

Common Name/Scientific name: Yellow-faced Honeyeater/ *Lichenostomus chrysops*

Like most honeyeaters in eastern and south-eastern Australia, the Yellow-faced Honeyeater is an active species, spending much time probing flowers or gleaning insects from the foliage of trees, but it is when they are on migration that they become conspicuous, congregating in large flocks, and thousands of birds may pass by in the space of an hour as they migrate north along the Great Divide each autumn and return south each spring.



Description: The Yellow-faced Honeyeater is a medium to small, plainly coloured honeyeater with a slightly down-curved bill. It is dark grey-brown above, with some brown streaking on the head, and paler below with lighter streaks. It has a distinctive, broad yellow face-stripe, bordered with black. The males are slightly larger but the sexes are otherwise similar. Young are paler and unstreaked on the head. Yellow-faced Honeyeaters can be seen in large flocks when migrating, and in smaller groups when feeding.

Where to see in the gardens: The Yellow-faced Honeyeater is widespread in eastern and south-eastern mainland Australia, from northern Queensland to eastern South Australia and is found in open forests and woodlands, often near water and wetlands. It is often found in urban areas, including in remnant bushland, as well as parks and gardens. In the gardens, look in the more lightly timbered bushland areas away from the dense riparian vegetation along the major creeks.

Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens: Yellow-faced Honeyeaters feed on nectar, pollen, fruit, seeds and insects. They tend to forage in the flowers and foliage of trees and shrubs, as well as mistletoe, and are rarely seen on the ground.

Nesting: Breeding pairs of Yellow-faced Honeyeaters defend territories during the breeding season. The female builds a neat, woven, sometimes fragile, cup from green materials such as moss, in the understorey of forests or in hedges, vines and other garden shrubs. She incubates the eggs alone, but both parents feed the young. The nests can be parasitised by the Shining Bronze-cuckoos, as well as Fan-tailed Cuckoos (both seen in the gardens).

Similar Species in the gardens: The Yellow-faced Honeyeater may be confused with other honeyeaters in the gardens, but its smaller size and the distinctive, broad yellow face-stripe, bordered with black is quite distinctive.