

In a favourable season this bird is an early breeder. I found my first nest in the middle of July. It contained three half-grown young, but the actual breeding season extends to the end of September, as I found fresh eggs at Wurarga during the early part of that month. When the territory of a pair is invaded, the male bird flies to meet the intruder, and, flitting just ahead from bush to bush, tries to lead him from the vicinity of the nest. When feeding young, both birds are busily engaged, and a little patient watching will lead to the discovery of the nest. The young appear to be fed largely on small caterpillars, which are assiduously hunted by the parents in the neighbouring shrubs. I have never seen this bird on the ground. The most unusually-situated nest I found was built in the slender foliage of a cypress pine growing on the banks of a water-course at Wurarga, at a height of eleven feet. Another nest contained an egg of the Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*).

During the courting season the male has a not unpleasing song, but of only a twittering character and pitched in a very high key. These notes are quite different from the harsh "thrip-thrip" which may be interpreted as the alarm note. The species is shy without being actually timid, and is quite easily overlooked. The foregoing notes are taken from my old diaries.

I have been requested to suggest a suitable vernacular name for this inconspicuous little bird, which at present is listed as the Robust Thornbill, which suggests that the bird itself is "stocky." The specific name *robustirostris* explains itself without a knowledge of Latin. But in the case of so small a species a "strong bill" is only apparent at very close quarters in the bush, or in comparison with the beaks of cabinet specimens of the same genus. I can only suggest that some name might be chosen which expresses its love of a dry area and its nesting association with an *Eremophila* bush.

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"To provide an item on the menu of the official banquet tendered the British King and Queen in Quebec more than two thousand slate-colored juncos were slaughtered. Such an act was in direct violation of decency and of the spirit, if not the letter, of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act between Canada and the United States. Protests arose even before the banquet was served, and it is understood that their Majesties did not partake of this course. More protests have followed, and it is hoped that they will be in such volume as to preclude any repetition of such a practice."—Extracted from *Nature Magazine*, U.S.A., vol. 32, no. 8, October, 1939, p. 462.