

The Greenfinch



Male Greenfinch

Scientific name: *Carduelis chloris*

Female: The adult female has grey-brown, slightly streaky upperparts, the underparts are tinged with yellow and there is less yellow on the wings and tail than the male. The bills and legs of both male and female are flesh-coloured.

Juveniles: Juveniles are similar to the female but have darker streaks above and below. At first glance they can be mistaken for House Sparrows.

Song: The song of the Greenfinch could be described as wheezy. When flying they make a repetitive sound.

Length: 15cm

Diet: The Greenfinch's diet is seeds, buds and berries. They will visit bird tables for seed, but are becoming very good at hanging on feeders containing peanuts or black sunflower seeds, where they often remain for several minutes and sometimes up to half an hour or more. If a feeder contains a seed mix, they will often throw all the other seeds on to the floor so as to get the black sunflower seeds.

Irish Name: Glasán darach

Males: The Greenfinch (or Green Linnet) is a large stocky finch with a distinctly forked tail. It's about the size of a Great Tit.

In summer, the adult male is mostly olive-green except for yellow edges to their outer primary wing feathers and tail feathers, and a more yellow rump. The coverts, cheeks and undertail coverts are greyish. During the winter, the male becomes duller. The bills and legs of both male and female are flesh-coloured.



Breeding: Greenfinches start breeding in April. They lay between 3 and 8 eggs and these will be incubated for between 12 and 14 days. The smooth, glossy eggs are white to pale beige with blackish markings. The female incubates the eggs by herself. After the young hatch, they are fed by both parents.

Nesting: Greenfinches nest in colonies in dense shrubs. The nest is made from twigs and grass, and lined with fine roots and hair and is built by the female.

Interesting Fact: The Greenfinch often performs a wonderful dancing display where it flies around erratically with its wings held out stiffly.