



Yellow-tailed Thornbill at nest.

Photo. by A. J. Gwynne, R.A.O.U.

would be exterminated, yet I have no hesitation in saying that if the bird got the protection it well merits the loss caused by the blowfly would decrease year by year. Ravens also take toll of young rabbits, and during the summer months countless numbers of grasshoppers are greedily devoured, yet should a stray chicken or an egg be picked up by the bird his life is taken.

To sum up, although the Raven takes an odd lamb or two, visits the poultry yard or orchard occasionally (which visitations are easily checked), the balance in his favour warrants practically total protection, and if farmers and graziers would but realise that the much-despised bird is not so black as it is painted (or feathered), both bird and farmer would benefit thereby.

Double Nesting of the Yellow-tailed Thornbill.—While walking along a stretch of heath at Long Bay, some seven miles south of Sydney, on August 9, 1930, I found a nest of the common Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*) containing three newly-hatched young. The nest was four feet from the ground, under an overhanging branch of a Needle Bush (*Hakea acicularis*), and was difficult to see from the outside of the bush, so well was it hidden. The nest was of the usual type, dome-shaped, with a thickly-lined compartment below and an open cup-like receptacle above it. The top portion of the nest was roughly finished and the upper cavity scantily lined with feathers and fine grass.

On September 20 I made another visit to the locality, finding the nest empty. A pair of Thornbills was perched near by, and before many minutes had passed I noticed three young. The young birds were fed on the ground by their parents, and after feeding they all flew off together. Making a third visit to the nest on October 6, I was greatly surprised at seeing a Thornbill fly out. On examination, I found three dull-white eggs, faintly spotted with reddish-brown towards the apex. The only alteration to the nest since the rearing of the first brood was the addition of a number of feathers to the upper cavity. Using the nest a second time seemed unusual to me, for another pair of birds I had under observation during the past season reared a second brood in the same Banksia tree, after building a new nest close by the first. The first nest seemed serviceable enough, but apparently did not suit the taste of the "Yellow-tails."—A. J. GWYNNE, R.A.O.U., Carrington, N.S.W.