

Diamond firetail

*Stagonopleura
guttata*

vulnerable



Image: Michael Todd

The diamond firetail is a large (length 10 to 12 cm, weight 17 grams), striking finch with a bright red bill, and red eyes and rump. The white throat and lower breast are separated by a broad black breast-band that extends into the strongly white-spotted, black flanks. It has a grey back and head, and ashy-brown wings. Given good views it should not be confused with any other species.

Their flight is low and direct, with slight undulations and their call is a plaintive, drawn-out, nasal 'twoo-wheree'.

The diamond firetail is found in grassy eucalypt woodlands, including Box-Gum Woodlands and Snow Gum Eucalyptus pauciflora Woodlands. They also occur in open forest, mallee, grasslands, riparian areas (rivers and creeks), and sometimes in lightly wooded farmland.

They feed exclusively on the ground, on ripe and partly-ripe grass and herb seeds and green leaves, and on insects.

They are usually encountered in flocks of between 5 to 40 birds, occasionally more. They appear to be sedentary, though some populations move locally, especially those in the south.

Find out more about the diamond firetail and other threatened species at

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies>