

Common Name/*Scientific name*

**Scarlet Honeyeater/ *Myzomela sanguinolenta***



**Description:** The adult male Scarlet Honeyeater is a vivid scarlet red and black bird with whitish underparts. The females and immature birds are dull brown with dull white underparts and a reddish wash on the chin. In both sexes the tail is relatively short, the bill strongly curved and the eye is dark.

**Behaviour & where seen in the gardens:** This small honeyeater is usually seen alone or in pairs, but occasionally in flocks, high in trees in both bushland and developed areas of the gardens. But with its head, breast and upper back all with bright-scarlet plumage, this species of honeyeater can be well camouflaged as it flits about among the blossoms of callistemon ( bottlebrush) shrubs, and other plant species whose flowers are coloured bright red.

**Feeding:** The Scarlet Honeyeater feeds mainly on nectar and sometimes on fruit and insects. It tends to feed in the upper levels of the canopy, foraging in flowers and foliage, usually singly, in pairs or small flocks.

**Nesting:** The Scarlet Honeyeater breeds in pairs, with the more conspicuous male calling and displaying to the quieter females. The small cup nest is suspended from a horizontal branch or in a fork, and is made from fine bark and grass bound with spider web and lined with fine plant materials.

**Similar Species:** This species is easily distinguished from most other honeyeaters with its bright red colouring (males) and small size.