

Common Name/*Scientific name* Striated Pardalote/ *Pardalotus striatus*



**Description:** There is considerable variation in plumage characteristics across the range of this small (around 100mm in the gardens) species. These birds have white eyebrows with a yellow spot in front of the eye, olive-grey backs and a white stripe in the wing. The wing stripe may be narrow or wide, the coloured spot at the front end of this stripe may be red or yellow, and the black crown may have or lack fine white stripes (usually lacking in local species). Both male and female are similar in plumage. Young birds also resemble the adults, but are notably paler, particularly on the crown and face.

**Where seen in the gardens:** Striated Pardalotes mainly feed in the foliage in the tops of eucalyptus trees, although occasionally coming close to the ground in low shrubs.

**Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens:** They eat a variety of insects and their larvae, which are usually captured by picking them from the surfaces of leaves (lerps preferred). Feeding takes place in small groups and birds maintain contact with soft trills. Some honeyeaters compete vigorously with them for food and territory

**Nesting:** During breeding season, Striated Pardalotes form pairs or small groups of up to six birds. The nest is constructed close to the ground, usually in a tree hollow or tunnel, excavated in an earthen bank; small openings in human-made objects are frequently used. The birds display regularly at the entrance to the nesting chamber, and vigorously guard the vicinity against other pardalotes. Both sexes incubate and care for the young birds. Other members of the group may also help with the feeding of the young.

**Similar Species in the gardens:** Spotted pardalotes, which don't have the black crown.