
THE BULLFINCH...AN INTRODUCTION



A pair of Bullfinches perching in a tree in a garden in Germany. 23/2/'10
Photo: "Geli"

The Bullfinch, *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, also known as Common Bullfinch or Eurasian Bullfinch, is a small passerine bird in the finch family Fringillidae.

This species occurs and breeds across Europe and temperate Asia. It is mainly resident, but many northern birds migrate further south in the winter.

Nesting occurs in mixed woodlands, conifer stands, parkland and gardens. Nests are usually constructed in a large bush, preferably more than 4m (13 feet) in height and width. Clutch size varies between four to seven eggs.

The Bullfinch diet is mainly seeds and the buds of fruit trees, the latter earning it the ire of orchardists.

This unobtrusive bird is usually observed in single pairs or as a family group. It doesn't form large flocks in the non-breeding season.



Photo: "Siga"

The Bullfinch is a bulky bull-headed bird, with grey upper parts; the flights and short thick bill are black; as is the cap and face in adults (greyish-brown in juveniles). The white rump and wing-bars are very prominent in flight. The adult male has red underparts, in stark contrast to females and juveniles which have grey-buff

beneath. The song is a pleasant mix of fluted whistles.

The Azores Bullfinch, *Pyrrhula murina*, was previously regarded as a subspecies of the Eurasian Bullfinch, but is now recognised as a distinct species.



Azores Bullfinch
Photo: Gerard Visser

R.V.C. with help from Wikipedia 