

Common Name/Scientific name **White-throated Treecreeper/ *Cormobates leucophaea***



Description: Length 130–170mm, wingspan of 190–250mm, a white throat and breast and barred dark-brown and white belly and flanks. The upperparts and wings are a dark greyish brown, with a buff patch visible on the wings. The bill and feet are black. The female has a pale orange-brown patch on the cheek. Immature birds have an orange-brown rump and white markings across the shoulders.

Behaviour in the gardens: Treecreepers are usually seen foraging with great agility, spiralling up the trunks and larger branches of eucalypts, especially those with rough bark. As they climb head-first up the tree, they probe fissures in the bark in search of invertebrates. When they reach the top, they glide down to the base of a nearby tree and resume their spiral foraging process.

Where seen in the gardens: Mainly in more open forest areas.

Feeding: The white-throated treecreeper is predominantly insectivorous, eating mainly ants, although will eat also nectar.

Nesting: The cup-shaped nest is composed of fur, hair, feathers, and moss in a hollow in a tree 4–5 m above the ground. A clutch of two or three creamy-white oval eggs is laid. Sparsely spotted with dark purple- or red-brown, they measure 23 x 18 mm. The breeding season is August to December with one brood laid.

Similar Species