

identify the newcomer as an Olive Whistler. It stayed about for half an hour and then disappeared into the mist farther up the mountain side, calling repeatedly. Early the following morning the bird appeared in the blackberries much lower down the same gully and I listened appreciatively to its song for about an hour, during which time it moved about very little and kept well under cover. The next morning it reappeared at the same spot and gave a similar performance, finally disappearing up the mountain side as it had done on the two previous mornings. The following morning I listened in vain for the charming melody, and I have not seen or heard any more Olive Whistlers since.

Zosterops lateralis. Grey-breasted Silvereye.—A common bird of the blackberries. During the summer, when the berries are ripe, large numbers of Silvereyes may be seen feeding on them. During the winter months small flocks are often seen working over the foliage of the bushes. The Silvereye is often blamed for spreading the blackberries—in my opinion, rather unjustly. While it may be responsible to some extent, I believe the washing of seed along creeks and gullies by flood waters has been a much more prolific cause of their spread. Silvereyes' nests are rarely built in the blackberries, trees and bushes in the vicinity being much more favoured.

Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris. Eastern Spinebill.—When the blackberries are in blossom, Spinebills are usually seen working over the blossoms but are not often seen about the bushes on other occasions.

Meliphaga lewini. Lewin Honeyeater.—Lewin Honeyeaters may be seen about the blackberries at all times of the year but do not spend a great deal of time there during the autumn and winter. They feed on the blossoms and ripe berries.

Aegintha temporalis. Red-browed Firetail.—Large flocks of Red-browed Firetails are frequently met with feeding on grassland in the vicinity of blackberries, taking cover in the bushes when disturbed. The thick bushes provide good protection against enemies. Isolated clumps of blackberries in grassland are favourite nesting-sites of the Red-browed Firetail.

Of course, many other species may perch on blackberries, but they do not habitually seek their food there, nor do they build their homes there like those described.

The Red-tipped Pardalote.—While watching a pair of Red-tipped Pardalotes (*Pardalotus ornatus*) carrying food to their young ones last year, I noticed another Pardalote closely examining some holes in the bank as if seeking a suitable nesting site. Its presence was quickly detected by the pair in possession of the territory, the male bird attacking and driving away the intruder, which offered only a feeble resistance. Apparently attracted by the site, the trespasser returned several times and was promptly expelled, a few quick swoops on the part of the attacker, unaccompanied by vocal protest, being all that was necessary. It was amusing to observe the solicitude with which the parent birds regarded the almost impish persistence of this stranger, who was either blissfully unaware of his transgression of avian law, or determined to vindicate imaginary rights.—N. L. ROBERTS, Homebush, N.S.W., 7/6/37.



Red-tipped Pardalote at nesting site.

Photo. by N. L. Roberts.