

# STRIATED PARDALOTE

Striated Pardalotes inhabit eucalypt forests and woodlands. The clearing of natural habitat across south-eastern Australia has resulted in the loss of millions of natural hollows that Striated Pardalotes use as nesting sites. The Striated Pardalote is a good indicator species for healthy native remnant woodland in agricultural areas.



Striated Pardalote - *ornatus* subspecies occurs in south-eastern Australia © Stephen Thuan



The *striatus* subspecies occurs in Tasmania (note yellow spot on wing) © Chris Tzaros

## HOW TO IDENTIFY A STRIATED PARDALOTE

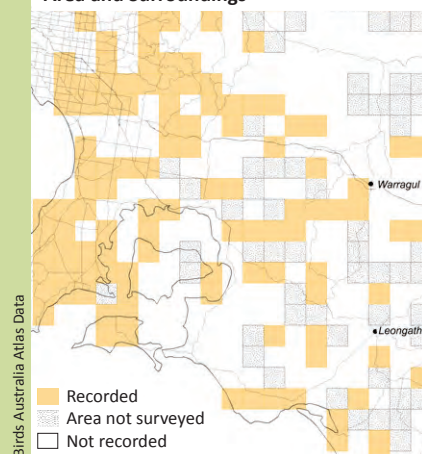
The Striated Pardalote (*Pardalotus striatus*) is a tiny bird (<10 cm long) with a black crown and a broad white eyebrow that ends in a yellow patch at the base of the bill. Wings are black with red (*ornatus* subspecies) or yellow (*striatus* subspecies) spots and the throat and underparts are both a pale yellow. Young birds often appear paler on the crown and face. Their call is described as a persistent 'witchi-cheu' and they are more often heard than seen. They occur in pairs or small groups, often in mixed flocks with thornbills, usually foraging in outer leaves and crowns of eucalypt trees and occasionally in understorey.

*Similar species:* Spotted Pardalote

## ANNUAL LIFE CYCLE OF A STRIATED PARDALOTE

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Young disperse from the breeding area.		The subspecies <i>ornatus</i> of south-eastern mainland Australia is joined by birds of subspecies <i>striatus</i> that migrate from Tasmania.					Breeding season: Both sexes incubate 3–5 eggs and feed nestlings for 21–25 days until they leave the nest.				

Distribution in Western Port Catchment Area and Surroundings



## WHAT MAKES GOOD STRIATED PARDALOTE HABITAT?



Healthy grassy woodland © Nicole de Gruchy Baird

Striated Pardalotes inhabit woodlands and eucalypt forests, where they feed high in the canopy, making them difficult to spot. They forage acrobatically, feeding on insects and larvae among foliage; they especially eat the lerps of psyllids that cause substantial damage to eucalypts. Healthy native vegetation that include Manna Gum, Brown Stringybark, Messmate and Golden Wattle provide valuable habitat for Striated Pardalotes. They prefer a well-connected habitat with an area of at least 10–30 hectares and are reluctant to cross large open spaces (>200 m). Striated Pardalotes nest in tree hollows or in holes in the ground, usually in vertical banks.



# ENCOURAGING STRIATED PARDALOTES ONTO YOUR FARM

**Striated Pardalotes thrive in well-managed patches of native vegetation, dominated by eucalypts and readily breed in artificial nest boxes.**

## PROTECT REMNANT PATCHES

- Fence off patches of eucalyptus trees and allow to regenerate naturally by excluding livestock, thus encouraging Striated Pardalote foraging and breeding habitat.
- Maintain a range of trees of different ages within remnant native patches. If eucalypt saplings fail to regenerate naturally, try supplementary planting using tube-stock or direct seeding.
- Leave fallen trees, branches, leaves and flowers to break down naturally to promote soil health, encourage regeneration and provide insect habitat.
- Link patches of native vegetation by planting corridors and shelterbelts at least 20 m wide, with trees, shrubs and groundcovers that are native to your local area.


## INCREASE BREEDING SITE AVAILABILITY


- Nest boxes mounted in trees and buildings provide valuable breeding sites.
- Importantly, the diameter of the nest entrance should be as close to 30 mm as possible. This ensures that other, larger birds that may compete for nest sites (such as starlings) do not breed in the nest boxes.
- Nest boxes should be mounted at least 50 m apart and 1–3 m above the ground. No nesting material is required.
- The entrance should face away from prevailing wind and rain.
- The addition of spacers (small spacing rings that fit over the bolts) is recommended for nest boxes mounted in growing trees. Spacers give the tree room to grow, while reducing the impact on both the tree and the nest box.
- Regularly inspect nest boxes, outside of the breeding period, to prevent occupation by pest species (e.g. rodents and bees).




Striated Pardalotes use tree hollows for breeding © Chris Tzaros

## DID YOU KNOW?

 The diversity of woodland-dependent hollow-nesting birds increases by 20% for every 10 large trees present.

 Insectivorous birds eat 60% of insects found in woodland forests.

 Striated Pardalotes particularly love feeding on lerps, which otherwise reduce the vigour and growth of eucalypts.



Recommended dimensions for a Striated Pardalote nest box © Chris Tzaros



Department of Sustainability  
& Environment  
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### FACT SHEETS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR:

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- SCARLET ROBIN
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