

—By J. W. Mellor.—

November 2nd.—The Southern Black-headed Miner (*Myzantha garrula*) has been very energetic in nesting operations, and, in consequence, other birds have had to keep their distance or stand the pugnacious attacks of the Miners. On November 4th I noted a nest of young birds being fed by the parents, and later in the month a pair built their nest high up in a Moreton Bay Fig tree near the house.

November 6th.—A pair of White-cheeked Rosellas (*Platycercus eximius*) arrived, and are still about in the Moreton Bay Fig trees, where they feed on the figs.

November 13th.—I heard the well-known call of the Brown Quail (*Synoicus ypsilophorus*), and after following up the call for some time, I saw the little bird strutting about on the

ground in the short grass of the garden. They are wonderful little insect-eaters, as I have proved when keeping them in captivity for a number of years, and was able to study their habits closely. In fact, all the Quail family are worth their weight in gold to the farmers, especially when they are breeding in the cropland, and it seems a pity that they should be killed in large quantities. On November 13th large numbers of two species of Wood-Swallow arrived high in the air, and came down into the timbered country. These were the Masked Wood-Swallow (*Artamus personatus*) and the White-browed Wood-Swallow (*A. superciliosus*). They have been about for some time now, but I have not noted any breeding.

November, 20th.—A Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*) came sailing along in the gum trees, apparently pursuing a small bird. It has a liking for the European Sparrows, and can catch them with great agility. A pair of these Falcons generally build here each year and bring up their young. A pair of Nankeen Kestrels (*Cerchneis cenchroides*) always keep about the trees at the back of my place, and bring up a brood of young in a hollow tree near by. This year they have followed out the general rule, for about the middle of the month I saw the young perched on a gum tree, and the two old birds were busy carrying them tit-bits in the shape of large insects, and, no doubt, an occasional mouse or two.

November 26th.—I noted a Sacred Kingfisher (*Halcyon sanctus*) uttering its plaintive call. Peaceful Doves (*Geopelia placida tranquilla*) are about the house, and are quite tame, coming to drink at the tap near the back door. They are pretty little fellows, the cock bird making his soft call of "Cuck-coo," and strutting around his less-talkative mate, showing and scraping all the time. The soft call of the Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*) was heard on November 22. This bird has evidently come to stay, as I heard it again since. They are about Fulham, in the large trees, where they have bred for some years, but I have not seen them at Lockleys before. The call is a succession of soft, low notes, sounding like "Boo-boo-boo" repeated a number of times, then a pause, and on again for a considerable time, and reminding one of the Bronzewing Pigeon calling to its mate. The call is different from that of the Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*), a pair of which came about at the same time, accompanied by a young bird that was calling. The same evening I also noted young of the Screech Owl (*Tyto alba*), making its noisy screeching as it followed the parent bird to secure food. It

is most pleasing to note how the birds appreciate a locality where they are protected and are secure from the marauder.

Under date of 22nd November Mr. J. Neil McGilp writes from Moolawatana Station, via Cepley, S.A.:—

“As there has only been two inches three points of rain in 18 months bird life is not much in evidence:

“Rose-breasted Cockatoos (*C. roseicapilla*) and Long-billed Cockatoos (*Licmetis tenuirostris*) are well represented. The Rainbow-Birds (*Merops ornatus*) are in fair numbers, and with Red-backed Kingfishers (*Haleyon pyrrhopygius*) and White-backed Swallows (*Cheramoeca leucosternum*), are the only ones breeding here so far, and they all three breed in tunnels!

“The Falconidae are almost unheard, and not seen, except for a few pairs of Wedge-tailed Eagles (*Uroactus audax*); an odd Brown Hawk (*Ieracidea verigora*), and Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*).

“The temperature has been very high, up to 110 deg., and numerous birds call in to enjoy the shade of the house verandah and have a drink at the water-tray. The following have been visitors:—Magpies, Magpie-Larks, White-winged Wrens (*M. leuconotus*), Australian Pipits, Singing Honey-eaters, and Yellow-throated Miners (*M. flavigula*).

“Emus are very scarce and as poor as they possibly can be. Desert Chats (*Ashbia lovensis*) and Australian Dottrels (*Peltohyas australis*), generally numerous, are also scarce.”