



WITH COLOUR  
PHOTOS ON  
EVERY PAGE!

**A Book  
of  
AUSTRALIAN  
BIRDS**

**Albert Kemp**

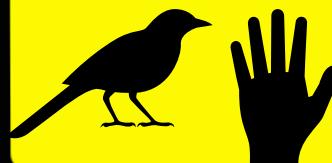
# Golden WHISTLER

## HABITAT

The Golden Whistler can be found in almost any wooded habitat, from rainforest to mallee, but prefers the denser areas. Occasionally it visits parks and orchards.

## CALL

Series of loud, sharp whistles, often ends with a whipcrack-like note.



Male and female Golden Whistlers share the nest building duties. The nest is a shallow bowl, made of twigs, grass and bark, bound together with spider web and lined with finer grass. The nest is placed in a fork in a bush or tree up to 6 m above the ground.





## WOW THAT'S COLOURFUL

The adult male Golden Whistler is bright yellow on the underside, olive-green on the back and wings, and black on the head with a bright yellow collar.

## TIME FOR DINNER

Golden Whistlers feed on insects, spiders and other small arthropods. Berries are also eaten. Feeding is usually done alone and most food is obtained from the lower or middle tree level, where it is picked from leaves and bark.



# White browed SCRUBWREN

The White-browed Scrubwren is a drab bird which inhabits the dense undergrowth in many different habitats. Although scrubwrens are wary and alert, they are often inquisitive and easily called up from the dense vegetation, with one or more birds appearing briefly in the open to scold loudly at the intruder

## HABITAT

rainforest, open forest, woodland and heaths. It is usually seen in pairs, low down in the thick vegetation.



## CALL

almost persistent harsh chattering of scalding notes, especially when disturbed. White browed Scrubwrens are also accomplished mimics.



# WHAT'S ON THE MENU?



White-browed Scrubwrens feed mostly on insects and other small arthropods. Occasionally, they eat some seeds. Birds feed in pairs among the thick vegetation of the forest floor.

# WOW, THAT'S AMAZING



The nest of the White-browed Scrubwren consists of a large ball of grasses and other plant material, a side entrance tunnel leading to a cup lined with feathers. This is normally located on or near to the ground, in thick vegetation, but may be in a tree fork a few metres high.

# Grey

# FANTAIL

**This bird is sometimes seen in people's gardens.**

Grey Fantails are extremely active little birds. Their distinctive flying style has earned them the nicknames Mad Fans or Cranky Fans. Grey Fantails have whiskers. These bristles around the beak help to protect the bird's eyes from the aggressive insects it chases through the air and grabs mid-flight. Grey Fantails are a type of Passerine. Passerines are small bush birds that inhabit bush and nest in bushes or shrubs.

The GREY FANTAIL feeds on flying insects, which it catches by chasing them from the edge of foliage at all levels of the canopy.



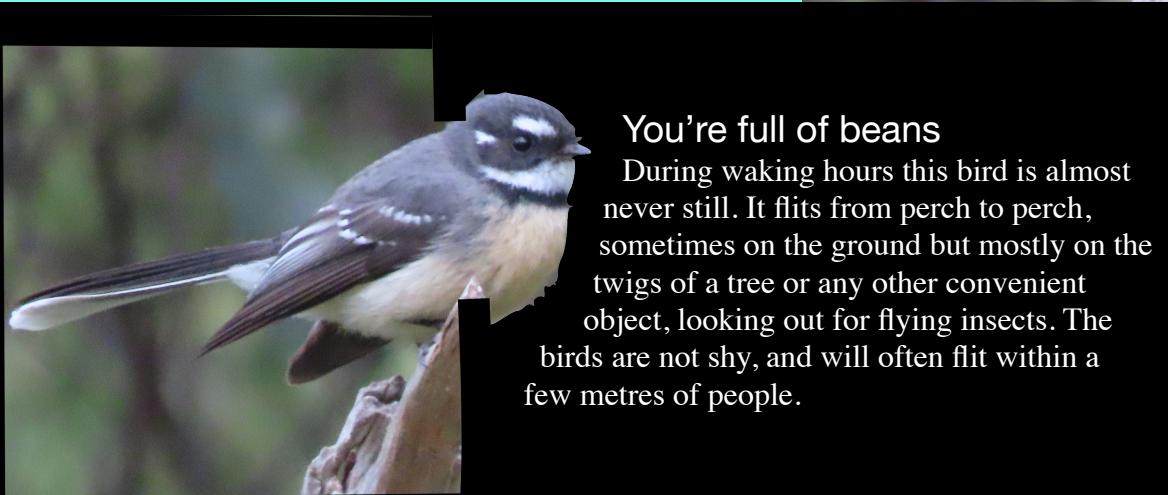
GREY FANTAILS are gregarious birds and are also known as lousy jacks (because of louse infestations), happy jacks and happy families.

During waking hours the bird is almost never still. It flits from perch to perch, sometimes on the ground but mostly on the twigs of a tree or any other convenient object, looking out for flying insects. The birds are not shy, and will often flit within a few metres of people, especially in forested areas and suburban gardens. In doing so, it is able to catch any small flying



The bird's call is an ALMOST METALLIC *cheek*, either as a single sound or (more often) repeated as a chattering.

Grey Fantail



#### You're full of beans

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insects that may have been disturbed by human activities such as walking or digging.

# TIME FOR A GAME

EXAMINE THE PATTERNS AND FILL IN THE “?” CIRCLE IN ALL OF THE PATTERNS (THEY GET HARDER).

## 1. EASY



Golden Whistler



White-browed Scrubwren



Golden Whistler



?

## 2. HARD



Golden Whistler



White-browed  
Scrubwren



Golden Whistler



Grey Fantail



Golden Whistler



?

