

Common Name/Scientific name Olive-backed Oriole/ *Oriolus sagittatus*



Description: Males and females have an olive-green head and back, grey wings and tail, and cream underparts, streaked with brown. They both have a bright red eye and reddish beak. Females can be distinguished from males by a paler bill, duller-green back, and an extension of the streaked underparts up to the chin.

Where seen in the gardens: The Olive-backed Oriole lives in forests, woodlands and rainforests, as well as well-treed urban areas, so you may see them almost anywhere in the gardens.

Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens: Olive-backed Orioles are less gregarious than Figbirds, with which they are often seen foraging. Although they are sometimes seen in small groups, particularly in autumn and winter, they more often occur alone or in pairs, feeding on insects and fruit in canopy trees.

Nesting: The female Olive-backed Oriole builds a cup-shaped nest which is attached by its rim to a horizontal fork on the outer-edge of the foliage of a tree or tall shrub. Nests are usually around 10 m above the ground, and built of strips of bark and grass, bound with spider web. The male does not build the nest, or incubate the eggs, but he feeds the young after the eggs hatch.

Similar Species in the gardens: Olive-backed Orioles have a reddish bill, which easily distinguishes the species from the similar Figbird *Sphecotheres viridis*, which has a blackish bill. It also lacks the Figbird's bare eye skin and has red rather than dark eyes.