

NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER, 1920.

Mr. J. W. Mellor says —

The Wagtails finished their nest, on August 29th laid first egg, on 31st second egg, on September 1st the third, and then began to sit closely, the male and female taking turn about, one bird never leaving the nest till the other was ready to get on.

September 15th—The three young, hatched out, great numbers of insects were- brought to feed the young birds, showing the great good these birds do. On, September 30, in the morning, the young left the nest. Another pair of these birds are sitting on three eggs in another locality.

A clutch of two Welcome Swallows hatched out during, the first week of the month have flown. Immediately the young, left the nest, fresh feathers were added, and by September 24 two eggs were laid. On September 23 the young of the White-backed Magpie came from the nest, and not being able to fly well, perched in the boxthorn bushes.

A pair of Murray Magpies built their mud nest in a gum near the house early in the month, and they have three young now, which both birds help to feed. Both assisted in the incubation of the eggs.

Noisy Minahs brought out young during the month, the old birds are to be seen carrying insect food to the young.

The pair of Laughing Jacks which have been with us for so long began to look out their nesting site; they again renewed their efforts to make an entrance into the roof, through the rough plaster at one of the gables, but the strong netting at the back of the plaster has prevented them; they tried to make an entrance into a gum tree at a growth crack, but, after vigorous pecking with their strong bills, have given up the task. A Boo-book Owl has been calling throughout the month at night time. A pair of Frontal Shrike Tits have been much in evidence, but do not seem to have settled upon their building site yet.

A pair of Harmonious Shrike Thrushes have been about for some time, but there is only one now, and from his constant whistling no doubt his mate is sitting, and I believe their nest to be in the dense, prickly pears.