

Robin they would fly, oftentimes snapping at her, until she, driven to anger by their persistency, would dart out and chase them. This decidedly unpleasant state of affairs continued for a few days, until the Swallows seemed to have made up their minds to go to the front verandah, but that would not do, so they went round to the side, but finally came back to their old place, and the war recommenced. But during the few days of peace the baby Robins had been hatched, and both parents were busily feeding them, though every time they came with the food (grubs) they were attacked by the Swallows, who even ventured on the nest. When the young Robins were about four or five days old, they strangely disappeared, and their disappearance was placed against the Swallows. One little naked dead body was picked up in the yard, but the two others were not found. It was impossible for a cat to get at the nest, owing to its situation. I feel certain that the death of the young Robins was caused by the jealousy of the Swallows. Being now rid of their rivals, the Swallows repaired their previous year's nest and succeeded in rearing their four young ones in safety. These latter had been on the wing a fortnight when their parents commenced to build again. They chose the Robins' nest, and for four days carried mud and tried to repair it, but it evidently proved too difficult, so they left it and again repaired their own. Four young this time, and these were safely reared. Early in December the same Robins were again noticed to be constantly about, and it was discovered that they were building a nest on a beam in an outhouse. Three eggs were laid, but only one young bird arrived at maturity, though all the eggs hatched. During the time the female is sitting the male bird feeds her constantly. She keeps up a constant crying call, resembling the word "Jim" very much drawled. So the children called him "Jim." Sometimes at a call from him she would fly out to receive the grub, but as a general rule he gave it to her on the nest. I must find out next season if the female maintains the same cry when sitting on eggs in the paddocks; if so she would speedily betray her nest.

During November the actions of a pair of Wrens (*Malurus gouldi*) attracted some attention. Regularly every day for nearly a fortnight they would dash themselves against a small fixed window, the male bird becoming particularly excited in his efforts to get through. Several experiments were tried to see if it was their reflection in the glass they were attacking or whether they were trying to catch flies. But neither of these seemed to be their object, and the mystery remained unsolved.

The Cuckoos left us, as usual, early in February, but as a rule generally come back in April for a fortnight.

---

EDWARD Thomas was fined £2 at the Canterbury (Vict.) court for shooting a Magpie-Lark, a protected bird, on Sunday, 17th April.