

- Wood, C. A. and Wetmore, A. 1925. A collection of birds from the Fiji Islands. [Pts. I-II.] *Ibis* (12) 1: 814-855.
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The southern breeding limits of the Black-headed Pardalote.—In *The Emu* 29: 296, Norman Chaffer deals with the nesting of the Black-headed Pardalote, *Pardalotus melanocephalus*, at Port Macquarie, N.S.W. Plate 49 gives an excellent illustration of this breeding bird. Chaffer expressed surprise at seeing it so far south and I cannot find any published record to dispute his views.

Although I have seen it on rare occasions during a number of trips to the Manning River district, fifty miles south of Port Macquarie, I had no evidence of breeding until the early morning of September 6, 1959. Whilst driving slowly along the Pacific Highway one mile south of Taree I caught a glimpse of a pardalote emerging from a hole in the earth-bank road-cutting, about two feet above the road level, and immediately stopped for investigation. I was unduly surprised to find four pardalotes in the lower branches of a small tree, about eight feet high, growing adjacent to the nest-hole. First one bird entered and soon emerged from the hole and then another. On closer scrutiny I found two were Eastern Striated Pardalotes, *Pardalotus ornatus*, and two were Black-headed Pardalotes. It was difficult to ascertain which pair was really in possession of the nesting-hole and which were the interlopers, but both were calling incessantly and all were most agitated. As I had arranged to meet Constable J. N. Hobbs, travelling to Taree, at a pre-arranged place about a mile distant, I was forced to leave. On our return a short time afterwards the pair of Black-headed Pardalotes were in full possession, busily going in and out of the nesting-hole, and there was no sign of *P. ornatus*.

Whether the pair of *P. melanocephalus* was the original builders of the nest-hole or usurped it from the Eastern Striated Pardalotes could not be solved, but as they repulsed the others and were actually continuing nesting operations, it must be regarded as a breeding record. I left for home the following day. The nest-hole continued into the inner chamber but whether eggs had been laid I could not determine.

This is, as far as I can ascertain, the farthest south in eastern Australia this species has bred and may also be the southern limits of its known range. Its range to the south in Western Australia is obscure. Serventy and Whittell (*Birds of Western Australia*, 1951) state that it only occurs in the Kimberley region, no specimen being known farther south, despite a subspecies named *Pardalotinus melanocephalus pilbarra* by G. M. Mathews, in 1923, from mid-western Australia.—ARNOLD R. MCGILL, 119 Wollongong Road, Arncliffe, N.S.W.