

become exhausted in a fight with one of its own kind. Blue-bonnets are pugnacious birds; in aviaries they are notorious for attacking other birds in the same cage, whilst in their native state I know from personal observation that they do fight among themselves. One instance, in particular, comes to mind. In 1943 and 1944, during the drought, I travelled regularly between Buronga and Wentworth, and watched the country along the road become so completely barren that bird life diminished until finally Blue-bonnets, and perhaps three or four other species, were almost all I felt reasonably certain of recording on each trip. About half way between the two towns one day I noticed five Blue-bonnets behaving strangely on the ground, and, on looking through my field-glasses, I discovered that two were fighting viciously while the other three were dancing about them some few feet away, screeching as if to encourage them. This went on for perhaps a minute when the combatants took wing, followed by their audience, and after their flying 25 yards or so the fight recommenced in the air, feathers flying in all directions, until the five birds landed on the ground again some 50 yards further on. There the fight was continued for another minute or so with redoubled fury, until it finally stopped, almost certainly because the principals were completely exhausted.

In a fight such as I have described feathers become badly ruffled, and if it were to take place on ground matted with spear-grass seeds it would be possible for the seeds to become entangled amongst the down at the base of feathers that would normally present a smooth surface through which it would be extremely difficult for them to penetrate. Needless to say, this is an hypothesis only. I advance it because, apart from its being as likely as any other, it might not occur to anyone who had not witnessed the ruffled mess these birds can become when they really get angry with one another.

Rainbow-birds in Winter Months.—I read with great interest a query on migration by Charles H. Blake (*Emu*, vol. 46, p. 74) in which it was stated that the Fork-tailed Swift and the Rainbow-bird had been recorded at Cairns in July, 1944. The occurrence of the Fork-tailed Swift at that period seems unusual, but I am not at all surprised at the presence of the Rainbow-bird as, in their case, migration appears to be never more than a partial one.

In my district, which is situate in south-east Queensland, we have the Rainbow-bird in moderate numbers during the winter months. At the present time, birds can be seen hawking or perched on wire fences during the day and gathering in small flocks just before dusk about their camp trees.—E. A. R. LORD, Murphy's Creek, Qld., 25/5/47.