

Ornithological Notes.

SEPTEMBER, 1923.

Mr. J. W. Mellor, Lockleys, reported:—During the month the birds have been very active in breeding operations, but have been greatly hampered by the continued stormy and wet weather, many nests having been blown down, and the birds have had to reconstruct their homes, causing great delay in bringing out their first brood. This was very noticeable with reference to the Black-and-White Fantail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*), which has nested in a lemon-scented pine at my back door for several years. The pair started to build in the old spot on a swinging branch, practically in mid-air, when storms and floods came along, and they decided to shift their quarters, starting to build in some boxthorn bushes about a hundred yards away, removing all the material from the pine-tree and utilizing it in the new nest. This nest was completed, when more storms and floods destroyed their domicile, and on the first day of the month they came back to the swinging branch in the pine. Their work was only carried on at intervals, and by the end of the month very little of the nest was constructed. The Magpie-Larks (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) and the Noisy Miners (*Myzantha garrula*) have been very quarrelsome, and on the 5th I witnessed a "set to" near the stables, where both birds have their nests in the gum-trees. After a good fight they gave up and returned to their respective nests. The White-fronted Herons (*Notophox novae-hollandiae*) that have nests in the back paddock are now very noisy, having been sitting for some time. One has its nest in a tall gum-tree about 50 yards from the house, and at night there is quite a pandemonium, when something seems to disturb them, croaking and gurgling as if something was being killed, and then everything settles down quietly, only to start again a little later. At times I am forced to investigate, thinking that someone must surely be molesting them, but it appears to be just a way they have during the nesting season. I am delighted that the Galahs (*Cacatua roseicapilla*) that came to the back paddocks in the early part of the season are still about.

Mr. R. C. Beck, Seaton Park, reported:—Already three broods of the Welcome Swallow, each of four, have flown at my place, with one other to follow. Recently the parent birds were making quick trips for food for the young to a patch of manure in my garden, alighting for a moment; evidently newly-hatched flies were the attraction. Grass-Parrots are taking charge of all the tree-hollows near by.