

Fiji Parrotfinch

Scientific Name: *Erythrura pealii*

Fiji Name: Kulakula, Rokosolo, Kula, Qirikula

Identification: 10cm. A small vivid green finch with a striking scarlet rump and tail and crimson head. The chin is blackish and the throat has a blue suffusion. Females are slightly larger and have lighter flanks.

Flight: Fast and rapid wing beats, sustained flight is undulating.
The Fiji

Parrotfinch has

a delightful courtship

which takes place above

tree level with the pair following

one another on a strongly oscillating path,

and one ascends whilst the other descends. At all

times their flight is accompanied by their high

pitched calls.



Habitat: Found, but not very common in both forested and open habitats .It is primarily a gregarious bird which specialises in seeds at the milk stage .Rather surprising the Fiji Parrotfinch is also a herbivore .It commonly displays remarkable agility as it searches and probes for insects under loose bark or large tree trunks .On occasion it also feeds on nectar and small berries.

Distribution: The Fiji Parrotfinch is restricted to Fiji's four largest islands (Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, Taveuni and Kadavu) and somewhat curiously in the Mamanucas and the Yasawa group.

Remarks: It is a charming, perky little bird which, when not breeding, is usually encountered in small flocks .It has adapted well to modified habitats and is common in lawn grass. Rats and mice use parrotfinch nests and may be significant predators of this species.

Conservation Significance: Endemic to Fiji

*** Pictures & Data: Birdlife Fiji**

