

Bird Notes.

DECEMBER, 1923.

—By J. W. Mellor, Lockleys.—

On 1st December young Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo neoxena*) were noticed out from a nest in the stables. On the same date young of the White-plumed Honey-eater (*Meliphaga penicillata*) were seen in the garden and also several young Noisy Miners (*Myzantha garrula*), with the parent birds, being fed on insects. On 5th December several Galahs (*Cacatua roseicapilla*) were still about in the old Redgums in the back paddock, it being quite refreshing to hear the screeching calls of these birds intermixed with the clink-clinking notes they also utter. On the same date I noted that a pair of Fairy Martins (*Hylochelidon ariel*) had taken up their quarters in an old nest of the Welcome Swallow that had been built in the stables. The little Martins were adding to the nest and giving a bottle shape to the structure, using red clay as their part of the

renovation, which was very conspicuous against the black mud used by the Swallows in the foundation work. A Ringneck Parrot (*Barnardius barnardi*) was seen in the Gumtrees, much to the distaste of the Miners, that flew after it in the endeavour to drive it away, but they were unsuccessful. The pair of Black-and-White Fantails (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) that brought out their brood of young in the nest at my back door on 23rd November had renovated the nest, and had laid the first egg of the second clutch on 8th December, the second on the 10th inst., and a day later the full clutch of three were in the nest, the birds sitting close. On 23rd December they hatched out. On 11th December, and again on the 28th, I noted several Purple-crowned Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*) in the Gumtrees, getting honey from the flowers. On 26th December I saw a pair of Tawny Frogmouths (*Podargus strigoides*) in the front of the house. One silently dropped on to a cock of grass hay, apparently after a mouse, and then flew to its mate, which sat motionless on a post near by.