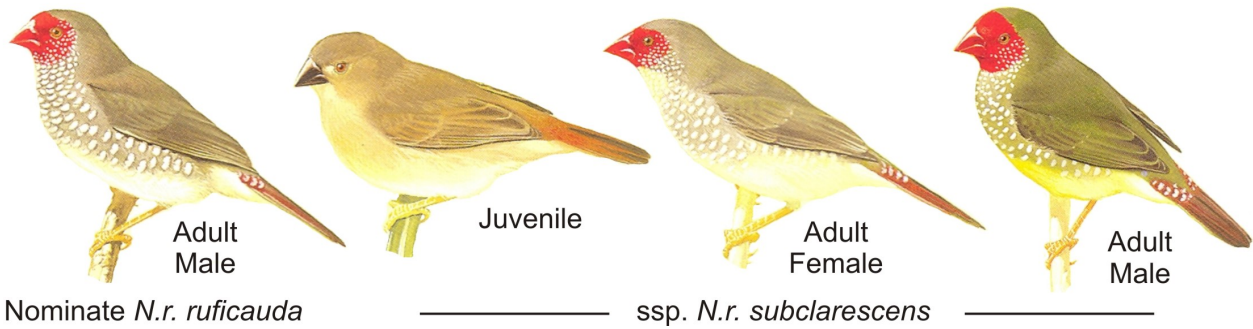


Star Finch *Neochmia ruficauda* Species No.: 663 Band size: 02 AY



Morphometrics:

Three subspecies are recognised. Nominate *N.r. ruficauda* is critically endangered and has been little studied so few data exist. Available measurements for the three subspecies follow:

	Nominate <i>N.f. ruficauda</i> (eastern central Qld.)		<i>ssp. N.r. clarescens</i> (Cape York Peninsular)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	51 – 55 mm		49 – 55 mm	50 – 53 mm
Tail:	39 mm (1)		41 – 43 mm	39 – 43 mm
Bill:	11.3 mm (1)		10.8 – 12.0 mm	10.4 – 12.2 mm
Tarsus:	15.5 mm (1)		14.1 – 14.7 mm	13.5 – 15.1 mm
Weight:	No data		9.9 g (1)	9.2, 9.5 g (2)

	<i>ssp. N.f. subclarescens</i> (WA, NT and n-w Qld)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	50 – 57 mm	49 – 55 mm
Tail:	40 – 46 mm	39 – 46 mm
Bill:	10.9 – 12.7 mm	10.8 – 13.2 mm
THL:	23.1 – 25.1 mm	22.5 – 25.3 mm
Tarsus:	13.7 – 18.8 mm	13.5 – 18.0 mm
Weight:	8.5 – 12.5 g	9.5 – 13.8 g

Ageing:

	Adult (1+)	Juvenile
Bill:	red;	black or orange-red in birds partway through post-juvenile moult;
Face:	red;	brown to light brown;
Upper tail coverts:	dark red-brown with narrow crimson fringes and pink-white sub-terminal spots or bands;	lacks any white;

Sexing :

The sexes are plumage dimorphic in subspecies *clarescens* and *subclarescens* with the extent of red on the face (see illustrations above), but possibly not so in nominate *ruficauda*; Incubation by both sexes.