



Restless Flycatcher on nest.

Photo by Norman Chaffer, R.A.O.U.

to the same spot, and after a wait of ten minutes, we saw a male bird fly across the track and perch in a small sapling. He formed the vanguard of a small flock which obligingly settled in front of us. Amid the tangle of sunlit vegetation, we counted some six or seven dull-colored birds and three full-plumaged males. For the next fifteen minutes we gazed upon them, the while we exhausted the limited capabilities of the King's English in a vain endeavour to find adjectives worthy of these glorious birds. The following day, we discovered a pair in the ti-tree and banksia a mere hundred yards behind the hotel. One was a female, but the other appeared to be an immature male. It was a dull-plumaged bird with the under-surface not light colored but a dull black. The blackish wings showed lighter patches, but no definite yellow was noted. The only notes we heard this species utter were very similar to the harsh note of the Satin Bower-Bird.

The Paradise Rifle-Bird (*Ptiloris paradiseus*) was reported as being rarely seen at Iluka. At Cascade, I saw a female in some tall dense scrub. The size, general coloration, and long curved bill left no doubt about its identity, but though I remained some time in the vicinity I could not catch a glimpse of the shining male. In consequence, I cannot yet, from personal experience, wax enthusiastic over this, the most southerly representative of the Birds of Paradise. The Pied Currawong (*Strepera graculina*) was seen once at Iluka, but was very numerous at Cascade. The Gray Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus torquatus*) and the Black-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) take their usual place of honour at the termination of the list. No White-backed Magpies were seen, though one man told me that they were fairly common in the Grafton District.

The Restless Flycatcher.—I have often noted how individual birds of the same species vary in their attitude towards a camera or operator. Occasionally a Yellow Robin or Grey Fantail, usually the most trustful of birds, will be found that refuses to face a camera.

I had a similar experience with the Restless Flycatcher (*Seisura inquieta*). My camera was focussed on one nest containing eggs for four hours, but the bird refused to approach. The subject of the accompanying photograph, however, was just the reverse. The bird very soon became quite tame until finally she would hardly leave the nest when touched with a stick. On more than one occasion I pushed her with a stick into a suitable position for a photograph. The nest containing the usual four eggs was built in a eucalyptus sapling, about 12 feet from the ground, a rather low position for this bird.—NORMAN CHAFFER, R.A.O.U., Roseville, N.S.W.