

Since writing the above list of the birds of Mansfield I had the very good fortune to disturb a Pacific Heron (*Noto-phoyx pacifica*) from the Broken River. It was very, very wary, flapped its way to a considerable height, and then soared away. The white shoulders give the bird a peculiar appearance whilst flying.

Of introduced birds, the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) is by far the most numerous, and is a serious nuisance. The Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) is also very common, but in this district, a pastoral one, it is a very useful bird, devouring incredible numbers of grasshoppers during the summer months. Incidentally very few Starlings are seen in the winter, which seems to indicate a migration. The Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), rare in England, whence it came, is here in great numbers, where it does much good amongst the thistles and other weeds.

White-browed Wood-Swallow.—During the month of October many White-browed Wood-Swallows (*Artamus superciliosus*) made their welcome appearance in some tall timber near Blacktown, some twenty miles west of Sydney, New South Wales. They were accompanied by a few pairs of the Masked variety (*A. personatus*), and by the end of the month both species had increased in numbers, the White-browed being by far the more plentiful. Little time was lost by the birds in deciding to nest, each pair selecting a small area, which they guarded against intruders. They chose a wide variety of nesting sites, from low down in stumps and blackthorn bushes to high up in box and tea-trees (*Melaleuca*).

The bird in the accompanying photograph built its nest about two feet from the ground; it was found on November 7, and contained one egg—the following day there were two eggs. A fortnight later I visited the locality, to find that the young had hatched out. I set up the camera, and after waiting for a time I left for another part of the paddock until the birds became used to the camera. After an hour's absence I returned to find both birds near the nest; shortly after my return they fed the young and enabled me to make an exposure. Both parents fed the young. Their usual method of approach was to glide to the rear of the nest from a tall dead tree, and on one occasion the young were fed on a small moth. Fourteen days later I examined the nest; the young were covered with feathers, and both hopped out of the nest at my approach.—A. J. GWYNNE, R.A.O.U., Carrington, Newcastle, N.S.W.