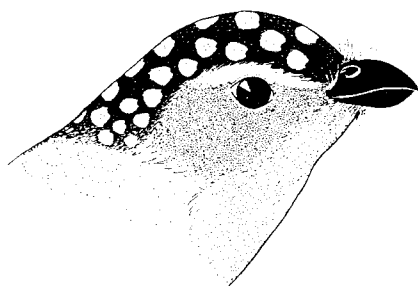
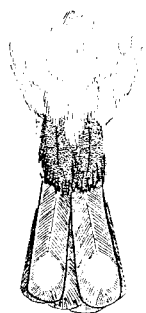
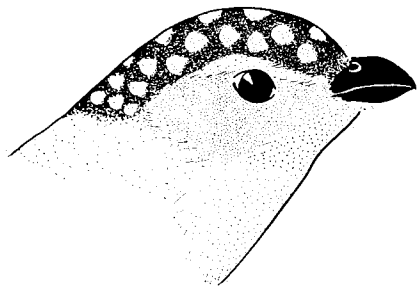


# BIRD IN THE HAND

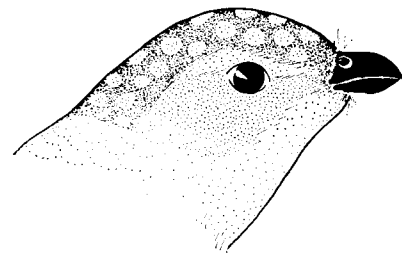
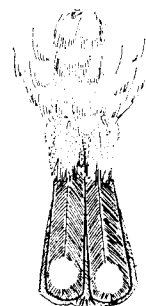
By H. J. de S. Disney, drawings  
by Sondra Beresford, Australian  
Museum, Sydney.



**ADULT MALE**



**ADULT FEMALE**



**JUVENILE**

Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*)  
RAOU No. 565

## ADULT MALE

**Crown:** Black with white spots.

**Chin, Throat and Upper Breast:** Bright yellow.

**Sides of Neck:** Grey with black bars.

**Eyestripe and Lores:** Well marked and white.

**Rest of Underparts:** Fawn, becoming pale buff-white with wear.

**Upper Tail Coverts:** Crimson.

## ADULT FEMALE

**Crown:** Black with bright yellow spots.

**Chin, Throat and Upper Breast:** Whitish-buff.

**Sides of Neck:** Buff-grey.

**Eyestripe and Lores:** Buff, and ill defined.

**Rest of Underparts:** Buff-white.

**Upper Tail Coverts:** Red.

## IMMATURES

Similar to adults. Immatures can only be positively distinguished by external examination of the skull to determine degree of ossification.

## JUVENILES

Sexes not readily distinguished.

**Crown:** Grey to ashy-grey with pale dull yellow to yellow-olive indistinct spots.

**Chin, Throat and Upper Breast:** Whitish-buff.

**Sides of Neck:** Olive-grey.

**Eyestripe and Lores:** Faint stripe, buff-white patch above and behind eye.

**Rest of Underparts:** Buff-white.

**Upper Tail Coverts:** Rufous-brown, not red.

**Note:** Juveniles may sometimes be sexed by the presence of odd white spotted crown feathers (males), by yellow spotted crown feathers (females), or by yellow feathers on the throat (males).

**Warning:** After breeding and before moulting, birds particularly females with very old and worn feathers, may appear to be juveniles as the crown feathers may have lost or partly lost their spots. However, the wings, if examined, will also be very worn and most of the white spots lost. Juveniles will have fresh, unworn feathers and all white spots on the wings will be present.

Females with very worn feathers will have the tips of the remaining yellow spots faded white.

The colours of the body and head feathers appear to vary slightly. Birds are very bright and in full colour after the post breeding moult, but by the time breeding is completed, probably due to increased wear in the nesting burrows, the colours will have faded or worn off.