

**Common Name/Scientific name:**

***Spotted Pardalote/ Pardalotus punctatus***

The spotted pardalote is one of the smallest of all Australian birds at 80 to 100 mm in length, and one of the most colourful; it is sometimes known as the Diamondbird or Diamond Bird. Although moderately common in all of the reasonably fertile parts of Australia it is seldom seen closely enough to enable identification.

**Description:** The Spotted Pardalote is a tiny bird that is most often high in a eucalypt canopy, so it is more often detected by its characteristic call. The wings, tail and head of the male are black and covered with small, distinct white spots. Males have a pale eyebrow, a yellow throat and a red rump. Females are similar but have less-distinct markings.

**Where seen in the gardens:** The Spotted Pardalote is mostly found in eucalypt forests and woodlands but also in parks and gardens with well-established eucalypt canopy. In the gardens may be seen in areas with tall eucalypt trees (but you may need binoculars!)

**Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens:** The Spotted Pardalote forages on the foliage of trees for insects, especially psyllids, and sugary exudates from leaves and psyllids.

**Nesting:** The Spotted Pardalote's nest is an enlarged, lined chamber at the end of narrow tunnel, excavated in an earth bank. Sometimes they nest in tree hollows and occasionally in artificial structures. Both parents share nest-building, incubation of the eggs and feeding of the young when they hatch.

**Similar Species in the gardens:** The Striated Pardalote (*P. striatus*) has a striped head rather than spotted, and lack the spotting on the wings, and has a plainer back. (See the Very Often Seen Birds webpage)



Spotted Pardalote  
(female)



Spotted Pardalote  
Marg Hynes