

and are described accordingly as "sessile" or "pensile." Sessile nests "sit," that is, rest on forks between branches; pensile nests "hang," that is, are suspended by their rims from slender stems, twigs, or leaf-stalks. Among sessile nests in addition to the nests of the two Wattle birds may be placed those of the following local Honeyeaters:—Regent, White-eared, White-cheeked and White-bearded (or Yellow-winged) and the Soldier-Bird or Noisy Miner; while the little nest of the Bloodbird and the larger nests of the White-naped, Fuscous, Yellow-faced and Lewin Honeyeaters and the large swinging nest of the Noisy Friar-Bird (*Philemon corniculatus*) are examples of the second class. Sometimes both methods of support are used for the one nest. The Spinebill's nest generally hangs from its rims, but I have seen a hanging nest that at the same time was supported partly by a fork beneath it. Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters make, I believe, both types of nests, and in this connection it is of interest that the Blue-faced Honeyeater (*Entomyzon cyanotis*)—not a Sydney Honeyeater—whose natural and normal nest is of the pensile type, much resembling that of the Friar Bird or Leatherhead as it is usually called in Sydney, has acquired a habit of making sometimes a nest of the sessile type, placing it at times on top of an old nest of other birds, notably Babblers. While the exterior parts of Honeyeaters' nests, consisting, as they do, of arrangements of bark, fine twigs, grass, oddments of string, wool and rag, may be sometimes rough or untidy, the inner linings that come in contact with the eggs are a wonderfully-wrought, smooth fabric of warm and soft materials which vary not only with the species, but also with the nature of the material available. For this purpose the Lewin Honeyeater sometimes uses white fluff from the seed-pods of certain native plants, but at other times brownish material, perhaps from a Cycad (*Macrozamia*). The two handsome birds of the *Meliornis* genus, plentiful about Sydney—the White-cheeked (*M. niger*) and Yellow-winged birds (*M. novæ-hollandiæ*)—are fond of the reddish-brown, velvety substance from the cones of the Red Honeysuckle (*Banksia serrata*); and the White-eared Honeyeater (*Meliphaga leucotis*) finds bits of the fur from possums, rabbits or other animals which it works into a soft felt. So eager are the White-eared birds in these parts to obtain this sort of material that they have taken (so it has been recorded) woolly fluff from the socks and coats of observers and have even alighted on a man's head and begun to take his hair. There must have been a great dearth of natural fur as well as an urgent need of it to account for such daring. Horse-hair and cow hair is also used by some Honeyeaters for their nests. I have seen Fuscous, White-naped and Brown-headed birds collecting hair from the backs of horses and cows.

Ægitha temporalis. Red-browed Finch.—These little birds (here, as a rule, not quite appropriately called Redheads) nest regularly in the paddock or close at hand and attract attention by the long wisps of grass they carry for the construction of the bulky nest and often find unmanageable in a strong breeze.

A Strange Nesting Place.—A Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) has built its nest inside a swallow's nest in the corner of a cowshed and laid its eggs. The very rough weather has no doubt been the reason for the birds seeking a sheltered place for their nest.—H. H. NEWELL, R.A.O.U., Hindmarsh Island, S.A., 1/11/28.