

**The Spotted Pardalote Nesting.** With most species of birds the parents with a brood of young birds are kept very busy satisfying the appetites of the hungry chicks. At times the death of one of the parents causes desertion by the remaining bird and the chicks left to die.

This, however, did not happen with a Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*) that I found nesting at Park Orchards, near Melbourne, during December 1960. When I found the nesting tunnel I noticed that there was a dead bird inside, which was partly obstructing the entrance. It was the female and as I removed the dead bird I noticed a movement in a small tree that was growing near the tunnel entrance. It was the male bird with a beak full of food for the nestlings.

For the next nine days the male bird continued to feed the chicks, early morning and late evening being the busiest times, arriving every 4 or 5 minutes and staying in the tunnel between 40 and 50 seconds on each occasion. In the middle of the day the visits would be every half-hour.

I was unable to visit the nest for three days after December 21. On my return there was no sign of the parent bird so presumingly the young had left the nest. A few days later I decided to dig the nest out. The length of the tunnel was 21 inches, the nest cup was composed of fine bark and it had a diameter of  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches and a depth of 1 inch.

—Murray Bouchier, Park Orchards, Victoria. 9/4/1962.