

## Ornithological Notes.

By J. W. Mellor, "Mellor Park," Lockleys.

—April, 1925.—

During the early part of the month I noted a family of three young Noisy Miners (*Mysantha garrula*) being fed by the two parent birds. Miners are now quite plentiful all the year round. One night the call of the Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*) was heard, and next day a pair flew over the open paddocks. On 11th April a large flock of 25 or 30 Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes (*Graucalus novae-hollandiae*) came along. While watching these birds I heard a sweet little song in a bushy tree close by, and on making investigations found it was produced by a Silver-eye (*Zosterops lateralis*). On going by a boxthorn bush several Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*) flew to the top in a frightened manner, and I found that they had flown from an old nest in the bush, where they had apparently been bred. On the 12th I noted a pair of Red-backed Parrots (*Psephotus haematonotus*). This proved that they are still with us, and as they flew up from the grass with their sweet short alarm notes, it reminded me of boyhood days, when they were so plentiful everywhere. From time to time during the month I have noted them flying about in the gumtrees, and out in the grass paddocks, procuring their food from the grass seeds that are plentiful. Another Parrot that has become quite plentiful this season is the Rosella (*Platycercus eximius*). These birds a few years ago were unknown here, and now their loud notes are heard quite often. They feed chiefly on the grass seeds, but are a little partial to fruit, such as apples and pears, and will also eat the boxthorn berries. Their beautiful coloured plumage catches the eye as they rise suddenly from the ground in a startled manner, uttering their harsh call, the cock bird being particularly bright. On the 12th I was working about the house quietly, and was pleased to see how very tame various birds were. The weather being dry, they came to the tap for drink. Several White-backed Magpies (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*) were seeking grubs and insects on the lawn, only a few yards from the door, while one was actually under the verandah picking

up scraps and crumbs that had been thrown out. A pair of Merry-Mags (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) came to join the happy family, and two or three Noisy Miners (*Myzantha garrula*) hopped about on the ground, eying me every now and then to see that all was well. The Crested Pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) are still about with us, and a pair had their stick nest in a Bluegum-tree in front of the house, and towards the end of the month brought out their brood of two young. These have been about since, feeding with their parents. At times they are to be seen all together in the short grass, picking up the wild grass seeds. On the 23rd there were quite a large number of Yellow-winged Honey-eaters (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae*) about, flying in little flocks. They appeared to have only just arrived, but since have taken up their quarters in all the thick bushes, and their sharp notes are to be heard on all sides, as they seek their honey food from the flowers. On the 29th I saw a White-shafted Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera*) in a pinetree, singing its sweet little notes as it sallied forth after flies.

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