

#### AGGRESSION BY WHITE PLUMED HONEYEATERS

A tall hedge of *Tecoma capensis* grows between our home in Angas Road, Hawthorn, and the adjoining house. White-plumed Honeyeaters and Blackbirds regularly breed in it. The White-plumed Honeyeaters will tolerate Red Wattle-Birds feeding on the flowers, and also the Little Wattle-Bird. On 12 and 13 March, 1971, 4 Yellow-winged Honeyeaters decided to share the nectar. About twenty White-plumed Honeyeaters then gathered with many loud alarm calls. They lined up on the gutters of each house, and at a strong trilling call from one bird they attacked the intruders. The latter defended themselves and continued to feed. About ten minutes later the White-plumed Honeyeaters once more lined up on the gutters, and at the signal all flew together in attack. This happened several times, and at last the yellow-wings flew off. The yellow-wings came twice a day for the two days, each time being attacked in a similar way. By this time most of the blossom had been knocked to the ground.

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