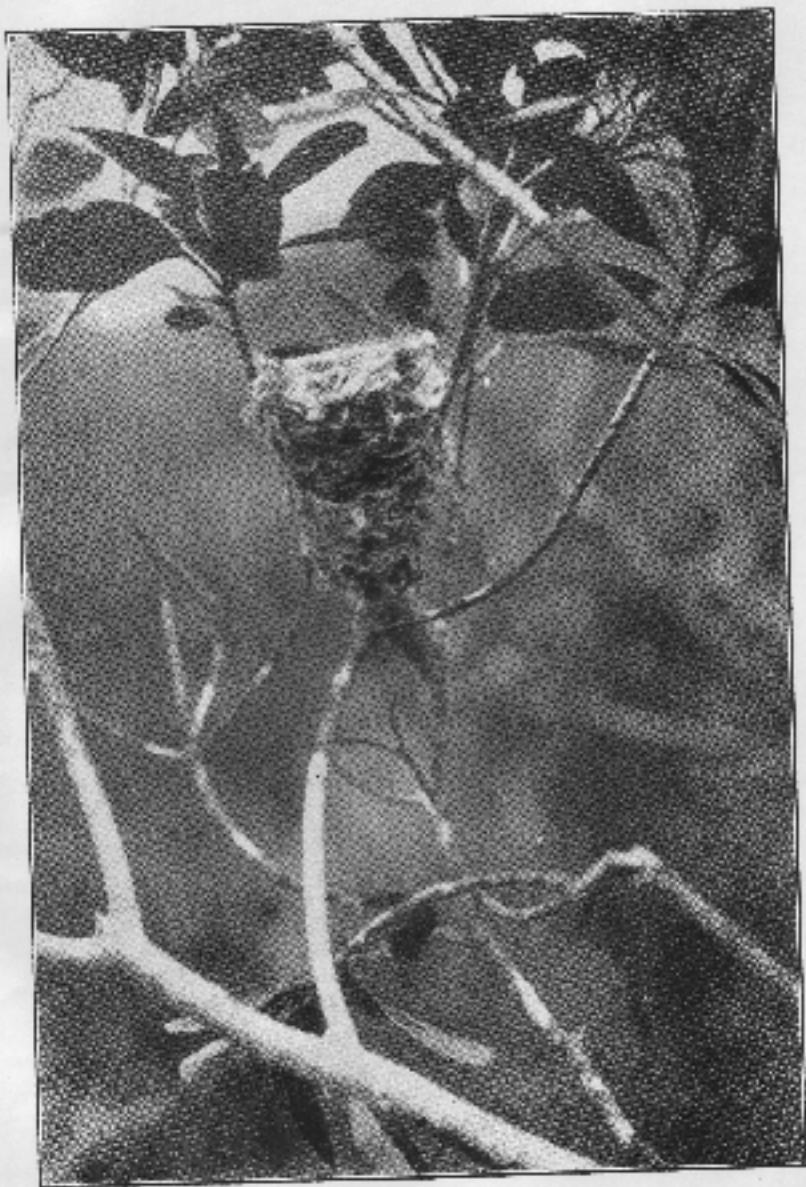


Nest of the White-eared Fly-catcher

By LILA M. MAYO, R.A.O.U., Roseberry Street, South
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The nest of the White-eared Flycatcher is, so far as I am able to discover, the first of that bird to be placed on record; the nest is now in the Queensland Museum and has, I believe, been registered. In working through scrub on Stradbroke Is., Moreton



Nest of White-eared Flycatcher (*Monarcha leucotis*)

Photo by Mrs. L. V. Mayo, B.A.O.U., South Devon

Day, Miss Geissmann and myself found a bird, black and white, new to us. Miss Geissmann thought it some kind of Flycatcher, and we observed it for some time. It whistled constantly, two staccato notes and one very long drawn out and plaintive; the birds also had little conversational notes with each other. Miss Geissmann saw nesting material in one bird's beak. We searched but failed to locate nest. On returning to the boat I looked up Hall's *Key*, and identified the bird as the White-eared Flycatcher (*Monarcha leucotis*).

Next morning we started out again, Miss Geissmann with camera, myself with "Hall" and field glasses, and found the birds in the same patch of scrub. They were feeding low, and came readily to their own whistle call, alighting on leaves of shrubs rather than the twigs. Miss Geissmann eventually found the nest, and for some while we watched the birds at work. Both birds worked, and shaped the nest with their breasts. Miss Geissmann fixed her camera in tree and pictured the nest; yet, although we waited patiently, the birds would not visit the nest while the camera was in position, but flew about in the scrub, whistling constantly. Next day we had to start back to Brisbane, but we left the nest untouched, content with the photograph. On reaching Brisbane we visited the Museum to make quite sure of our birds. A fortnight later we decided to return to Stradbroke Is. to see if the bird had laid and the eggs hatched out. We found the nest easily, but it was deserted, so we took possession of it, and brought it up to the Museum.

Dimensions of nest as supplied by courtesy of the Museum authorities:—Diam., 3in.; depth, 3½in.; inner diam., 2in.; inside depth, 1½in. Nest composed of thin strips of teatree bark, with green moss woven into and over teatree; outside covering of cobweb-like aphis; inner lining fine hairlike roots of fern, blackish in colour. The nest was built on a sloping fork of limb at a height of from 10 to 12 feet above the ground.

Description of first nest to be recorded of White-eared Flycatcher (*M. leucotis*) (Gould), found on Stradbroke Is. by Miss Geissmann (in company with Mrs. Mayo).—Next built on a sloping forked limb 10 to 12 feet from ground—the tree slight, with rounded leaves (*Acronychia laevis*). The nest formed of thin strips of teatree bark with green moss woven among and over the teatree; largely covered outside with a cobweb-like plant or aphis; interspersed with a white hairlike filament (not identified); inside lining of nest black hair-like roots of fern. The nest was built quite close to a path, and could be plainly seen from the path. The birds kept low nearly all the time they were under observation.