



Staging used in photographing Black-chinned Honeyeater.

Photo. by K. A. Hindwood.



Black-chinned Honeyeater at nest.

Photo. by K. A. Hindwood.

- f<sup>1</sup>—Wing 156-170 mm. (162). Breed-  
ing on Tristan da Cunha Group  
(Inaccessible Island) . . . . . *F. g. aquerea*  
(*tristanensis*)
- f<sup>2</sup>—Wing 156-168 mm. (161.7).  
Breeding on Lord Howe Island . . . *F. g. royana*  
(*innominatus*)

**The Black-chinned Honeyeater.**—The Black-chinned Honeyeater (*Melithreptus gularis*) is evenly distributed throughout open-forest areas in the "shale" country west of Sydney, although not in any great numbers: it does not occur in the adjoining sandstone areas. The usual breeding season extends from July to December,\* after which small flocks of seldom more than six birds move about together. Young birds, soon after they leave the nest, resemble adult Brown-headed Honeyeaters (*M. brevirostris*) in coloration. On October 9, 1934, a companion and I found a nest of the Black-chinned Honeyeater amongst the outer foliage of a box tree (*Eucalyptus* sp.). It was necessary to build a staging, in the form of a tripod some twenty feet high, to get a camera in the best position for photography. The adult birds more or less ignored the staging and our presence as they constantly fed the two young birds, which were then a few days old. The nestlings were fed largely on caterpillars and sometimes on what appeared to be nectar, and the parents ate the excreta voided by the young. On three occasions they were seen to copulate on a branch near the nest.

Superficially the Black-chinned Honeyeater resembles the White-naped Honeyeater (*M. lunatus*), although a small patch of vivid blue flesh above the eye, apart from other differences not so noticeable, at once distinguishes it from the latter species, which has bright red above the eye. Hereabouts both birds occur in the same localities. I once saw a Black-chinned Honeyeater secure a caterpillar which was immediately taken from it by a Fuscous Honeyeater (*Meliphaga fusca*) feeding in the same sapling. The character of the nest, with innumerable fine hairs protruding from it, is clearly shown in the accompanying photograph.

Extensive notes on the Black-chinned Honeyeater [Black-throated Honeyeater] were contributed to *The Emu* by P. A. Gilbert (vol. xix, 1919, pp. 28-33, pl. 13, text fig.). The status of the species in relation to *M. laetior*, therein discussed as a sub-species of *M. gularis* on the basis of G. M. Mathews's "*Handlist*" of 1913, no longer causes concern as the two birds are now considered specifically distinct. —K. A. HINDWOOD, Sydney, N.S.W., 9/7/37.

\* Recorded as nesting regularly in the Bankstown (Sydney) district during the autumn (February to April) by P. A. Gilbert (*The Emu*, vol. xxxvii, July, 1937, pt. 1, p. 29).—K.A.H.