

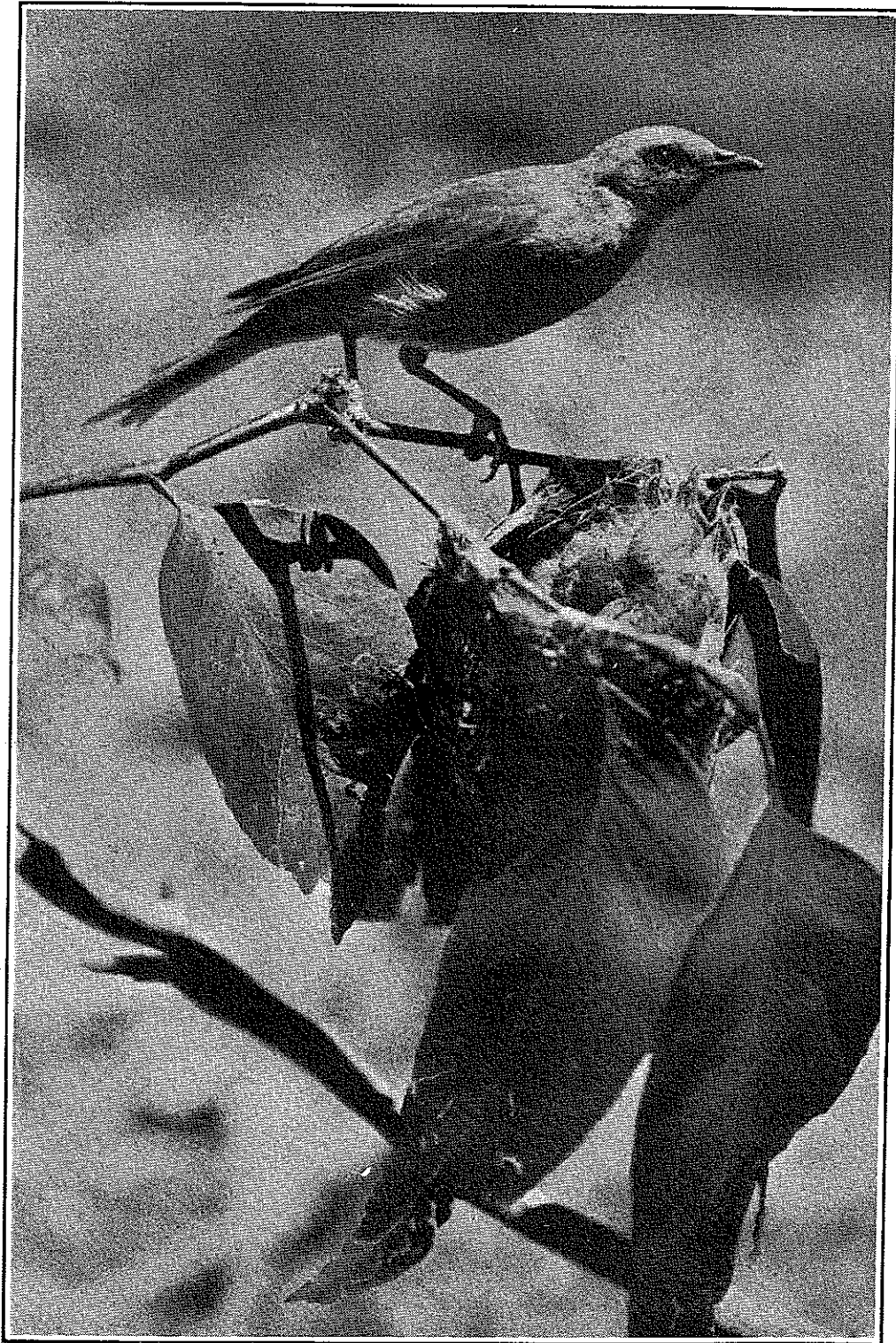
tion, this work is not likely to be surpassed by any future ornithologist. The same author, in conjunction with Tom Iredale, published, in 1921, a part of *The Manual of the Birds of Australia*, a work that would, if completed, have proved most necessary to both the field worker and the cabinet worker. Ten years have now elapsed since the first volume appeared, however, and publication of the remaining three volumes has never since been announced, so it seems unlikely that the public will see the work completed.

In the last thirty years much valuable work has been done by ornithologists who, I am glad to say, are still with us, but their work must be left to someone else to recount.

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**The Fuscous Honeyeater.**—The Fuscous Honeyeater (*Meliphaga fusca*) is one of the commonest and most interesting of the many Honeyeaters frequenting the Wianamatta Shale country west of Sydney. Essentially a bird of the tree-tops, it almost invariably builds high up, usually suspending its neat, cup-shaped, fibrous structure between two twigs anything up to sixty feet from the ground. On January 4, 1931, I was successful in photographing both sexes of this species at a nest in a Yellow-box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*), at Doonside—a small township some twenty-five miles from Sydney.

The parent birds came readily, and though their movements were exceedingly rapid, little difficulty was experienced in securing pictures. The nest contained two well-grown young, which were fed on leaf-scale and flying insects caught dexterously in mid-air. One bird only, presumably the female, used the "broken wing trick" to lure the photographer away, and was supported in every instance by the male, which would fly across and accompany her, fluttering and hovering a few inches overhead, and uttering excited and encouraging cries the while. The harsh, grating alarm notes frequently attracted other pairs of Fuscous Honeyeaters to the vicinity, but they were promptly and vigorously repulsed by the distressed parents, which seemed determined that no others should share their domestic troubles. When greatly agitated, both birds utter a harsh, gull-like note, but the natural call consists of several beautiful liquid notes. Another beautiful call, frequently used when the birds are foraging, is strikingly reminiscent of one of the calls of the Grey-Thrush.—A. J. MARSHALL, R.A.O.U., Penshurst, N.S.W.



Fuscous Honeyeater at nest..

Photo. by A. J. Marshall, R.A.O.U.