

Brown Treecreeper

*Climacteris picumnus
victoriae*
vulnerable



Image: Michael Todd

The eastern subspecies of the brown treecreeper is a grey-brown bird with black streaking on the lower breast and belly and black bars on the undertail. Pale buff bands across the flight feathers are obvious in flight. The face is pale, with a dark line through the eye, and a dark crown. Sexes differ slightly in all plumages, with small patches of black and white streaking on the centre of the uppermost breast on males, while the females exhibit a rufous and white streaking. Juveniles differ from adults mainly by the pattern of the under-body, and by their pale bill and gape.

Subspecies *victoriae* is distinguished from subspecies *picumnus* by colour differences on the face, body and tail markings. The two subspecies grade into each other through central NSW.

Individuals are active and noisy giving a loud 'pink' call, often repeated in contact, and sometimes given in a series of 5 - 10 descending notes.

Brown treecreepers are found in eucalypt woodlands and dry open forests of the inland slopes and plains inland of the Great Dividing Range, usually with an open grassy understorey. They are also found in mallee and River Red Gum forests also with an open understorey.

They are considered to be resident in many locations throughout their range; present and territorial in all seasons, year-round at many sites.

They are gregarious and usually seen in pairs or small groups of 8 to 12 birds. They are conspicuous while foraging on trunks and branches of trees, amongst fallen timber and on the ground amongst fallen logs.

Hollows in standing dead or live trees and tree stumps are essential for nesting.

Find out more about the brown treecreeper and other threatened species at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies>