

Common Name/*Scientific name*: **Noisy Friarbird/ *Philemon corniculatus***

Noisy Friarbirds are conspicuous and active honeyeaters which are active in the outer canopy of flowering trees, especially eucalypts.



Description: The Noisy Friarbird is a large member of the honeyeater family with a distinctive naked black head and a strong bill with a prominent casque (bump) at the base. The upperparts are dark brown to grey, the underbody is off-white, with silver-white feathers around the throat and upper breast, and the tail has a white tip.

Where seen in the gardens: The Noisy Friarbird prefers dry forests and eucalypt woodlands, as well as coastal scrub, heathlands and around wetlands and wet forests. They can be seen in most areas of the gardens.

Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens: The Noisy Friarbird eats nectar, fruit, insects and other invertebrates and sometimes eggs or baby birds. They spend most of their time feeding on nectar high up in trees, only coming down to the ground occasionally to feed on insects. Noisy Friarbirds often feed in noisy flocks. They clamber about among the foliage, probing the flowers to feed on nectar, as well as gleaning lerps and manna. They also sally after flying insects. These Friarbirds often associate with other larger honeyeaters such as wattlebirds, but may exclude smaller birds from profusely flowering trees.

Nesting: Noisy Friarbirds form long-term pairs, with both parents defending the nest and surrounds. The female builds the large, deep cup-shaped nest from bark and grass, bound with spider webs, slinging it in a tree-fork. She alone incubates the eggs, but both parents feed the young, up to three weeks after fledging.

Similar Species in the gardens: The Noisy Friarbird differs from other friarbirds (and similar honeyeaters) by having a completely bare black head and upper neck. The Little Friarbird, as well as being smaller, lacks the casque (knob) and has bluish facial skin.