

# WHITE-CHEEKED HONEYEATER

Mr. Brian Hutchison, a Vice-President of the West Australian Naturalists' Club, is making a survey of the White-Cheeked Honeyeater in the metropolitan area.

The bird is not normally found in city areas but reports of its occurrence have been noted since 1968. It has frequented local gardens from January to April or May in recent years. This may be due to the availability of food or to climatic variations, but it will take several years of studying the habits of the bird before it will be possible to say why the pattern of its movements appears to have changed.

The White-Cheeked Honeyeater is about 7 inches long and mainly black with white streaks on its head, back and under-parts. There is a white line above the eye and a broad white patch on the cheek. The wings are black with a conspicuous wax-yellow patch. The tail, bill and legs are also black, but the iris is brown which is the main distinguishing feature between this bird and the yellow-winged honeyeater which has a white iris. It has a distinctive habit, during the nesting season, of towering high above the nesting site and then dropping with closed wings, finishing with a short glide to its perch.

Mr. Hutchison would welcome reports of any sightings of the bird, and these can be sent to him c/o W.A. Naturalists' Club, 63 Meriwa Street, Nedlands 6009.



White-cheeked Honeyeater. (*Meliornis niger*)