. Song period starts in September and continues into February.

Nest  A bulky cup-like structure of twigs, leaves and moss, lined with fine dry grass, wool or feathers, placed near the top of a bush, in a fork or on a branch. Up to 5 pale blue, brown-blotched eggs are laid.

Where to find

Common in most areas away from tall forest. Likely on the edge of forests only. They prefer conifer trees.