

**Anthochaera paradoxa.** Yellow Wattle-Bird. In fair numbers. Nesting freely in the tea-tree scrubs. The nests I found were generally placed near the top of a tall thin tea-tree. Two others were suspended in clump of hanging leaves about thirty feet up in a eucalypt.

I understand that the Honeyeaters in general are very fond of the sap of the Cider Tree. This oozes out and form long streaks of congealed sap down the stems.

**Anthus australis.** Australian Pipit.—Migratory. Nests in the tussock grass or under a log.

**Zonæginthus bellus.** Beautiful Firetail.—Noted a few.

**Corvus coronoides.** Australian Raven.—Too plentiful for a sheep-owner's peace of mind. Four nests were seen by me.

**Strepera arguta.** Hill Bell-Magpie.—Not so numerous as the Black Bell-Magpie. I saw two nests. Under one I found a dead fledgling which had over-balanced. It was partly feathered. Feathers were appearing along the sides of body; the wing and tail feathers were a few inches long. The other fledglings were in a near-by tree being fed by the parents. 26th November.

**Strepera fuliginosa.** Black Bell-Magpie.—I have already written about these birds in a former issue of "The Emu" (Vol. XXII., Part 1). Plentiful. The pair which frequent the house always build their nest in a position enabling them to watch the back door. Last thing at night the male bird always calls to the hen sitting on her nest. Her mate does not roost very near. It always seemed to me as if he called, "Are you all well, dear?" and her answer could be construed into, "Quite well. Where are you?"

I saw the male of another pair carrying a partly grown rabbit for its young ones. The rabbit was too heavy for it to take up to the nest, so it found a spur on a log, on which it fixed the rabbit while it tugged at it. The picture I took of the birds so doing was an excellent one of the logs, but the rabbit did not show plainly owing to the movements made by the tugs of the bird.

**Cracticus torquatus.** Grey Butcher-Bird.—Fairly numerous. Saw several used nests in some Banksias along the Tunbridge road.

**Gymnorhina hypoleuca.** White-backed Magpie.—Not plentiful. Nesting in tree near the lagoon.

## Some Jervis Bay Birds

By H. WOLSTENHOLME, R.A.O.U., Wahroonga, Sydney.

Birds were plentiful about Jervis Bay at the end of November, 1923. At the village-port of Huskisson, on the bay, some eucalypts were then flowering, and the blossoms were being eagerly explored by Musk Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta concinna*) and numbers of Regent Honeyeaters (*Zanthomiza phrygia*). Among the blooms and leafage of the high trees, the beauty of the Honeyeaters could not be seen, and their only calls were the discordant notes characteristic of so many of the family as they fed and squabbled together. But, when the birds came down into the smaller trees, one could admire the bright contrasts of their black and light yellow plumage, and hear, sometimes, their bell-tone notes.

Here in a small Turpentine tree (*Syncarpia laurifolia*) a nearly-completed nest was found resting securely in a triple fork less than fifteen feet from the ground. One bird—the female, presumably—was gathering bark from the soft-barked eucalypts round about, the other bird being always near her. She would fly, with large pieces of bark in her bill, at great speed direct to the nest; the male bird following so closely behind that his beak seemed sometimes to touch her tail. He would take up a position close to the nest, nearly always in the same place, and, while she was busy arranging the material, he would sound the pretty tinkling notes of the species. This call consisted of series of three notes at a time—a single note followed by another repeated so quickly that it might be called a double note. This double note was several intervals lower in tone, the drop being, in musical terms, from the upper tonic to the mediant. The first note was like the single “tink” of the Bell-Miner (*Manorhina melanophrys*), but softer and less explosive. The plumage when seen closely in life is a wonderful combination of black and light yellow in shining hues. If the bird flies above one, the bright primrose yellow of the wing-quills and of the large tail (often spread during short flights) at once catches the eye, and is in marked contrast with the rich black of the head and neck. The light-tinted “fleshy excrescence” round the eye gave the bird, for some time, the ill-sounding but now happily abandoned name of “Warty-faced Honeyeater.” Originally the bird had been called the “Black and Yellow Bee-eater” (*Merops phrygius* Latham); another name was the “Mock Regent Bird.”

