



Description: The Large-billed Scrubwren is a medium-sized, plain-coloured, arboreal (tree-dwelling) scrubwren with a rather short tail. Its long, dagger-like bill appears tilted upwards. The large dark red-brown eye stands out in the pale buff (orange-brown) face. The upperparts are olive-brown, more red-brown on the head and rump and the base of tail is washed rufous (reddish), with light buff underparts.

Where seen in the gardens: The Large-billed Scrubwren lives in tropical, sub-tropical and temperate rainforests and wet sclerophyll forests of coastal eastern Australia. In the gardens they are seen in forested areas and along the walks, especially the lower sections.

Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens: The Large-billed Scrubwren, unlike most scrubwrens, does not feed on the ground. It forages for insects and spiders, working upwards on trunks and branches of trees and vines 3 m - 17 m above the forest floor. It usually forages in pairs or small flocks of up to six birds.

Nesting: : The Large-billed Scrubwren often takes over the nests of other small passerines, especially those of Yellow-throated Scrubwrens (rarely seen in the gardens). Although these nests have sometimes been abandoned, they are often newly completed, and are appropriated before the builder has had a chance to lay its eggs. Sometimes they simply lay their eggs in the nest of a Yellow-throated Scrubwren and let it incubate the eggs. In parts of Queensland where the Yellow-throated Scrubwren does not occur, Large-billed Scrubwrens are forced to build their own nests, which are sometimes parasitised by cuckoos.

Similar Species in the gardens: The White-browed Scrubwren, *Sericornis magnirostris*, shares part of its range with the Large-billed Scrubwren and is sometimes seen in the gardens. It is mostly dark olive-brown above, while the throat is buff grey and the flanks, belly and rump are dull rufous. They have a white line above the eye and another below the eye. Certainly not as drab as the Large-billed Scrubwren!