

frequented a few eucalypts at my home in Rochester. Often, in hot weather, they would wander into the garden and allow one to spray water from the hose over them; shaking their wings and chattering, they appeared to enjoy this greatly. After their morning feed, procured by turning over obstacles on the ground, they would play games, pursuing and dodging each other through the wheels of a buggy, and, a few at each end of a stick, they would, seemingly, play at tug-of-war. Extremely energetic, this bird dislikes inaction; it will commence carrying sticks as early as April, although breeding in August. In my opinion this bird's habit of often building more nests than required is for no other reason than that it provides them with some occupation.

The Restless Flycatcher (*Seisura inquieta*) is, I have found, a very friendly bird when nesting. After easily securing several photographs, I once spent an hour sitting on a limb near its nest. The male bird would fly to a considerable distance, at times six hundred yards, in search of insects. Should he be away for an extra long period, the sitting bird would utter its three long, whistling notes and he would immediately commence to return. Near the tree a party of ants had their home and the "Grinder" here discovered an easy way of obtaining food. After the energetic ants had struggled along, it would hover above and take the food from their mouths just as they arrived at the entrance. Brown Tree-creepers also discovered this idea, but, as they could not hover above, they would alight on the small mound simultaneously commencing to brush the ants away with their feet which, whilst keeping them at a safe distance, also caused them to release their grip of the food.

Rufous Shrike-Thrushes.—When writing—and since the end of September last—we have had a camp on the sea shore a few miles north of Caloundra. The undergrowth is nowhere thick around us, and consists mostly of pandanus and occasional banksias abutting on to the tea-tree swamps. Rufous Shrike-Thrushes are here in dozens, playing and singing around the camp all day. The birds have a wonderful variety of rich, sweet notes, and one of their interesting "stunts" is to mimic the notes of the Harmonious Shrike-Thrush. The latter birds get very annoyed and make savage drives at the mimics. The Thrushes are very thorough in their insect hunting, tearing down the tea-tree bark and poking an insistent bill into every crevice. For some reason, for a few days most of the Rufous Shrike-Thrushes had their head feathers high, almost like a crest. It may have been a courting phase.—L. M. MAYO, Brisbane, Qld., 3/12/34.