Two more nests were near by, about twelve feet up, in stringy-bark trees. These probably contained eggs, as the birds were in attendance; but I was not able to climb and look for the rich dark-coloured eggs. All the nests had a similar situation in the tree that a Yellow Robin (*Eopsaltria australis*) might have chosen for its nest. They were open, cup-shaped structures of brown bark, and were larger than the nest of the Yellow Robin, though not as large or untidy on the outside as that of the Grey Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*).

Other species, too, were breeding here. A male White-shouldered Triller or Caterpillar-eater (*Lalage tricolor*) was sitting calmly on its compact little nest on the other side of the Turpentine tree in which the Regent Honeyeater's nest was situated. This Caterpillar-eater, it may here be remarked, has been exceptionally plentiful this season about Sydney. The bright canary-like singing of the male birds has been heard continuously during the breeding season, not only in the bush, but in the parks and private gardens of the outer suburbs. In an adjoining tree—a Eucalypt—about twenty feet away from the Turpentine tree, a pair of Leaden Flycatchers (*Myiagra rubecula*) were taking turns sitting on their dainty lichen-decorated nest fixed on a broken dead bough. It was a Robin-like nest, and very hard to see even with the bird on it, with the bill

and tail only just visible. They (the male bird chiefly) sometimes while sitting on the nest, gave many pretty calls, some of which I had not heard before.

In the next tree four or five steps away, the large pendulous nest of a pair of Noisy Friar-birds, usually called Leatherheads in New South Wales (*Philemon corniculatus*) was barely visible in the dense foliage of a Eucalypt. A parent bird was making frequent visits to the nest feeding young ones, and on one visit it was seen to carry a large brown moth. The next tree again, a few feet off, held another Regent Honeyeater's nest. These five nests in four adjoining trees almost in a line could be watched at the same time, while low in a tree immediately behind could be heard at intervals the chirpings of the two young Jacky Winters (*Microeca fascians*) as they were fed. They looked as big as their parents, and, though bulging over the side of their tiny nest, they managed somehow to escape falling out. Just here, too, Rufous Whistlers (*Pachycephala rufiventris*), Golden Whistlers (*P. pectoralis*), White-throated Warblers (*Gerygone olivacea*) and Scarlet Honeyeaters (*Myzomela sanguinolenta*) were singing their sweet songs. Further away in some swampy ground several pairs of Emu-Wrens (*Stipiturus malachurus*) were flitting about and hiding amongst the long grass and tussocks. In the surrounding scrub and timber we found nests of the following species:—Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Graucalus novaehollandiae*); White-winged Triller (*Lalage tricolor*); Dusky and White-browed Wood Swallows (*Artamus cyanopterus* and *A. superciliosus*); Yellow-faced Honeyeater (*Meliphaga chrysops*), nest with young birds, five feet from ground; Brush Wattle-bird (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*), two nests, one in a *Casuarina*, one in a *Banksia serrata*; Noisy Friar-bird (*Philemon corniculatus*), one nest, low for this bird, only about ten feet from the ground; and Variegated Wrens (*Malurus lamberti*). While examining the nest of the Variegated Wren, which contained young ones, two adult male birds in fine plumage scurried about beside me with heads well down and long tails lowered and trailing on the ground. The birds looked like mice, but for their bright colours. The tail of this species has always appeared to me to be longer than the tail of the common Blue Wren (*M. cyaneus*). A comparison of length measurements would be interesting. Other Honeyeaters were numerous here, and also some Cuckoos, including the Square-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis pyrrhophanus*), whose loud, melancholy notes in descending scale were frequently heard. This Cuckoo was plentiful about the same time in the Sydney National Park.

**A Correction.**—Anent "Australian Sea Birds," mentioned in *Emu*, ante, p. 77, and a large Skua obtained at Queenscliff, Victoria. The name of the Skua should read *Catharacta antarctica*, not *Megalestris maccormicki*; it is separate from the larger dark species, *C. lonnbergi*, Mathews.