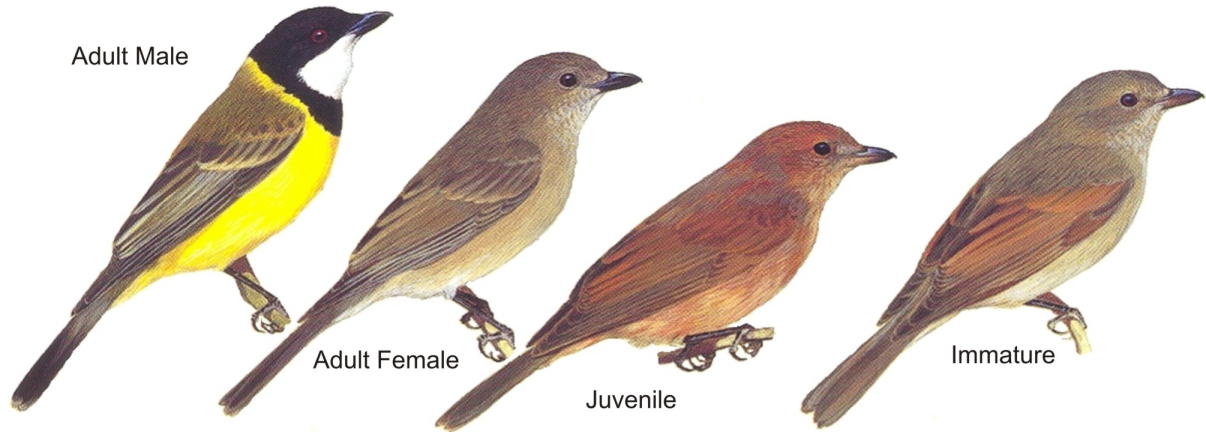


Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis* Species No.: 398 Band size: 03 AY



Morphometrics:

There are several subspecies, but the morphometrics listed in HANZAB for each subspecies are so similar and overlapping, that there is little point in listing them all here. It appears that sexes and age classes cannot be separated by measurements, so the morphometrics of the subspecies *P.p. youngi* which occurs in s-e NSW and most of Victoria, are provided here for interest only.

	Adult Male (3+)	Adult Female (3+)
Bill (tip to skull):	14.2 – 17.4 mm	14.5 – 17.6 mm
THL:	36.8 – 40.0 mm	32.6 -39.9 mm
Wing:	94 – 104 mm	90 – 102 mm
Tail:	70 – 89 mm	71 – 89 mm
Weight:	21.3 – 28.5 g	23.0 – 32.5 g

Ageing:

	Adult	Immature	Juvenile
Bill:	black;	dull black whitish base;	grey with pink base;
Gape:	black;	yellow becoming whitish;	yellow;
Eye:	red-brown or brick-red;	black-brown, or dark red-brown;	black-brown or dark brown;

Golden Whistlers are the only whistlers with a pale yellow ring of feathers around the cloaca.

Juvenile - wing coverts and secondaries are rufous;

Immatures – retain juvenile alula, rufous edges to wing coverts and outer edges of secondaries into their second year – so age them either (1) or (2-).

Most adult females cannot be reliably separated from immature males.

“Brown”-plumaged birds with no traces of rufous in their wings, back, crown or throat will be late into their second year or older – so should be aged (2+);

Males achieve full adult plumage early in their third year – coinciding with adult post-breeding moult.

Sexing:

Juveniles and Immatures cannot be sexed on plumage or morphometrics.

Adults are plumage dimorphic, but there is no size difference;

Adult male (3+) by plumage;

Adult female (3+), lack of any rufous plumage, often by presence of brood patch in breeding season;

Both sexes brood;

Record subspecies in overlap zones:

In central coastal NSW (vicinity of Sydney) both subspecies *P.p. pectoralis* and *P.p. youngi* occur and possibly interbreed, but here is a very obvious plumage difference is the colour of the undertail coverts – in *pectoralis* undertail coverts are pale yellow to straw yellow and in *youngi* they are dull white.

Similar species:

In some mallee habitats Golden, Red-lored and Gilbert’s Whistlers may all occur, but any confusion as to the species of “brown” birds can be eliminated on comparison of a combination of measurements – particularly wing and bill lengths and weight (see separate profile sheets).