

—April, 1926.—

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

A Yellow-banded Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius*) put in an appearance near the house on the 3rd of April, but did not stay long. Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*) were fairly plentiful on the same date, and have been about all the month. On the 21st I saw several in the trees near the River Torrens, catching moths and insects on the wing. The White-plumed Honey-eaters (*Meliphaga penicillata*) resented the presence of the Cuckoo-Shrikes, and attacked them from time to time as they shifted from tree to tree. On the 8th the sweet liquid notes of the Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*) were heard in the shrubs, and several of these birds have been about since, calling loudly at times. A Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*) was perched in a tree near the sand-dunes on the 10th, calling in its usual melancholy fashion. I noted the call of the Red-tipped Pardalote (*Pardalotus ornatus*), and located the bird in the leafy boughs of a redgum. These little birds have been about for some time, and are still calling. On the 10th a number of White-fronted Chats (*Epthianura albifrons*) were about in the open paddocks. At the river on this date I heard the song of the Harmonious Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*). I noted a Noisy Miner (*Myzantha melanocephala*) on the 12th vigorously attacking a large goat moth, pecking and tearing it to pieces, and eating the fragments. Tawny Frogmouths (*Podargus strigoides*) have been exceedingly active during the month, calling every night. On the 12th one was perched on the low horizontal limb of a redgum-tree, near the back of the house, and calling in broad daylight, its notes then being "Gooley-woo" softly repeated 10 or 12 times, then going off into its general call of "Moo-woo-woo." On the 17th a Ring-neck Parrot (*Barnardius barnardi*) came about near the house. On the 21st I saw the first Flame-breasted Robin (*Petroica phoenicea*) of the season at Mellor Park, a fine-plumaged male, and a female was not far away. There were also a few Pipits (*Anthus australis*) about. I was exceedingly pleased to see at Fulham on the 26th a pair of Crested Pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*). These birds were breeding at Mellor Park for several years, but when I left for England and America they seemed to have been frightened away. The White-cheeked Eastern Rosellas (*Platycercus eximius*) are still about, as on the 29th several were chattering and whistling to one another. On the last day of the month a Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*) was found in the middle of the road, quite dazed. It was dusk and raining, so I picked

him up and put him in a cask in a warm place, and next morning he was better and flew away when liberated.