

Common Name/*Scientific name*

Blue-faced Honeyeater/ *Entomyzon cyanotis*



Description: The Blue-faced Honeyeater is a large black, white and golden olive-green honeyeater with striking blue skin around the yellow to white eye. The crown, face and neck are black, with a narrow white band across the back of the neck. The upperparts and wings are a golden olive green, and the underparts are white, with a grey-black throat and upper breast. The blue facial skin is two-toned, with the lower half a brilliant cobalt blue. Juvenile birds are similar to the adults but the facial skin is yellow-green and the bib is a lighter grey.

Behaviour in the gardens: Like many honeyeaters, this species is often pugnacious, chasing competitors away from food sources, and mobbing, swooping or harassing potential predators to drive them away from the nest. This honeyeater is noisy and gregarious, and is usually seen in pairs or small flocks.

Where seen in the gardens: The Blue-faced Honeyeater occurs in a wide range of habitats, though it is most usually found in eucalypt forests and woodlands, so you can often see them around the bushland gardens areas.

Feeding & Nesting The Blue-faced Honeyeater feeds mostly on insects and other invertebrates, but also eats nectar and fruit from native and exotic plants. Most nests are made on the abandoned nests of friarbirds, Noisy Miners, Australian Magpie, Magpie-Lark and, rarely, butcherbirds. Sometimes the nests are not modified, but often they are added to and relined. If a new nest is built, it is a neat round cup of rough bark, lined with finer bark and grass.

Similar Species in the gardens: There are a number of other honeyeaters around the gardens but this species is easily recognised with its brilliant blue face.