

—May, 1924.—

By J. W. Mellor, Lockleys.

Several broods of young birds came out about the house during the month. The White-plumed Honey-eater (*Meliphaga penicillata*) that nested near my museum window during last month hatched out two young ones on 1st May, and on 22nd they left the nest. A cold, rainy snap came upon them while in the nest, and the structure began to sag over, but with the aid of string and sticks it was supported until the young left. The pair of Noisy Miners (*Myzantha garrula*) that nested in a Gumtree at the back of the house in June left their quarters on 7th, and were often seen with their parents being fed in the trees. Black Swans (*Chenopsis atrata*) were heard calling as they flew over the large Gumtrees on the evening of 5th, apparently going to their nesting-places on the Lakes. On 9th several Black-breasted Plovers (*Zonifer tricolor*) were flying in the big paddock, and on 11th a pair of Spurwing Plovers (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*) were seen in the same place. Quite a large number of Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo*

*neoxena*) and Tree-Martins (*Hylochelidon nigricans*) were flying and skimming about in the paddock near the River Torrens. They were intermixing and catching gnats and flies that were in myriads. On 9th a Ring-necked Parrot (*Barnardius barnardi*) was seen in the Redgum-trees, calling loudly as it flew about. On 11th I noted a flock of European Starlings chasing a Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*). The Starlings, flying in a flock, were charging and chasing as if a single bird was acting. On 14th another encounter was witnessed between native and introduced birds, but this time the tables were changed, as several Noisy Miners were vigorously pursuing a European Blackbird, and the latter certainly got "the doing," and was heartily glad to take cover in a friendly boxthorn-bush. I noted a Blue Kingfisher (*Alcyon azurea*) in the River Torrens at the top of the big paddock. This is the first that I have seen for some considerable time. On 10th I saw a pair of Flame-breasted Robins (*Petroica phoenicea*) in the open paddocks, the first seen this season. I also saw Robins on 7th, but have not since noted them about. I noted on 15th, at Fulham, what appeared to be a pair of Ravens or Crows (*Corvus coronoides*) at a nest in a Gumtree. They appeared to have either eggs or young. On 29th a Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*) was seen quietly flying about from tree to tree, but it was being watched and followed by a Black-and-White Fantail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*), which seemed uneasy about the presence of the Cuckoo. On 31st quite a number of White-fronted Chats (*Epthianura albifrons*) were about in the paddocks, hopping over the ground, and at times flitting about to fresh places near by, seeking out small insects amongst the short grass.