

The spired tip of a pine tree in my home garden is the watching station of a Yellow-winged Honeyeater (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae*). It consistently perches there during the breeding season, when its mate is brooding on a nest in the shrubberies. The male, in fact, seems to spend the best part of its time perched on this tree-top, watching for rivals which it pursues with great vigour, and, with considerable dexterity, darting out to capture flies on the wing and returning to the perch to call loudly and preen its plumage. The common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) often challenges it for the right to use this high vantage point, but the Honeyeater usually wins in the end.

This is the bird's favourite perch, but it has a second one on a dead pine twig in another corner of the garden, and a third on the tip of a wattle tree in a lower corner, so the boundaries of the garden are also those of the bird's territory, into which no other Yellow-winged Honeyeater may venture without risking the owner's displeasure.

In the country, stones and clods of earth are the lookout points for the Flame Robin (*Petroica phoenicea*), which also rises to the lower branches of wattles and oaks the better to view the grass for the movement of caterpillars.

One can often notice the Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*) perched consistently on the high part of a gum tree and calling. We might more appropriately describe its perch as a 'singing station'. Likewise, the stake in a marsh, an old fence post, or the tip of a briar bush, becomes the singing station of the Field-Wren (*Calamanthus fuliginosus*) the melody of which is heard from many a boggy flat, marsh, and wet tussock area throughout Tasmania.

The Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*) trills its plaintive call from a dead stick often high in a living tree; the Striated Diamond-Bird (*Pardalotus striatus*) is just as vehement calling from a sapling twig close to a nesting hole. A tall clump of reeds is the lookout station of the Swamp-hen (*Porphyrio melanotus*), a crag the watching post of the Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaëtus audax*).

Ravens Feeding on Boxthorn Berries.—The Australian Raven (*Corvus coronoides*) is a common bird on the plains west and south-west of Melbourne, and great numbers roost at night in the belts of sugar gums planted in those areas. On March 14, 1948, near Point Cook, under one of these rows of trees, I noted that the ground was strewn with pellets of small seeds interspersed with bright red berry skins. On examination the pellets were found to be composed of the seeds and skins of the berries of the African boxthorn, which grows abundantly in this district. I have often seen Ravens on the clumps and rows of boxthorn, and it appears that the ripe berries are relished by them.

—ROY WHEELER, Windsor, Vic., 28/10/48.