

JANUARY, 1924.

—By J. W. Mellor, Lockleys.—

On 7th January the Black-and-White Fantails (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) that hatched out on 23rd December left the nest, having taken just a fortnight to grow until they "left home." This is the usual time, I find, for these little birds to mature. They were still about in the garden and back yard at the end of the month. There were also two other broods about the place at the same time, but, of course, they all kept to their own little localities, or mischief would soon brew and a fight ensue with the parent birds. On 9th January Red Wattle-Birds

(*Anthrochaera carunculata*) started to come about, and could always be located by their harsh guttural notes. These birds were still about at the end of the month. On 18th January I saw a Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*) in a large Stone Pine in front of the house, and on closer inspection saw that it had a Pigeon in its talons. I feared at first lest it should be one of my new-comers that had taken to breeding, viz., the Crested Bronzewings (*Ocyphaps lophotes*), but on examination of some stray feathers beneath the tree I found that the victim was a domesticated Pigeon that the Falcon had secured in the paddocks. The Falcon flew swiftly away with its weighty burden, and started pulling it to pieces in a Gumtree in the adjoining paddocks. The feathers were flying in all directions as the plucking operation proceeded. The same day I noted that the wild Crested Bronzewing Pigeons were still about, and later in the month the two young from the nest in the Pinetree at the back door accompanied their parents in search of weed-seeds. I was delighted to see this, as now I am sure they have become accustomed to the place and will stay and breed. They are often seen at the fowlyard, picking up a few grains of wheat and other seeds. They also like to frequent the fruit gardens, where the "wireweed" grows thickly, and the seed is much liked by these birds. On the last day of the month I saw several young Miners (*Myzantha garrula*) about. The parent birds were feeding them on insect food. There are quite a number of these birds about Mellor Park now. The fine old Gum-trees afford them the shelter they desire.