

THE LORD HOWE SILVEREYE

The Lord Howe Silvereye, *Zosterops lateralis tephroleurus*, is also known as the Lord Howe White-eye, Lord Howe Island White-eye or, locally, as the “Little Grinnell”. It is a member of the white-eye family, Zosteropidae. It is a subspecies of the Silvereye, *Zosterops lateralis*. However, it is sometimes given full species status. It is endemic to Lord Howe Island which is situated in the Tasman Sea, 600 kilometres (373 miles) east of the Australian mainland. The island is administered as part of New South Wales.



The Lord Howe Silvereye is more robust, has larger feet and claws, and a longer and heavier bill than the Silvereye. It is olive-green on the flanks, rump and lower back, with yellow under-tail coverts.

It is restricted to Lord Howe Island, where it is widely distributed through the native subtropical rainforest, and around homes and gardens.

The nest is small and cup-shaped, mainly consisting of palm fibre, grasses and spider webs. The clutch of 2-4 small eggs is laid in spring and summer.

Food is mainly insects gleaned from leaves and flowers, small seeds, nectar and fruits, including those of the introduced Cherry Guava, *Psidium littorale*, are also taken.

The Lord Howe Silvereye has an estimated population of about 5,000 breeding birds which is stable. However, because of the restricted size of the population and the limited area of its distribution it is considered “Vulnerable”.

R.V.C. with help from Wikipedia

DID YOU KNOW...

that the southern-most nesting bird is the Snow Petrel, *Pagodroma nivea*, which has breeding colonies up to 440 kilometres (270 miles) inland in Antarctica?

that some penguins have been recorded diving up to 300 metres (980 feet)?

that birds do not have a urinary bladder or external urethral opening and uric acid is excreted along with faeces as a semisolid waste?

that some migratory birds use protein from many parts of their bodies, including protein from the intestines, as additional energy during migration?

that some large birds of prey may moult only once every few years?