



The Avicultural Society of New South Wales (ASNSW)

(Founding in 1940 as the Parrot & African Lovebird Society of Australia)

Black-Throated Grass Finch (Parson Finch) (*Pheophila cincta*)

The eastern form of the banded grass finches, the Parson Finch, occurs from the tip of Cape York to about the New South Wales border. Commonly kept by finch breeders the Parson Finch adds a subdued contrast to some of the more brightly coloured species.



Sexing

Males usually have a larger black bib and a more silver-white crown.

Hens have a more grey crown and a small bib.

Diet

Basic Finch Mix comprising pannicum, canary, white millet, jap millet and also rape seed, niger seed and hulled oats, supplemented with grass-seed when in season, chick-weed, leafy greens, slice of apple, egg and biscuit mix and soaked or boiled seed.

Minerals in the form of cuttle-fish bone, dried egg shells. Charcoal and shell grit are also appreciated.

Breeding

Will use nest boxes or brush. Fine dried grasses will be used to form the nest and they will also use feathers to line the nest chamber. Breed well as single pair or 3 or more pair colony. Pairs seem to bond for life so letting birds select their own mate as juveniles will give optimum chance of good breeding success. Will nest most times of the year but preference seems to tend towards the warmer months of the year. Live food in the form of white-ants or mealworms is needed to produce some of the large clutches of young this species is capable of.

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