

Speckled warbler

Chthonicola sagittata

vulnerable



Image: Michael Todd

The Speckled Warbler is a small well-camouflaged very heavily streaked ground-dwelling bird, reaching a length of 13cm. The back, wings and tail are grey-brown, with soft dark streaks. The black crown is distinctively streaked with buff. The underparts are pale and particularly heavily streaked. The face is off-white with streaking on the ear coverts. The male has a black upper margin to the brow, while the female has a rufous upper edge to the brow. The dark tail is held horizontally, although in flight the spread tail shows a wide black band above white tips of the outer tail feathers.

The call is an undulating rich, trilled, warbling mix of clear sharp whistles and mellow notes. The alarm call is a harsh churring chatter.

The speckled warbler lives in a wide range of Eucalyptus dominated communities that have a grassy understorey, often on rocky ridges or in gullies.

Typical habitat includes scattered native tussock grasses, a sparse shrub layer, some eucalypt regrowth and an open canopy.

Large, relatively undisturbed remnants are required for the species to persist in an area.

Their diet consists of seeds and insects, with most foraging taking place on the ground around tussocks and under bushes and trees.

Find out more about the speckled warbler and other threatened species at

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies>