

## DISPLAY BY GOLDEN WHISTLER—

While walking along the southern boundary of Cox's Scrub National Park (near Ashbourne) I observed what appeared to be a courting display by a male Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*) before a female Golden Whistler. The incident occurred at 16.30, 15 August, 1971. The birds were on a narrow sandy path close to a clump of Cup Gum (*Eucalyptus cosmophylla*), and about 25 feet from me.

The female squatted on the path and was completely motionless throughout the performance. The male was very close in front of and to one side of and facing the female. He stood very tense and erect, with wing feathers slightly outstretched and noticeably trembling although the upper part of the body was still, except for a gentle swaying from side to side. The head and beak were raised and the bird called feebly and continuously throughout the performance. The sound was like a faint gargle with occasional faint notes. At the commencement, the male bird was to the right front of the female, and by the end had worked gradually across in front of the motionless female to finish facing her from the front left side.

The ritual lasted approximately three minutes after which the male bird flew off, followed soon after by the female. Several minutes later a female whistler (presumably the same one) was seen thirty yards further on collecting a twig. BRIAN CRISP.