

By J. W. Mellor.

May.

The Flame-breasted Robins (*Petroica phoenicea*) have been about all the month, quite a number having visited "Mellor Park," flitting about in the open paddocks, and one evening during the stormy weather towards the end of the month a number of the little birds sheltered near a large prickly-pear hedge, apparently intending to roost in the hedge for the night. The bright breasts of the male birds show up conspicuously as they perch on the dry thistles and twigs near the ground. A few Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*) are generally seen singly, flying about the garden, and in the paddocks. Noisy Miners (*Myzantha melanocephala*) are in little flocks of six or eight in the back paddocks. Several Galahs (*Cacatua roseicapilla*) are still seen in the paddocks, feeding on the seeds of the yellow star thistle and the variegated thistle. They fly into the old redgum-trees screeching and calling, as if they were away in the bushland. A Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*) has been seen lately, disturbing the smaller birds by the rapid flights he occasionally makes through the timbered

part of the paddocks. The Delicate Owl (*Tyto alba*) that roosts in the lemon-scented pine at my back door is still in his place, and he averages at least one or two Sparrows per night, as I generally find that number of skulls in his pellets beneath his roost each day, showing the great good that these birds must do for the country. Numbers of the European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) have been noted lately, large flocks settling on the big trees each evening to rest for a short time, as they fly northward to the mangroves beyond Port Adelaide.

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