

Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike *(Coracina novaehollandiae)*



(Photo copyright G. Chapman)

A frequent visitor to parks and private gardens in Perth, the Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike is also commonly found in woodland throughout the State. The flight of the bird is characteristically undulating, with alternate flapping and gliding often accompanied by a soft "churring" note. On perching, the bird settles its wings in a curious manner, lifting one wing alternately with the other.

Despite its cuckoo-like flight and its common name, the Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike is not closely related to either cuckoos or shrikes.

Adult birds pair for breeding during spring and summer and together share the task of building a nest, incubating the eggs and feeding the young. The nest is usually constructed on a horizontal fork of a branch, preferably about 5-6m above the ground. The usual construction of the nest is a shallow saucer made of small sticks and bark held together with spiders' web. The birds are shy and may leave the nest at the slightest interference to build a new nest at another site.

The eggs are blue-green or olive with pale red, brown or grey markings and a clutch usually numbers between two and three eggs.

Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes are primarily insect eaters although they have also been known to eat berries and other fruit.

Common Birds of Perth Number 8