

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 (*Microeca fascians*), 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.