

Common Name/*Scientific name*: **Grey Shrike Thrush/ *Colluricincla harmonica***

The **Grey Shrike-thrush** is considered to be one of the best songsters in Australia. It was formerly known as the 'Harmonious Thrush', and its song has been described as glorious, pleasing and melodious, with sweet, mellow, rich and liquid notes.



**Description:** The Grey Shrike-thrush is a medium sized (about 240mm long), rather drab coloured bird, although the plumage varies throughout its extensive range. In the gardens, these birds are mostly grey with a light olive-grey back, and pale grey-white cheeks and underparts. Further north, the plumage is predominantly brown. Adult males are browner on the mantle than the female and young birds have varying amounts of reddish-brown on the cheeks and wings.

**Where seen in the gardens:** Grey Shrike-thrush mainly live in forests and woodlands, so the places to look (and listen) for them in the gardens would be the bushland areas along the walks and in the forested garden areas such as the Mossy Log garden and Whipbird Walk/Village

**Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens:** Grey Shrike-thrushes search for food on the ground, generally around fallen logs, and on the limbs and trunks of trees. It has a varied diet consisting of insects, spiders, small mammals, frogs and lizards, and birds' eggs and young, and some birds have been observed feeding on carrion. Fruits and seeds may also be eaten on occasion.

**Nesting:** Grey Shrike-thrush pairs generally remain together for life and inhabit the same areas throughout this time. Breeding territories of up to ten hectares are maintained. The nest is a cup-shaped structure of dried vegetation, and may be constructed in the same site year after year. Both birds share the nest-building and incubation duties, and both care for the young birds.

**Similar Species in the gardens:** Little Strike-thrush (See Birds Very Often Seen in the Gardens page)