

Striated Pardalote

Pardalotus striatus

#7 JULY 2020



Hunter Bird
Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia



Substriatus subspecies (photo Rob Palazzi).

Note the broad white wing bar, red wing spot and streaked crown.

Description

A small bird of the upper canopy, often difficult to see initially, but vocal, which helps to track it down. All six subspecies have a mostly-dark crown; a supercilium which is yellow initially, becoming bold white post-eye; a yellow to pale-yellow throat; pale underparts and darker upperparts; and a conspicuous white stripe on folded black wings, the stripe terminating with a red or yellow wing spot.

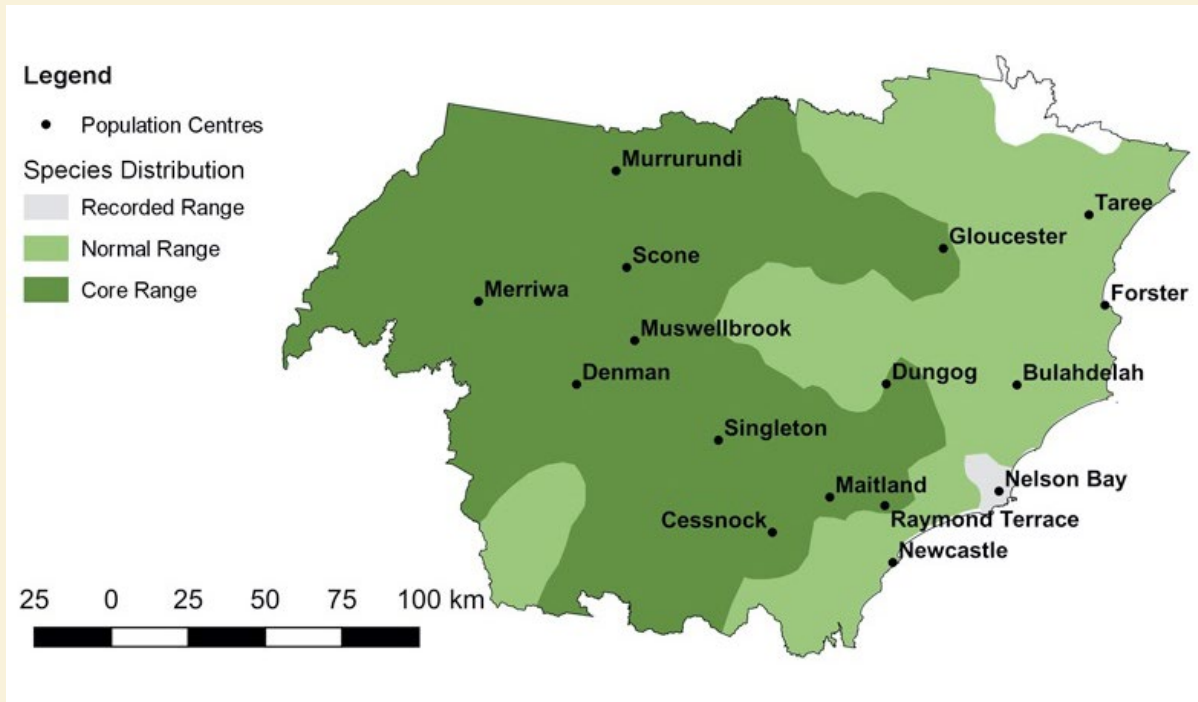
Males and females look alike; the females have a slightly duller appearance, but this is not easily picked in the field. In juveniles, the crown is grey not black, and their supercilium and throat are less strongly coloured.

Regional Status

Striated Pardalotes prefer to forage (leaf-glean) in the crowns of eucalypts, even using remnant stands of them in cleared areas. Hence, they are widespread in the Hunter Region, absent only from areas dominated by

rainforest.

