

Common Name/*Scientific name* **Eastern Whipbird/*Psophodes olivaceus***



Description: Adults are mostly dark olive-green above, with a long tail, and a grey-white belly. The head and breast are black, with a broad white patch on the side of the face and a black crest. The eye is pale cream and the bill is black. Young whip birds are generally duller, with a smaller crest. The white cheek patch is absent in very young birds, and increases in size as the birds mature.

Behaviour in the gardens: Having mostly-green plumage and living in the dense undergrowth, the Eastern Whipbird is seen far less often than it is heard. Its whip-crack call is often performed by two birds calling in unison, with one bird contributing the first part of the call and another giving the second part. The birds are secretive, but can be curious, and can sometimes be seen if the observer remains patient.

Where seen in the gardens: They live mainly in dense, moist vegetation near the ground, so the best places to see and hear them are along parts of the Lagoon Walk and Creek Walk and in the Ephemeral Wetland area. .

Feeding: They feed on insects and other small invertebrates, which are caught on the ground by bill.

Nesting: A breeding pair of Eastern Whipbirds occupies a territory, which is defended year round, with the mates staying together for many years. The female makes a cup nest of sticks and bark, which is lined with finer grasses, and placed in dense vegetation near the ground. The female also incubates the eggs. The young birds are fed by both parents. Sometimes two broods are raised in a single season.

Similar Species: