

## WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER



• *White-naped Honeyeater at nest.*

Photo: J. A. Purnell

## White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*

### Adult

*Back, wings and tail:* Olive green.

*Head and nape:* Black with white crescent at back of crown; the white crescent not reaching to the eyes. Black of face, extending to bottom of lower mandible.

*Point of chin (between rami of lower mandible):* Black.

*Rest of underparts:* White.

*Iris:* Brown to light brown.

*Bare skin round eye:* Bright orange in east Australian race; grey below, chalky white above in west Australian race. (Serventy and Whittell, 1967).

*Bill:* Black.

*Nostril:* Black.

*Length:* 130-140 mm. Female smaller than male. Western race larger than eastern.

### Juvenile

*Back, scapulars, lesser and median coverts:* Pale brown.

*Wings and tail:* Olive green.

*Head and nape:* Pale brown, similar to back. Crescent pale whitish interrupted at centre of nape in very juvenile birds. Bases of crescent feathers are white, not dark grey as in crown feathers.

*Sides of face:* Dark brown.

*Point of chin:* Dark brown.

*Rest of underparts:* White.

*Iris:* Dark grey brown.

#### a. IN THE EASTERN RACE

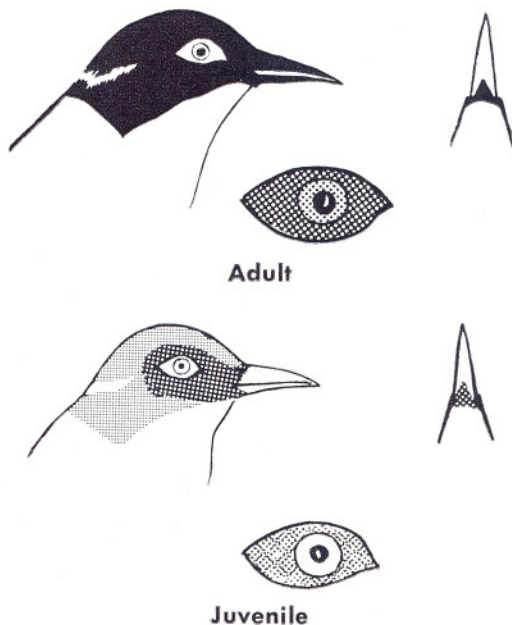
*Bare skin round eye:* Orange.

*Nostril:* Orange.

*Bill:* Upper mandible, brown; lower mandible, orange.

#### b. IN THE WESTERN RACE

*Bare skin round eye, nostril and bill:* Probably as in the White-throated Honeyeater.



### Immature

*Plumage:* Similar to adult, but some juvenile brown feathers may still be present on the head.

*Bill:* Becoming black.

*Nostril:* Dark brown, becoming black.

*Iris:* Dark grey brown.

#### IN THE EASTERN RACE

*Bare skin round eye:* Orange.

*Gape:* Slight orange.

NOTE: The extent of skull pneumatisation can be used to confirm immature status.

#### DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS

Extent of black on face; colour of point of chin.

#### Reference

Serventy, D. L. and Whittell, H. M. (1967), Birds of Western Australia (Fourth Edition). Lamb Publications Pty Ltd, Perth, W.A.

Drawings by H. Ashton