

Shining Flycatchers

Robyn Howard

Shining Flycatchers are specialists of mangroves and riverside vegetation, seen in pairs or singly. Whilst not endangered, they are not common towards the southern part of their range. Even in the north, birds are strictly in territories and never seen in groups.

Around 18 cm, the male is completely iridescent black and the female is rufous on the back, wings and tail, black on the head and pure white underneath.

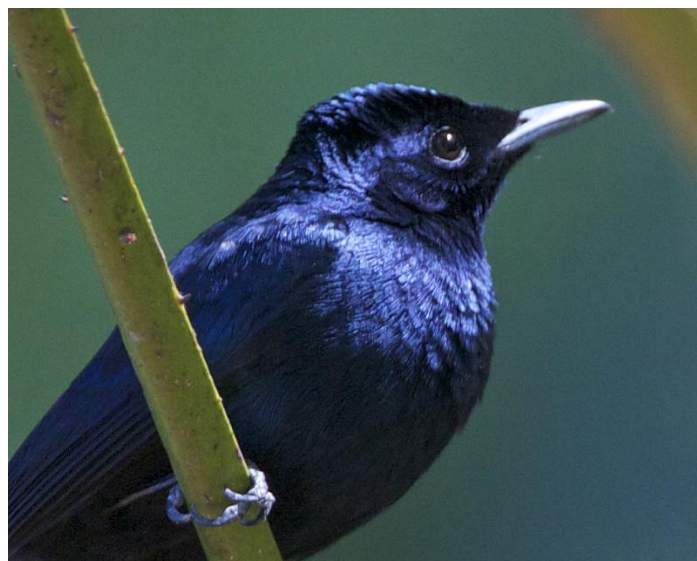
The birds feed busily low on mangrove roots or on the mud, snapping up insects and tiny crustaceans, and moving quickly through any area.

Songs include a mixture of tuneful whistles, buzzing and grating. Both sexes work to build a nest beside or over water, and both incubate and feed young.

Shining Flycatchers are permanent breeding residents in the mangroves at the Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary.



Female Photo: Lip Kee Yap



Male Photo: Lip Kee Yap