

Camera Craft

The Black-faced Flycatcher.—This handsome bird is a partial migrant, extending its range from Timor and eastern Queensland south along the coast of New South Wales and occasionally occurring in the forests of Victoria. The sub-tropical scrubs east of the Blue Mountains are favoured by the Black-faced Flycatcher (*Monarcha melanopsis*) during October and the four following months. Nidification usually commences in November. The nest is a beautiful cup or cone-shaped structure composed outwardly of green moss (*Hypnum dendroides*) knitted together with a few strands of spiders' webs and lined with fine rootlets. Favoured situations are in heavily-foliaged trees or scrubs growing on the side of a gully or creek. I have found nests from five to thirty feet above the ground, generally placed in an upright fork. Two eggs of a white ground and spotted with red constitute a clutch. Both parent birds brood, relieving each other about every twenty minutes. Apparently there is no interchange of notes when changing places, though the bird which is not sitting sings frequently. The rich whistling song consists of two single notes followed by a double note, and finally a single whistle. A peculiar habit of the bird if startled while brooding is to erect its beak until it is pointing almost straight up in the air as shown in the accompanying photograph. The sitting bird will sometimes allow itself to be touched when on the nest, but usually at other times it is a timid bird. The young are fed solely on an insectivorous diet, principally of flies, and a few other insects obtained on the wing or secured among the upper foliage of tall trees in the manner of the Whistlers; in fact, this Flycatcher resembles the Whistlers in many of its habits.—H. H. INNES, R.A.O.U., "Barolin," Bundaberg, Qld.

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Whilst in the Grampians Mountains in central western Victoria in August, 1925, I was with my wife making my way through the beautiful "Wonderland" to the lookout on the pinnacle when our attention was attracted to the peculiar behaviour of a Honeyeater. It kept flying low over our heads and appeared anxious to settle on my wife's shoulder. We decided to sit down and await developments. Almost immediately afterwards the bird alighted on the rocks nearby and began cautiously to approach my wife, who remained motionless. Finally, taking courage, it flew on to her shoulder several times; on each successive occasion it prolonged its stay. Finally, it decided that all was well and began in an endeavour to obtain hairs for its nest building to pick at a fur necklet she was wearing.



Black-faced Flycatcher on nest.

Photo. by H. H. Innes, R.A.O.U.



White-eared Honeyeater taking hair for its nest.

Photo. communicated by Mr. W. H. Crowe.



Nest of Grey Shrike-Thrush on nest of Red-browed Finch.

Photo. by J. A. Ross, R.A.O.U.

These were apparently not of sufficient length, and it then somewhat startled my wife by picking at her ear as she thought. In the meantime I decided to try and obtain some snaps. I removed my hat and obtained a snap. The bird flew away, but after some minutes returned. On its return it examined me closely and then hopped on my shoulder and proceeded to extract hairs from my head. He repeated this several times and on the latter occasions brought along his mate who was apparently of less heroic strain, for despite every encouragement failed to join in, but remained an interested onlooker. Both my wife and I feel certain that the bird was the White-eared Honeyeater, No. 358 of *An Australian Bird Book*. On mentioning the incident on our return to the boarding-house we were informed that during the previous year a party of girls had reported a somewhat similar incident when these birds pulled threads out of their woollen scarves. I have seen the Blue Wren on numerous occasions collecting hairs from cows and horses, but this is the only occasion of which I have any knowledge of birds tackling the human.—WALTER H. CROWE, 33 Garnet Street, Preston.

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Nesting Sites of the Grey Shrike-Thrush.—In *The Emu*, Vol. XXVIII., p. 186, H. Wolstenholme mentions his having twice observed a nest of the Grey Shrike-Thrush (*Coluricincla harmonica*) on the remains of a nest of the Red-browed Finch (*Ægitha temporalis*). At Beaconsfield on 17th November, 1928, C. F. Ladwig and I saw a similar case, and secured a photograph of the nest. In this instance the nest of the Finch was quite fresh, for some of the grass of which it was composed still retained a tinge of green. The Finches, which had been ousted from their home, had built a new nest a few yards away. Once I found a nest of the Grey Shrike-Thrush on the ground in long grass, another was on a narrow ledge on the steep bank of a small creek, and I have several times found their nests on old nests of the White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*).—J. A. ROSS, Sometime President R.A.O.U., Malvern.

Stray Feathers

Greenshanks in Tasmania in May.—Whilst on a duck-shooting expedition to the Apsley Marshes at the head of the Moulting Bay, into which the Apsley River waters find their way through a series of drains dug long ago by the late Wm. Lyne, I had a good view of a couple of Greenshanks (*Tringa nebularia*) busy feeding along the margin of the marsh. This was yesterday, the 24th May. It