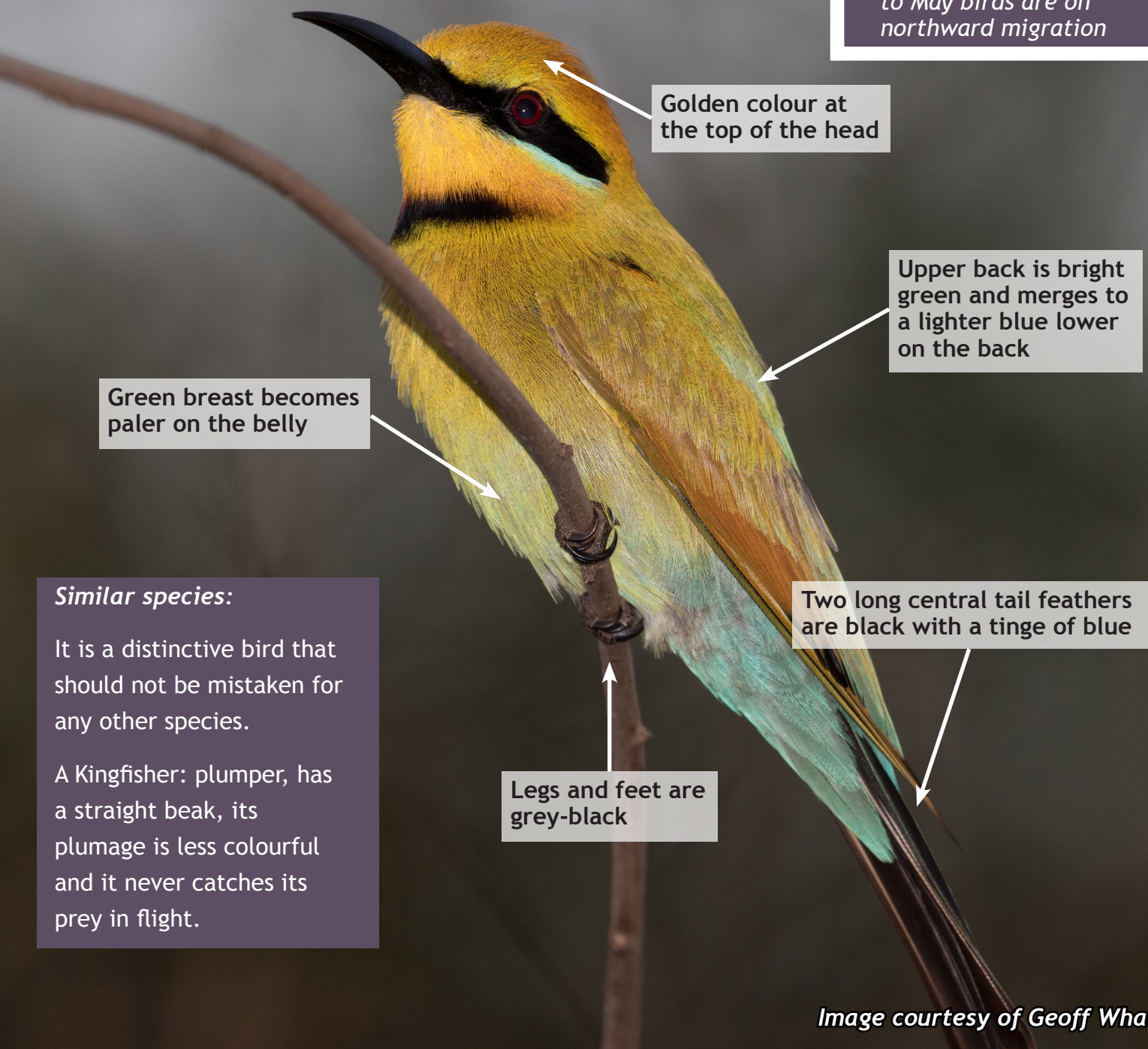


Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

When to look:

November to January in southern Australia; August to January in northern Australia; September to October birds are on southern migrations; March to May birds are on northward migration



Golden colour at the top of the head

Upper back is bright green and merges to a lighter blue lower on the back

Green breast becomes paler on the belly

Two long central tail feathers are black with a tinge of blue

Legs and feet are grey-black

Similar species:

It is a distinctive bird that should not be mistaken for any other species.

A Kingfisher: plumper, has a straight beak, its plumage is less colourful and it never catches its prey in flight.

Image courtesy of Geoff Whalan