

BIRD NOTE

EXOTIC PLANTS USED BY YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATERS FOR NEST SITES.

It is not uncommon to find Australian birds in settled areas building their nests in exotic shrubs or trees even when native plants are available nearby (pers. obs.). A species that I have found frequently adopting this practice is the Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*.

Most of my records of this species breeding are from the Cherry Gardens-Clarendon area, where the bird is present in varying numbers each spring. Nests are seldom placed in excess of one metre above ground level and are easily identified as being of this species by the fact that they are decorated with lichen on the outside. The following is a list of the exotic plants in which I have found these honeyeaters building their nests:

Rosa rubiginosa Sweet Briar
Crataegus monogyna Hawthorn
Erica stricta Erica
Cydonia oblonga Quince
Ulex europaeus Gorse or Furze
Rubus fruticosus Blackberry
Pinus radiata Monterey Pine

Some years ago, a friend mentioned seeing nests of this species in apple trees in the Her-

mitage district 'around Christmas time'. I am sure that the species uses exotic plants at nest sites in the ornamental gardens in the Mt Lofty, Stirling and Aldgate Areas.

The following notes on this honeyeater in South Australia may also be of interest. The species is common in the Mt Lofty Ranges, the South-East and as far north as just beyond Melrose. It has also been recorded at the Dutchman's Stern, north of Quorn (see Bransbury, J., 1984 *S. Aust. Orn.* 29 : 160). I have no direct evidence of the species breeding near Melrose but feel that it does so because it is noisily present there during the spring breeding season (pers. obs.).

In 1958 and 1959, when I lived at Marion in suburban Adelaide, the bird was a regular autumn-winter visitor, mostly for feeding purposes, and made daily visits from the nearby foothills of the Mt Lofty Ranges.

My thanks to Mr Darrell Kraehenbuehl for assistance in naming the plants above.

G.B. Ragless, 41 Grove Street, Unley Park, S.A. 5061

Accepted 25 March 1985