

Common Name/*Scientific name*:

Silvereye / *Zosterops lateralis*

Silvereyes are widespread in many parts of Australia, and there are many different populations throughout their range, some of which are highly mobile. Thus, in some places, local populations may be augmented or replaced by birds moving in from other areas. Although the species may be present at a particular location throughout the year, they may be birds from different populations that are being seen at different times.



Description: The Silvereye is a small bird with a conspicuous ring of white feathers around the eye, and belongs to a group of birds known as white-eyes. The Silvereye shows interesting plumage variations across its range. The grey back and olive-green head and wings are found in birds through the east.

Where seen in the gardens: Silvereyes may occur in almost any wooded habitat, especially urban parks and gardens, so you may see them anywhere except the very dense areas of riparian forest along the creeks. It is possible that a Silvereye seen in the gardens in winter may have flown 1600km from Tasmania (sensible bird!).

Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens: Silvereyes feed on insect prey and large amounts of fruit and nectar. Birds are seen alone, in pairs or small flocks during the breeding season, but can form large flocks in the winter months.

Nesting: Silvereye pairs actively defend a small territory. The nest is a small, neatly woven cup of grasses, hair, and other fine vegetation, bound with spider web. It is placed in a horizontal tree fork up to 5m above the ground. The nest is constructed by both sexes, who both also incubate the bluish-green eggs. If conditions are suitable two to three clutches will be raised in a season.

Similar Species in the gardens: The Red-browed Finch is a similar size and shape, but is easily recognised by its bright red eyebrow, rump and beak.