

Bird Notes.

SEPTEMBER, 1921.

—By J. W. Mellor.—

This month has proved highly productive in bird life, as many young have been hatched out by a number of species about Lockleys.

On September 1st a pair of Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoos were sitting in a white cedar tree, uttering their dreary notes and apparently meaning "mischief," as two male Blue Wrens were in a boxthorn bush beneath, and were greatly agitated at the presence of the Cuckoos above. Probably the Wrens had a nest close by upon which the female Wren was sitting.

The White-backed Magpies have been more than usually active in bringing up their young; one pair hatched out three which left the nest on September 22, while another pair reared another lot of three early in September, and a third brood left the nest on September 19. At Fulham during the first week in September two broods of three each came out of their nests. On September 22 I noted a Sacred Kingfisher at Lockleys and a pair of Pied Grallina were actively engaged in building their nests. On September 24 I noted the first Song Lark (*Cincloramphus cruralis cantatoris*). It was a male, and made an effort to sing as it mounted up from the ground, but did not pour forth any continuous strain.

During the month several Striped Diamond Birds (*Pardalotus striatus subaffinis*) were seen on various occasions. In the middle of September a pair of White-fronted Herons (*Notophya novae-hollandiae*) brought up a brood of three young ones in the nest in a red gum, and at times the young came quite close to the house, uttering their hoarse, discordant notes.

The pair of White-plumed Honeyeaters (*Ptilotis penicillata whitei*), which last year built on the stems of the leaves of a heaven tree, have again built their nest in the same spot, but the heaven trees (*Ailanthus glandulosus*) being deciduous and not having leaves at present, the birds have betaken themselves to a geranium plant just below the tree, the nest being now ready for laying in.

OCTOBER, 1921.

—By J. W. Mellor.—

Numbers of young birds of various species have been about Lockleys during the month. Several young Screech Owls came every evening for a week to an old one on a lemon-scented pine. They would fly round and then perch in the opening of an old, hollow limb, calling for food. On the 11th I picked up one young owl dead, fully fledged and peculiarly covered with whitish down attached to the end of the fully formed feathers, especially on the back; this bird I presented to the Museum.

On October 4th and 12th several Red-rumped Grass Parrots (*Psephotus haematonotus*) were noted calling in their pleasing little way to each other.

On October 4th Woodswallows (*Pseudartamus cyanopterus*) were seen nesting in the small gumtrees, and a few days after they were feeding large young out of the nest.

NOVEMBER, 1921.

—By J. W. Mellor.—

Quite a number of birds have brought out their young during the month. Showery conditions, preceded and followed by short spells of heat, were beneficial to various grasses and plants supplying food for the grain-eaters, whilst swarms of insects supplied food to, and were kept in check by, the insectivorous birds.

On November 1st I noted the White-plumed Honey-eater (*Ptilotis penicillata whitei*) pulling its nest in a geranium bush to pieces and carrying the material to the topmost branches of a Moreton Bay fig tree near by.

On November 4th a Minah (*Myzantha melanocephala whitei*) was carrying material to the branches of a red gum, and on closer examination the nest was found to be well advanced. These birds build high in the trees, and always on a slender bough quite out of reach from beneath. A peculiarity about the birds I have noticed this season is that when they are building or have a nest they fly in a strange manner, with the head thrust back on to the back and the throat arched out, giving them a more dumpy appearance. Several birds that flew in this manner were followed and found to be nesting.

On November 9th a nest of the Peaceful Dove (*Geopelia placida tranquilla*) was noticed on a Moreton Bay fig tree. It resembled that of the terns, that build in like situations. Large young were in the nest, and the parent birds were near by.

On November 15th a Sacred Kingfisher (*Sauropatis sancta*) calling in a tree in the garden.

On November 17th I heard a pair of Bee-eaters (*Cosmaerops ornatus*) calling, and four days later saw the birds in a sandy locality. It is not often that these birds are seen so near the city.

On November 22nd saw Brown Flycatcher (*Microcca fascinans*), with large young out of nest flying about the garden, catching flies and moths amongst the fruit trees. These are truly useful little birds. During the month quite a number of Wood Swallows (*Pseudartamus cyanopterus*) have nested and brought out their young.

Delicate Owls and Boobook Owls have been calling every night. Both birds have bred here this season in the hollows in the gum trees.