

By J. W. Mellor.

The month has been cold and showery, and the birds have been hard pressed to find sufficient food, consequently they have become very tame, coming close to the house in search of something to eat. Laughing Jacks fly right up to where one is digging, in order to secure a worm, and then fly to a convenient post to eat it. Early in the month scores of Murray Magpies (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) were to be seen at Lockleys in the open fields, and the birds which usually nest each year above the house were also present.

Several Cuckoos have been about, notably the Fantailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis rubricatus*), which sleeps all the winter

and generally departs in the spring. Some Narrow-billed Cuckoos (*Neochalcites basalis mellori*) have been about also; I noted them on June 6 and after.

On June 13 several White-fronted Herons (*Notophya novae-hollandiae*) were croaking and flying around in the trees, apparently seeking out their nesting places.

On June 13 I noted a large number of White-fronted Chats (*Epthianura albifrons*) searching about amongst the small plants for insect food.

Flame-breasted Robins (*Littleria chrysoptera phoenicea*) are still here, a male being noted on June 22.

On June 24 I noted a White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca leuconota*) starting to build. This is early and may be the forerunner of an early spring.

Quite a number of Southern Silver Gulls (*Bruchigavia novae-hollandiae ethelae*) visited Lockleys during the month. They were following up the plough, which turned up a plentiful supply of grubs and insects.