

Western Bower-birds are noted for their love of the garden figs for which they make trips to the homestead gardens. They will mimic almost anything, but the "voices" of cats, dogs and various bird calls are the usual notes imitated.

I have not found a nest at any time, but I saw two fully-fledged young sitting side by side on March 12, 1934.

The measurements of four bowers investigated by me are as follows:—

	1.	2.	3.	4.
	in.	in.	in.	in.
Length of bower	15	14	14	14
Width of bower	6	7	7	5
Height of arch inside . .	6-9	9-12	9	8-10
Depth of depression in arch	1½	none	½	1
Height of arch off platform	2	1	½	1-2
Distance of platform from bower	18	12-18	24	18

Notes on the Chestnut-tailed Thornbill

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The Chestnut-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza uropygialis*) is one of the commonest birds to be found in my "hunting ground"—a three hundred acre eucalypt forest. Probably only Brown Weebills and Red-tipped Pardalotes are numerically stronger. Although the Thornbills keep mainly to the forest, a party will often invade the clearing which surrounds my house. They do not despise crumbs of bread, but are, apparently, mainly insectivorous. It is entertaining to watch them search a rail fence or dead tree for insects. Every crevice undergoes a careful scrutiny, and it is no uncommon thing to see these tiny birds clinging to upright posts or under horizontal rails or branches and peering into likely cracks. Usually the birds are to be seen among the forest undergrowth, or exploring fallen trees, but they will sometimes ascend to the treetops. I am almost convinced that the association which exists between Chestnut-tailed Thornbills and Yellow-tailed Thornbills is not entirely accidental, as I frequently see both feeding together (see A. H. Chisholm's note, *The Emu*, Vol. xxxv, p. 179). The bird's presence is frequently made known by its loud melodious warble. They also call "chip" or "check" while feeding, and make a slight vocal sound while flying.

Many times, quite unconcealed, I have watched these birds feeding unconcernedly at a distance of only three or four feet.

During the 1934 nesting season, when Cuckoos were particularly numerous here, I several times saw a young Horsfield Bronze-Cuckoo being fed by Chestnut-tailed Thornbills.

Thornbills delight to bathe in small pools. Their enthusiasm is rather amusing.

On August 10, 1935, I saw a Thornbill with a feather in its bill fly to a small hollow spout of a "gimlet" (*Eucalyptus* sp.). The following week I climbed to the spout, which was thirteen feet from the ground, and found a partly-domed nest formed of strips of bark and lined with feathers. The birds entered the nest by flying down three or four inches from the top of the spout. On August 18, I saw a Thornbill carrying nesting material through a vertical crack in the standing trunk of a dead tree—an old salmon gum devoid of branches. The fissure through which the birds entered was so narrow that they had to wriggle through sideways. This nest was twenty-eight feet from the ground. By August 22 I had satisfied myself as to the position of a third nest. This was entered by way of a knot-hole nineteen feet from the ground in the trunk of a living gimlet. A nest found on September 8 was in a rather unusual situation. A dead limb had fallen, and was tightly wedged among the leafy suckers of a salmon gum. The main part of this limb, which was hollow, hung vertically, and a pair of Thornbills were entering by way of a narrow crevice and were building within. They were obtaining feathers from a spot some eighty-five yards away at such a fast rate that I investigated the source of supply and found it to be a bag of domestic fowl feathers. This nest was only twelve feet from the ground—the lowest I have yet found (if one excepts a deserted nest only eighteen inches from the ground in a hollow stump, which I consider belonged to this species), and was constructed of bark strips, some fairly coarse, and well-lined with feathers. A fifth nest was about eighteen feet from the ground in a vertical dead limb. The birds were feeding young through a longitudinal crack. A few days later, I examined the then deserted nest and found it to be constructed of strips of bark and small feathers, including one at least of a Regent Parrot. This nest had very little dome. I found two other sites, each thirty-four feet from the ground, one on September 29, and one on October 6. Apart from their height above the ground—the greatest I have recorded—they presented no new features.

From the above it would appear that August and September are the breeding months here, and that the nests are usually constructed in vertical hollow limbs with the entrance opposite a crevice or knot-hole.

As far as one may judge from observations made in the field, young birds have a somewhat paler rump than the adult birds.