

Order Passeriformes, Family Meliphagidae,  
Genus Meliphaga.

*Meliphaga sonora* (Singing Honey-eater)—Mr. Gregory M. Mathews has divided this species into eight sub-species.

Description—All under surface, light grey, a light brown stripe down the centre of each feather on the breast; top of the head and all the upper surface, greenish grey; a broad black line passing from the base of the bill through the eye, on to the neck, almost to the shoulder; ear-coverts and a line passing under the eye, bright yellow; wings, brown, external margins, yellowish green; tail, brown, each feather margined with greenish yellow, bill, black; feet, slatey grey to brown.

Distribution—Almost over the whole of Australia and adjacent islands, the coastal belts of Queensland being the only locality which it does not seem to favour.

Habitat—It seems, to frequent all kinds of situations, the low scrub along the seashore, the ranges with large timber, and the mulga covered plains of the interior.

Habits—Often a shy bird, keeping to the thick under-growth, yet at times it will become quite inquisitive, and is very pugnacious at nesting time, attacking any bird which approaches its nest. It is often seen upon the ground in search. of insects, and it will also catch much of its insect diet upon the wing.

Flight--Not long sustained, fitful, and at times, erratic.

Note—Although loud, very full and musical.

Food—Insects, honey, and at times, berries and seeds.

Nesting Season—Varies much according to locality; they are very erratic breeders in the interior, but on the coastline the breeding season is generally from August to November.

Nest sometimes placed in an upright fork, at others in (an overhanging) branch composed of small twigs and rootlets, bound together with cobwebs and spider cocoons, at times, the, wooly flowerheads are used.

Clutch—One to three.

Average measurement of 10 eggs--2.36 c.m. x 1.65 c.m.; largest egg, 2.30 c.m. x 1.70 c.m.; smallest egg, 2.15 c.m. x 1.65