

# Feather Fascination!

with local Birdwatcher,

Jim Butler

## Striped Honeyeaters

THE Striped Honeyeater's diet is not strictly true to its name. Even though it does have a honeyeater's brush-tipped tongue allowing it to take nectar from eucalypts flowers, it is not so restricted. It is a "dietary generalist" rather than a nectarivore! It does eat nectar along with seeds, berries and fruit, but it feeds predominately on insects, caterpillars and spiders. Its foraging is mainly arboreal, where it feeds in small flocks in the dense foliage of the tree canopy. It hops about energetically, under cover, examining leaves and probing bark for insects and spiders as well as taking accessible berries.



Striped Honeyeaters are found in forests and woodlands in coastal and inland Queensland south of Rockhampton, throughout NSW and across the NSW border to Adelaide. They are mostly sedentary with pairs maintaining permanent territory in productive habitats and advertising their claim throughout most of the day with their mid-strength bubbling songs. Their continuous singing is uncommon. Pairs often duet, perched almost side-by-side on high, sheltered branches. They are visually much less conspicuous than many other honeyeaters. Hence, the singing of the flocks is often the first indication of the presence of the Striped Honeyeater.

To commence finding out more about the Striped Honeyeater go to the most useful international bird site: ebird.org. It is an immense international "citizen science" bird data collection and collation site. Click on "Explore", and then in "Explore Species" type "Striped Honeyeater". Here you will find an extensive range of information: superb photos, excellent audio recordings of the calls with spectrograms and distributions of sightings. To get an up-close view of the Striped Honeyeater's precarious hanging-cup nest and the bird in the nest, go to YouTube: [youtube.com/watch?v=QAPYJCQGIHc](https://youtube.com/watch?v=QAPYJCQGIHc); and for nest-building: [youtube.com/watch?v=95fu-7Sg3E8](https://youtube.com/watch?v=95fu-7Sg3E8)

New Year's Resolution: Identify, count and record at ebird, the birds at your place.

Happy Birding in the New Year!

~ Jim

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Digital Bird Guide: <http://www.moggillcreek.org/> by Ed Frazer at Brookfield.