The species is resident in our region but there is also a migration passage of southern birds in autumn plus some Tasmania-breeding birds spend the winter months here. There is no obvious southwards passage later in the year by migrating birds; what those birds do at that time is not well understood.



Distribution map for Striated Pardalote (map prepared by Dan Williams).

Sub-species

This is probably the most complex subspecies story for any species occurring within the Hunter Region. It is arguable that four of the six subspecies of Striated Pardalote are present. However, whenever two subspecies have adjoining ranges, there is an overlap zone where most of the birds are intergrades i.e. their DNA is part-way between that of either of the subspecies. The Hunter Region is where three mainland subspecies overlap: the inland subspecies *substriatus* (Western Striated Pardalote), the south-eastern subspecies *ornatus* (Eastern Striated Pardalote) and the north-eastern subspecies *melanocephalus* (Black-headed Pardalote). We also host the migratory subspecies *striatus* (Yellow-tipped Pardalote) from Tasmania in autumn-winter.

There have been many local records of what appear to be *substriatus* and *ornatus* birds but there also are documented instances of them crossbreeding

i.e. producing intergrades. The reality might be that there are no “pure” birds of either subspecies in the Hunter Region, only intergrades. Nevertheless, many local birds can appear strongly *substriatus*-like or *ornatus*-like. In the north of the region there are *melanocephalus* intergrade birds but as yet no confirmed records of “pure” birds of that subspecies (Whistler 2018 p59-60).



Photos Rob Palazzi, Alan Stuart and Mick Roderick

Which is which?

The four relevant subspecies have subtle plumage differences, which are not easily discerned in the field. The key things to look for are the presence or absence of streaking in the crown, the width of the white wing bar, the colour of the wing spot and the colour of the fore-supercilium (the part extending in front of the eye).

| | substriatus | ornatus | striatus | melanocephalus |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Crown | streaked | streaked | streaked | no streaking |
| Fore-supercilium | yellow | yellow | yellow | orange-yellow |
| Wing bar | broad | narrow | narrow | broad |
| Wing spot | red | red | yellow | red |
| Season | all year | all year | autumn-winter | all year |
| Regional location* | inland | coastal & nr coastal | widespread | far north-east |

*Location information is indicative-only, because of the potential for intergrade birds



Ornatus and *substriatus* pair nesting near Singleton (photo Peter Alexander)

About the name

Striated Pardalote

“Striated” refers to the white striations in the crown of several subspecies, while “Pardalote” adopts the genus scientific name bestowed by Louis Vieillot in 1816. In a way it is surprising we use that for the common name; in another way it is not. Striated Pardalotes are common and well-known across all of Australia, which means they were given lots of different local names by early birdwatchers, especially when some of the now-subspecies back then were treated as separate species. Rather than using one of the large number of local names and spurning all the others, we opted for what essentially is a location-neutral name.

Pardalotus striatus

The genus name derives from the Greek word *pardalotus* meaning “spotted, like a leopard” (leopard is *pardalis* in Latin). *Striatus* is the Latin word for streaked or furrowed. Of the subspecies names, *ornatus* is the Greek word for “adorned”, *substriatus* uses the Latin word *sub* (“less”) ie the bird’s crown is less streaked than the nominate *striatus* subspecies, and *melanocephalus* uses the Greek words *melas* (black) and *kephale* (head).

HANZAB (the Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds) • Bird in the Hand (ABSA information sheet series) • Ian Fraser & Jeannie Gray (2013). Australian Bird Names. A Complete Guide • Richard Schodde and Ian Mason (1999). A Directory of Australian Birds (Passerines).

Information in this fact sheet is provided exclusively to members of the Hunter Bird Observers Club

© Copyright 2020 Hunter Bird Observers Club www.hboc.org.au

You are receiving this email as you are a member of the Hunter Bird Observers Club

[Unsubscribe](#) • [Update Email Address](#) • [View Online](#)



This email is powered by Direct Mail for Mac. [Learn More](#) • [Report Spam](#)