

Bird Notes.

DECEMBER, 1921.

—By J. W. Mellor, Lockleys.—

Quite a number of Screech Owls (*Tyto alba delicatula*) have been about during the month. On moonlight nights their screeching notes can be heard on every side. They are very quiet and will allow one to stand beneath the bough and gaze at them. The faint low screeches of young birds were heard coming from a hollow in an old tree. Boobook Owls (*Spiloglaux boobook marmorata*) have also been calling loudly and doubtless have their nests near their more delicately plumaged cousins.

On December 1st a fine old male of the Red-rumped Grass Parrot (*Psephotus haematonotus*) flew past with its well-known sharp whistling call, and again on the 7th I flushed two that were feeding on grass seeds at Lockleys. Some twenty or thirty years ago they were one of the most common birds at the Reedbeds. I also noted a White-cheeked Rosella (*Platycercus eximius*) on the same day at Lockleys.

On December 11th a pair of Merops (*Cosmacrops ornatus*) was seen at Lockleys. Evidently they were on the lookout for suitable nesting quarters.

On December 15th I noticed that the Shrike-Tit (*Falcunculus frontatus flavigulus*), which nested near the house, had young ones out of the nest and were feeding them with the scale blight which infests the acacias.

For the past fortnight a Yellow-winged Honey-eater (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae subassimilis*) has been busy in the flower garden. These birds have been absent or very scarce for some years, although at Fulham I have noted them frequently.

Several broods of Willie Wagtails (*Leucocirca tricolor*) have been reared at Lockleys during the month, while a White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca leuconota*) has a brood of young at the flying stage.