Stray Feathers

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Unusual Nest of Yellow-tailed Thornbill.—While camped by a creek side at Ben Bullen (N.S.W.) I saw a pair of "Yellow-tails" (Acanthiza chrysorrhoa) gathering and carrying food to nestlings. The nest was in a very unusual position, and hung from two or three dead twigs about 15 feet up the bare trunk of a tree—no branches or foliage were near it. There was not a top nest—there was no hood over the side opening—only a sort of little breakwind to one side of it. Lastly a long waving tail decorated the wind shield. It was all very neatly and soundly put together and I wondered if the wind shield had been added to protect the opening; for the wind blew on that side of the nest. The young birds had a varied diet of well-battered grubs, grass seed, and crumbs from around our camp. Briar clumps were scattered about the vicinity, and on the creek banks, making safe nesting sites, but that pair of "Yellow-tails" evidently preferred a view from their front door.—L. M. Mayo, R.A.O.U., Brisbane, Queensland.