

**Common Name/Scientific name**

**Brown Thornbill/ *Acanthiza pusilla***



**Description:** The Brown Thornbill is a small bird (length 90-100mm), but is one of the medium-sized and more common of the thornbills. It has olive-brown to grey upperparts, with a warm reddish-brown forehead scalloped with paler markings. The rump has a reddish-brown patch, the tail is grey-brown with a black band and a pale tip, and the underparts are off-white, streaked blackish on the chin, throat and chest. The eye is dark red. The sexes are similar and young birds are only slightly different to adults, with a duller eye.

**Behaviour in the gardens:** Brown thornbills are skilled mimics and also respond to humans imitating their calls.

**Where seen in the gardens:** The Brown Thornbill can be found in most parts of the gardens, ie in the dense vegetation along water courses and in the more open bushland areas. They also can be seen in open areas close to large patches of remnant bushland vegetation.

**Feeding;** The Brown Thornbill feeds mainly on insects, but may sometimes eat seeds, nectar or fruit. They feed, mainly in pairs, at all levels from the ground up, but mostly in understory shrubs and low trees.

**Nesting:** Females build a small oval, domed nest with a partially hooded entrance near the top out of grasses, bark and other materials, lining it with feathers, fur or soft plant down. The nest is usually low down, in low, prickly bushes, grass clumps, or ferns. Cuckoos often use the brown thornbill as a host.