

**Common Name/Scientific name:** **Shining Bronze-cuckoo/ *Chrysococcyx lucidus***

Often the first sign that a Shining Bronze-cuckoo is nearby is the sound of its call — a series of repeated ascending whistles. The species is heard far more often than it is seen, preferring to remain inconspicuous among the foliage in the canopy of trees, where it skulks about in search of caterpillars. Like most cuckoos, they lay their eggs in the nests of other birds, preferring those of small species, especially thornbills.



**Description:** Shining Bronze-cuckoos have bronze-coloured upperparts with an iridescent green gloss. The underparts are whitish with bold brown barring. The face is white with darker mottling.

**Where seen in the gardens:** The Shining Bronze-cuckoo is widespread in all eastern Australia states and South Australia. It lives in a wide range of wooded habitats, and can be seen in various forests and woodlands, paperbark thickets, shrubland, heath, parks and gardens. They usually occur in the canopy in most areas of the gardens except perhaps the dense riparian vegetation along the major creeks.

**Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens:** Shining Bronze-cuckoos usually eat insects and their larvae, especially hairy caterpillars, which they snatch from the foliage of trees and shrubs. The caterpillars are manipulated and squeezed with the beak to separate the innards from the hairy skin.

**Nesting:** A well-known brood parasite, the Shining Bronze-cuckoo lays its eggs in the nests of a wide variety of small species of birds, especially thornbills, gerygones and fairy-wrens. They usually lay one or two greenish eggs in each nest.

**Similar Species in the gardens:** With its iridescent green upper body and brown/white bold stripes on the chest and underparts, a Shining Bronze-cuckoo is not easily confused with other birds in the gardens. The Fantailed Cuckoo is more slender and mostly grey in its plumage. The very similar but slightly smaller Little Bronze-cuckoo has been recorded in the gardens, but not since 2009.