

BROWN THORNBILL



• *Brown Thornbill at nest.*

Photo: K. A. Hindwood

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*

No attempt has been made to separate the races of the Brown Thornbill and most observations were made from the form found in eastern New South Wales. The characters given are to help distinguish it from the similar Striated Thornbill *A. lineata* (see page 80).

Adult

Forehead: Feathers with crescent shaped or 'scalloped' light brown markings with black tips when new.

Throat and breast: Greyish white streaked black. Streaking in race *katherina* (N.E. Qld) similar to juvenile of eastern race.

Belly: Greyish.

Iris: Full red-brown.

Sub-adult

As adult except:

Iris: With chestnut ring round pupil surrounded by olive grey. As bird matures olive grey outer ring disappears and iris becomes full red brown.

Juvenile

Forehead: Faintly scalloped.

Throat and breast: Buff grey with faint streaks.

Iris: Chestnut brown with grey outer ring.

NOTE: Some races of *pusilla* have well marked chestnut upper tail coverts.



ADULT

Sub-adult Iris



JUVENILE

Drawings by D. Milledge