

The following are descriptions of typical skins:—

Adult Male.—Upper surface, from occiput to tip of tail coverts, and wing coverts, amber-brown; edges of wing deep violet grey margined with white; inner secondaries with speculum of metallic purple on outer webs; forehead, lores base of lower mandible, horse-shoe marking around ear-coverts, lower throat, white; throat, cheeks, ear-coverts, crown and nape black; foreneck, chest and abdomen, deep violet grey; central tail feathers amber brown, laterals deep violet grey tipped with white and a subterminal bar of black; under tail covers ochraceous tawny, iris brown, bill black, legs purple. Length 297 mm., wing 203 mm., culmen 18 mm., tarsus 27 mm.

Adult Female.—Whole of upper surface tawny; chin, space between mandibles and eyes, lores, dull white; forehead tawny washed with white; ear-coverts and throat, black, each feather with a whitish base; foreneck, white; rest of tawny blending into deep violet-grey of chest and abdomen. Length 287 mm., wing 193 mm., culmen 18 mm., tarsus 26 mm.

The specimens figured are:—

Male.—Collected at Hewart Downs, north-western New South Wales, September 22, 1931.

Female.—Ditto.

The specimens are in the collection of the author.

Yellow-tailed Thornbill, in Upper Chamber of Nest.—While photographing Yellow-tailed Thornbills (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*) at their nest on September 6, 1931, I noticed the female hop to, and sit on, the upper cup-shaped chamber of the nest once or twice. This was done following her approach with insects, and also after she had fed the young birds. Hoping to picture her in that position, I re-focussed the camera and retired a few yards. About five minutes later the opportunity came, but the cotton by which the shutter was to be operated had in the meantime become entangled, and when pulled failed to make the exposure, whereon some caustic remarks were directed to cottons in general. Shortly afterwards, however, she was back, and, after flying nervously about the nearby limbs, she hopped to the upper nest, stood on its edge for a moment, and then snuggled down in it as though she were covering eggs. The photograph secured shows the bird in this position. The nest was placed in a very open situation about six feet from the ground in a flowering branch of a thorny bush (locally known as Bullthorn) and ideally suited to photography.—ARTHUR ELLIOTT, R.A.O.U., Camberwarra, N.S.W.



Adult Yellow-tailed Thornbill resting in upper, chamber of nest.
Photo, by Arthur O. Elliott, R.A.O.U.