

APRIL, 1921.

Mr. J. W. Mellor, Lockleys, reports—The birds seem to have finished breeding now. During the month the Boobook Owls have been very silent, only an occasional call being heard at the beginning of the month. The Screech Owls have also been less in evidence by their calls, but are often seen, one bird roosting by day in a lemon-scented pine. I notice that the pellets thrown up by this owl are very much smaller than previously noted. Perhaps this is due to the dryness

of the season, and to the greater difficulty of getting food supplies.

On April 16, I noticed two *Falco longipennis* (Little Falcon) together, flying swiftly. By the slaty appearance of the upper surface, I believed them to be young birds.

On the 16th, a small flock of *Platycercus eximius* (Rosella Parrot) made their appearance. Two pairs were noted sitting on a dead branch of a gum tree apparently quarrelling. They were about for some days feeding on the seeds of the thistles, wire weeds, etc.; but unfortunately they betook themselves to the late pears and apples and one was accidentally caught in a gin trap. Its legs were so badly crushed that it had to be killed, but the skin was preserved and proved to be that of a female. The male bird still lingers, eating seed and chumming up with other birds; but the other pair has departed.

Pachycephala pectoralis fuliginosa (South Australian Yellow-breasted Thickhead) a female or young male of this bird was noted.

April 23.—Saw two *Cacomantis rubricatus* (Fantail Cuckoos) in the gum trees.

Coracina novae hollandiae melanops (Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike), not uncommon about the paddocks. They are now turning their attention to searching out insect food, such as grass-hoppers, small goat moths, and the like.

Grallina cyanoleuca (Murray Magpies) are now very tame, and doing much good in eating insects.