

### BIRD NOTE

**STRIATED THORNBILLS DEW-BATHING ON THE GROUND.** At Gemini Downs, 4 km NW of Salt Creek in the early morning of 4 March 1982, I observed three Striated Thornbills *Acanthiza lineata* bathing on the dew on Kikuyu grass *Pennisetum clandestinum*. The birds flew from *Eucalyptus diversifolia* scrub into an open grassy area and there, on the ground, bathed by tilting their bodies forward and fluttering their wings in the damp grass. They bathed for about two or three minutes, their plumage becoming dark and wet. Yellow-rumped Thornbills *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa* and Silvereyes *Zosterops lateralis* were also on the ground amongst the damp grass, but were not bathing.

Silvereyes acted aggressively towards the Striated Thornbills and displaced them from the ground on two occasions. Nearby, three Brown-headed Honeyeaters *Melithreptus brevirostris* were bathing amongst dew on the foliage of *E. diversifolia*.

Passerines, particularly honeyeaters, often bathe in the foliage of *Eucalyptus* (pers. obs.). However, I know of no other reports of birds bathing in the dew on grasses. The behaviour of the Striated Thornbills, which are arboreal birds, seems therefore all the more unusual.

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