

## FEBRUARY, 1922.

—By J. W. Mellor, Lockleys.—

One of the main features in the bird life this month is the large number of Common Wattle Birds (*Coleia carunculata tregellasi*) that have been about Lockleys and the Reedbeds generally. They have paid much attention to the flowering eucalyptus, and their loud harsh calls have been heard on all sides. They arrived at Lockleys during the last days of January and during the first week in February. They then increased considerably and have kept with us since. Lorikeets, both the Musk (*Glossopsitta concinna*) and the Purple-crowned (*G. porphyrocephalus*), are also plentiful, the latter being mostly young birds. During some hot days they came down to a pot of cool water placed for them near the house, where they drank and bathed to their hearts' content. I also noted a Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*) at Lockleys.

February 6th.—There were numbers of White-rumped Swifts (*Micropus pacificus*) about at Fulham. They were flying low and passing on as they hawked after gnats and flies.

February 8th.—A pair of Peaceful Doves (*Geopelia placida tranquilla*) brought out their young near the house. They came to the back door for a drink during the hot days, and were quite tame. White-plumed Honey-eaters (*Ptilotula penicillata whitei*) had young during the month, and brought them to the birds' drinking pot. It is surprising to see the number of birds that come during the hot spells to drink out of the pot, also the quantity of water they consume is remarkable. If people would only supply drinking water in their gardens they would not only benefit the birds, but would prevent much depredation amongst the soft fruits.