

# THE BOWER BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA

## Family Ptilonorhynchidae

Continued from the December edition

### #8 SPOTTED CATBIRD



Photo: "becky1950"

The Spotted or Black-eared Catbird, *Ailuroedus melanotis*, is found in north Queensland and the island of New Guinea. It is approximately 26-30cm (10¼-12 inches) in length, the plumage is emerald green, with faint black markings on the face, white streaks on the neck and scale-like spots adorning the underparts. The sexes are similar.

The diet of the Spotted Catbirds consists of fruit, seeds, flowers, insects, and the



Range

eggs and young of other birds. The breeding season is from September to December. This species is monogamous, and lays one to three eggs each year. The incubation period is 19-25 days, fledging 18-22 days.

The Spotted Catbird is extremely similar to the Green Catbird, *Ailuroedus crassirostris*, but is more boldly marked. These two birds are considered by some to be geographical races of the one species. Widespread and common throughout its large range, the Spotted Catbird is evaluated as Least Concern on IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

R.V.C. with help from Wikipedia