

# NEW ZEALAND FINCH BREEDERS ASSOCIATION



## Fireworks

Most finch species breed in the spring, although their breeding season continues over many months. In New Zealand, 'Guy Fawkes' night is held on 5 November, but depending on weather conditions and the availability of fireworks, the practice of letting off fireworks continues over several weeks. Fireworks are used to celebrate the Chinese New Year in February, in addition to New Year's Eve at midnight on 1 January. Fireworks are also used at regional promotional events like concerts, rugby games, and speedway. Unfortunately, the use of fireworks causes considerable distress to a variety of pets. While cat and dog owners can move their pets inside, this is not usually possible for aviary kept birds. The flashes of light and loud explosions can cause birds to fly from their perches in fright, crashing into the aviary wire and causing injury and death. Nests can be abandoned by parents, leaving their eggs to go cold, or their chicks to die of cold. The on-going survival of some finch species in New Zealand is threatened as a result of firework activities. Other than further controls on the use of fireworks in inappropriate locations (eg. suburbs), it would be good if people letting off fireworks were more aware of the impacts of their use. Fireworks should not be let off near bird aviaries. Perhaps a local park is a better place to enjoy fireworks, rather than in your backyard next to a neighbour's aviaries.