

*Meliphaga fusca* (Fuscou Honey Eaters).—These Honey-eaters (*Meliphaga fusca*), hitherto regarded as purely bush birds that required, as a rule, some searching for high up in eucalypts, have this year (at Wahroonga) come down to our doors. In the autumn (which was dry) they were observed at the drinking bath a little way from the verandah in company with White-naped Honey-eaters (*Melithreptus lunulatus*), at first one or two odd ones, then in increasing numbers and frequency until, through the winter, the bath was rarely without them. Both these species are very fond of water. Perched on the edge of the bath and taking drink after drink, they hold the water in the bill, and opening the mandibles a little, keep moving the tongue about, frequently beyond the end of the bill, evidently enjoying the feel of the water in the mouth. At other times, they indulge in vigorous splashings until the feathers are quite drenched. Later on, the fuscous birds took to coming to the ground just outside the kitchen door and picking up morsels of food. Here they were usually associated with Yellow-faced Honey-eaters (*M. chrysops*), and soon acquired such a taste for this new diet that they were sometimes flushed out of the scrap bucket. Later still (in July), while the loquat trees were in flower, they were to be seen going over the trees gathering honey and insects. Here again with different companions—their beautiful yellow-tufted brothers (*M. melanops*)—vocal duets were frequently to be heard, pleasing enough to bird-lovers, but not very sweet or melodious. In general appearance their colouring is quite dull—a grey brown above, light grey below with chest faintly marked. The olive yellow about the middle of the wing-quills (which are brown towards the ends) and the touch of the same colour on the side of the outer tail quills is not seen unless the bird is quite close, nor is the small pale yellow patch by the ear or the slight black marking about the eye easily visible. The bill is a clear light brown at base with a dark tip. They have typical Honey-eater notes—some cut short like those of the Yellow-faced; others rather querulous, somewhat resembling those of the Yellow-tufted, but not so rasping. There is a marked difference in the size of the birds—the females seem to be smaller relatively than is usual.—H. WOLSTENHOLME, Wahroonga, Sydney.

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**The "Lost" Paradise Parrot.**—This bird was fairly numerous twenty-five years ago in parts of the Wide Bay district. I saw many of them, also their nests, as described in your last issue. They gradually disappeared. Possibly continual firing of the grass, heavy stocking, and ring-barking on a large scale deprived them of certain grass seeds essential to their natural existence. Further, being ground-loving birds, they would be an easy prey to wild cats, which during late years have become very plentiful, and one of the greatest enemies of many useful birds.—W. H. EDWARDS, R.A.O.U., "Coongould," Colosseum, N.E. Line, Q.



Wolstenholme, H. 1922. "Meliphaga fusca." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 22(2), 154–154.

<https://doi.org/10.1071/MU922150k>.

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