

—March, 1926.—

By J. W. Mellor, "Mellor Park," Lockleys.

The month of March opened with observations of the Noisy Miner (*Myzantha garrula*) nesting at "Mellor Park." On the 3rd I noted one carrying material to the top of a big gumtree, and there added it to the nest. These birds are now quite plentiful at Mellor Park, but I believe they are very local, and only confined to this spot at Lockleys. Several Galahs (*Cacatua roseicapilla*) were about in the paddocks on the same day, but they do not seem to stay long, merely come and go. The Oriel (*Oriolus sagittatus*) that I noted at the end of last month was still singing during the beginning of March. At Henley Beach during the beginning of the month a Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*) took up his quarters on the high rafters of the local Town Hall, much to the amusement of those that occupied the building, but, needless to say, the mess it made on the floor and the hall furniture made it a nuisance, so it was shut out by keeping the windows closed at night. On the 5th there was quite a number of Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*) about, and a few have remained all the month. On the 6th some Brown-headed Honey-eaters (*Melithreptus brevirostris*) were flying from tree to tree, and calling loudly to one another. That night, while out in the open air, I heard a number of birds passing over, flying high up, their presence being made known by their oft-repeated soft calls, like "Peeee peewit." There must have been a number of them flying towards the north, presumably migrating, and from the loudness of the calls they must have been about the size of the Godwit. On the 17th I was pleased to note a Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus axillaris*) flying across the back paddock, just above the tops of the big redgums. The markings on its wings were very plainly seen. European Starlings were pursuing it, flying above and under the Kite, then swooping round it, and uttering a lot of alarm calls. Miners (*Myzantha melanocephala*) and White-plumed Honey-eaters (*Meliphaga penicillata*) were very agitated, and numbers of them were uttering their well-known alarm calls. The Kite sailed slowly over the treetops, and then settled in a tree not far away. Towards the end of the month Magpie-Larks (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) were about in numbers, uttering their sharp notes of "Pee-wit, pee-wit." They are so tame that they will come right up to the door and pick up the breadcrumbs that are thrown out. White-backed Magpies (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*) are very numerous also, for I counted 12 in the open garden at one time. They are very useful in checking the insect pests in the orchard.