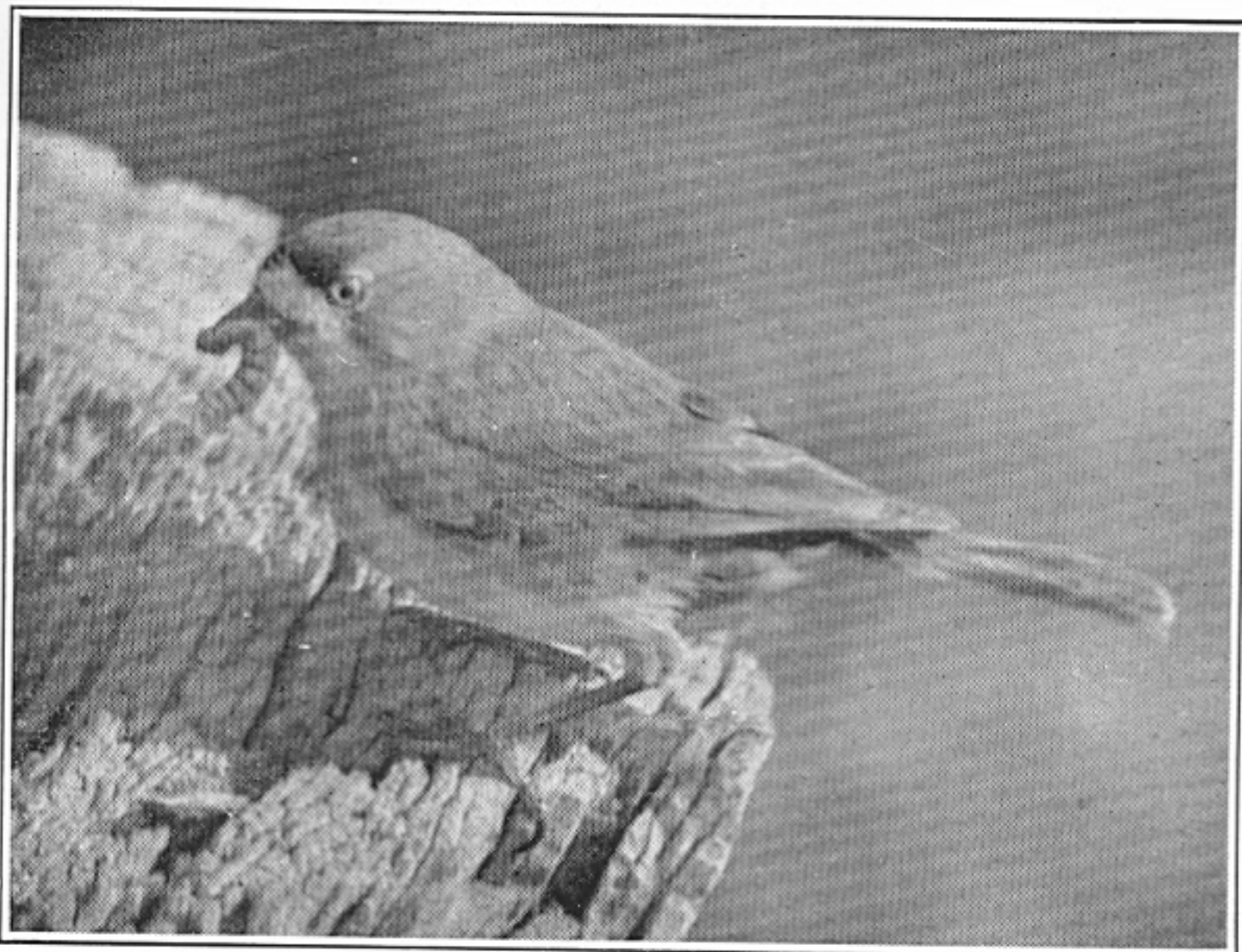


Camera Craft

Nesting Whiteface.—The Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*), a small brown bird, lighter underneath, with a patch of dirty white colour round the bill, may often be seen in small parties of from five to seven along the lightly-timbered roadways in the Wimmera and Mallee districts, Vic. It is a ground feeder, living on seeds and insects. It often makes its residence about the settlers' houses, where it can get many scraps from the yard, and acts as a scavenger much as the House Sparrows do, without becoming a nuisance like the latter bird. The usual nesting sites are in hollow posts and fence stays, and in holes in trees and stumps, nearly always dead ones. When Whitefaces live around houses, however, they choose almost any place—in the roof of a house, the straw of an old thatched stable or even a jam tin. One I saw was in an old pannikin hanging by a string from the ceiling of a shed. A pair of Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo neoxena*) had built there for some years, but had left, and then the Whitefaces came and built on top of the Swallows' nest, cleaning the old nest and re-lining it each year. These birds do not like being watched while building, nor having the eggs touched during incubation, but they get very tame when feeding the young. They are most inquisitive by nature. The nest is domed, with an opening in the side, and the eggs, four to nine to the clutch, are long, and white thickly spotted with reddish dots in colour. The bird photographed had its nest down a hollow in the stump, and I had to stop the hole up in order to keep the bird still long enough to photograph it.—A. D. SELBY, R.A.O.U., Quantong, Vic.

The Brown Thornbill.—The Brown Thornbill (*Acanthiza pusilla*) is a very common species in many parts of Victoria and is one of the few native birds that has established itself in parks and large private gardens around Melbourne. In the winter months this bird congregates into small flocks numbering from twenty or thirty birds, and may then be seen feeding in the green branches of the eucalypts. In the Ashburton district near Melbourne, where this bird is numerous, I found nests with eggs as early as the end of July and as late as the middle of December. During this period often more than one brood is reared. The Brown Thornbill has little fear, especially when young ones are in the nest, of the presence of a camera, and will come quite unconcernedly to the nest with food for its young.—D. DICKISON, R.A.O.U., Melbourne.



Whiteface with nest in stump.

Photo. by A. D. Selby, R.A.O.U.



Brown Thornbill at nest.

Photo. by D. J. Dickison, R.A.O.U.