



FACTSHEET

Western Whistler



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Common Name: Western Whistler
(Australian)

Scientific Name: *Pachycephala
occidentalis*

Conservation Status: secure/ not listed

Habitat: Woodland

Body length: 17 cm

Weight: 25 grams

Incubation period: 14-17 days

Number of young: 2-3 eggs

Description:

The adult male Western Whistler has a jet-black head, bill and legs. Its back and wings are olive-green with a bright yellow belly, chest and collar. The yellow underside is met with a black band and a vivid white throat. Females lack bright plumage and are generally grey above, with a paler grey on the underside. The bill is dark brown and legs are grey-brown. Both sexes exhibit red-brown eyes.

Diet:

Insects, spiders, small crustaceans, berries

In the Wild:

The male Golden Western is noticeable by its bright plumage; however it is the beautiful whistled song that draws attention to both male and female. This species is one of Australia's loudest and most beautiful song birds. Its voice is strong, musical and varied, one of its songs include a 'we-we-we-tu-whit', with the last note being stronger and abrupt with a rising 'seep'.

Breeding season runs from September to January, where both male and female share nest building duties. The nest is a shallow bowl, made of twigs, grass and bark, bound together with spider web and lined with finer grass. The nest usually is high in a bush or tree up to 6m from the ground and placed in the fork of branches.

The Western Whistler is mostly a solitary feeder, picking food from lower or middle tree level leaves and bark.

Threats:

Destruction of habitat, pest species.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Family name of Pachycephalidea, which the Western Whistler belongs too, means 'thick-head' due to their robust necks and heads.

References:

Birds in backyards

Bird Life.org