

—March, 1924.—

By J. W. Mellor, Lockleys.

Many birds have been about Lockleys, and some have been seen with young, even at this out-of-season time of the year, this being caused probably by the dry spells, now and again broken by good rains, although the month on the whole has been fairly

cool. The Noisy Miners (*Myzantha garrula*) have been very busy, and actively engaged all day. They are good foragers, seeking out insect food in the leaves of the trees and also alighting on the ground and searching about in the dead leaves and grass. On 1st March I noted several young birds about. On 24th I noted a Miner gather nesting material on the ground, and then fly to a hanging bough and start its nest. On 27th it was carrying softer material to the same nest. On 28th another Miner was seen to gather nesting material, and then fly to a Gumtree to proceed with nesting. On 2nd I noted two young Magpie-Larks (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) about in the Gumtrees. I also noted a number of Sharp-tailed Stints (*Pisobia acuminata*) about in the swamps at the Reedbeds, near to Fulham. There were also a few Wood-Swallows (*Artamus cyanopterus*) about the same place. I was pleased to see four Crested Bronzewing Pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) feeding about in the back yard near to where the fowls are fed. These were apparently the two old birds that nested in the Pine at the back door, and their two young, which are now unrecognizable from full-grown birds. Doubtless with protection the flock will increase. On 3rd I noted a Rosella (*Platycercus eximius*) in the Gumtrees, seeking its food in the boughs and also flying to where the thistles and grass were seeding. On 29th there were several Red-backed Grass-Parrots (*Psephotus haematonotus*) about in the paddocks, their sharp jerky, yet sweet, notes reminding one of former days, when they were plentiful. I am pleased to record also that the Galahs (*Cacatua roseicapilla*) are still about in the old Gumtrees in my paddocks. They seem to have come to stay, and their welcome screech is often heard about the place as they fly round. The fine old Redgums with their innumerable hollows and dead limbs are places to which they resort. I saw on 8th no fewer than eight Cockies enjoying themselves in the trees, and flying round, uttering their screeching and clinking notes, evidently highly pleased with their home. On 5th I saw six about. On this date I also noted a Goshawk (*Astur fasciatus*) flying near the fowls' yard, and the poultry were greatly disturbed, running for shelter and making a great noise. I spent a week-end at my place at Stirling West, and on 9th I noted quite a number of birds about the scrub and trees near the house. While sitting near the dining-room window a pair of Scarlet-breasted Robins (*Petroica multicolor*) came and flew about just outside the window-pane, catching flies and gnats as they flew against the glass. The little birds would then fly to an apple-tree close by and wait until more flies came to the window and repeat the catching operation. Near by a White-

shafted Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera*) was catching flies on the wing, and then alighting on a twig to rest awhile, and at the same time I saw a pair of Brown Tit-Warblers (*Acanthiza pusilla*) hopping about in the Canary Island broom-bushes. At the back door there was a Ground Thrush (*Oreocincla lunulata*). It was quite tamely scratching about in the dead and decaying leaves, ever and anon stopping to peck at a worm or beetle, and now and again looking up at me with its quiet inquisitive eyes, but never attempting to fly away. Several Adelaide Rosellas (*Platycercus adelaidae*) were whistling to one another in the Stringy-bark saplings overhead, and a pair of Spotted Scrub-Wrens (*Sericornis maculata*) were popping in and out of the thick blackberry-bushes about half a dozen yards from the house, and a male Yellow-breasted Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*) was calling to its mate in beautiful melody a little farther away in some thick bushes, overshadowed by lofty Stringy-barks and white-barked Gums. The scene was truly bushlike, although not a great distance from civilization and the township hard by. This goes to prove that with the proper surroundings and protection offered, the scrub pets will soon collect and become tame and docile.