

the second pair, with outstretched wings and tail and snapping bill attacked the consort of the female on my head, but, on seeing her he retired from the combat to chase her away, returning immediately to his adversary who seemed unwilling to desert his spouse.

Four times I laughingly witnessed this comedy; meanwhile the female of the second pair, which was apparently building, for she had a feather in her bill, watched nearby, but did not attempt to perch on my body. I returned to the territory of the first pair of birds. Focussing the camera on a certain position and attaching a string to the shutter I was able to secure several photographs of the bird perched on my head, all of which, excepting the one reproduced, showed movement.

A few weeks prior to the above incident, Mr. Norman Chaffer, of Roseville, obtained several photographs of another White-eared Honeyeater perched on Mrs. Chaffer's head, whilst later I photographed a bird on Mr. Chaffer's shoulder; also this bird (the one I had previously photographed on my head) was taken removing strands from a coil of rope. When such unusual happenings as quoted above are recorded at intervals covering a number of years and from widely separated localities, it is apparent that a powerful instinct, inherent in the species, causes the female bird to be so fearless, during nidification, in her search for wool or fur, with which the delightfully woven, cup-shaped nest is usually lined.

"Jacky Winter" and the Screen. — Amongst a dozen or more species whose domestic routine was disturbed last season by the advent of a large and noisy cinema camera the Brown Flycatcher or Jacky Winter (*Microeca fascians*) stood out conspicuously as the most indifferent to the conditions imposed by this class of photography. The noise caused by the operation of a cinema camera is very considerable, and it becomes necessary usually to use various ruses and specially constructed apparatus before the subject will act naturally. A pair of these Flycatchers whose nest was discovered at Beaconsfield treated the camera with lofty disdain and, within five minutes of its erection, visited the nest quite freely. Eventually the camera was moved up until the lens was within eleven inches of the female bird and she continued to sit placidly on the nest whilst the camera roared.—R. T. LITTLEJOHNS, R.A.O.U., Melbourne.