

Identifying Thornbills

© Alan Stuart November 2012

The Brown Thornbill's a tiny thing
Of understorey, forest glade.
Oft victim when the cuckoos bring
An egg that isn't one it laid.

Some key features which we should note:
Dark eye, and a rump that's rusty.
But tho' it has a deep-streaked throat
That is not a field-mark trusty.

Much higher in the canopy
The Striated Thornbill is found.
It is a harder bird to see;
Being less often close to ground.

The crown of this bird is white-lined
And please note that its face has streaks.
Look more closely and you will find
That it has markings on its cheeks.

They look alike, these *Acanthiza*,
So an observer must take care
Whene'er fate decrees she sees a
Small brown bird with a cheery air.