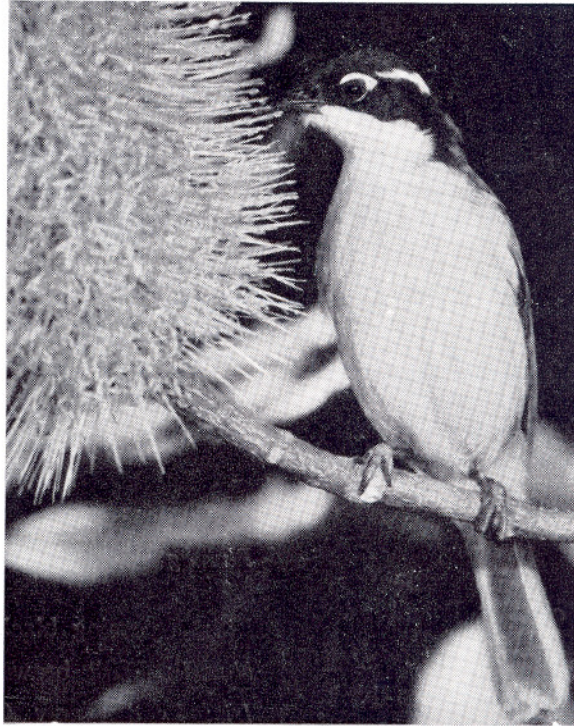


WHITE-THROATED HONEYEATER



- *White-throated Honeyeater feeding from banksia flower.*

Photo: B. and J. Morgan

White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*

Adult

Back, wings and tail: Olive green similar to White-naped Honeyeater *M. lunatus*, with more yellow in northern forms.

Head and nape: Black with white crescent almost reaching the eyes. Black of face stopping in line with upper mandible.

Point of chin: White.

Rest of underparts: White.

Iris: Red brown.

Bare skin round eye: Upper half white, lower half grey as in the western race of the White-naped Honeyeater. Skin becomes blue within five hours after death.

Bill: Black.

Nostril: Black.

Length: 120-140 mm. Female smaller than male. South and east Australian forms usually about 130 mm. Size decreases from south to north, the smallest forms being found in northern Australia.

Juvenile

Back, scapulars and small 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 white, not grey as in crown feathers.

Sides of face: Dark brown.

Point of chin: White.

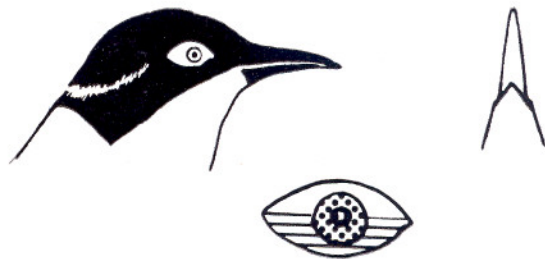
Rest of underparts: White.

Iris: Dull brown.

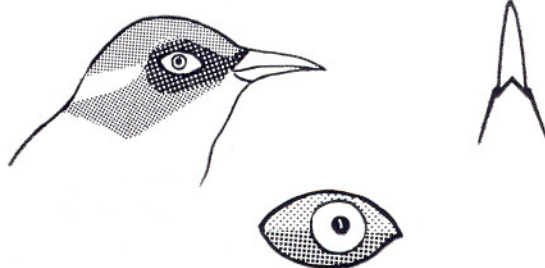
Bare skin round eye: Above pale blue; below purplish blue, which may appear grey in dull light.

Nostril: Paler than bill.

Bill: Dark brown; lower mandible, with yellow base.



Adult



Juvenile

Immature

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

Bill: Becoming black.

Nostril: Dark brown becoming black.

Iris: Leaden grey (Mathews 1924).

NOTE: *The extent of skull pneumatization can be used to confirm immature status. Also it should be remembered that colours of the soft parts, such as the bare skin around the eyes may change even in adults. Further information is needed on these colours.*

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS

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

Reference

Mathews, G. M. (1924), Birds of Australia, vol. 11 pt. 4.

Drawings by H. Ashton