

Bird Notes.

MARCH, 1922.

By J. W. MELLOR, LOCKLEYS.

This season has been one of the busiest on record in the bird world at Lockleys and the Reedbeds generally, there being large numbers of birds about, especially Honey-eaters and Parrakeets. The native blue gums (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*), being in full flower, attract many birds. A solitary Galah or Rose-breasted Cockatoo (*Eolophus roseicapillus*) made the forest trees ring with its loud, piercing screeches, and that it found enough food was proved by the long stay it made. On March 15 it departed, in company with five other Galahs that happened to come this way. A Port Lincoln Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius*) put in an appearance at Lockleys the same day as the first Galah, but did not stay. Large numbers of Yellow-winged Honey-eaters (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae subassimilis*) came and have been here ever since. These birds were plentiful years ago, but have gradually decreased in numbers. The Black-chinned Honey-eater (*Melithreptus gularis loftyi*) has been calling vigorously. Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes (*Coracina novae-hollandiae melanops*) were to be seen in the red gums. In March a Regent Honey-eater (*Xanthomiza phrygia tregelasi*) was seen, this being the second occasion on which these birds have visited the district, the first time being on April 29, 1919. Then they were extremely plentiful, but this year they came in ones and twos. I noted them every day until March 9, since when nothing has been seen of them.

March 5.—A Goshawk (*Urospiza fasciatus*) came worrying the poultry in the yard, but soon disappeared on being disturbed, and it was chased by flocks of the European Starlings.

Another put in an appearance on March 10.

On March 5 noted several Pipits or Ground Larks (*Anthus australis adelaidensis*) on the open grass land.

March 8.—A pair of Chestnut-eared Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*) were in the poultry yard selecting feathers for nesting.

March 9.—Noted the Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*) unusually active in the fields where timber is thick, and I have seen it about during the month.

March 18.—A pair of Mistletoe Birds (*Austrodiacaëum hirundinaceum*) were about at Lockleys, uttering their low, sweet, whistling calls. A most unusual visitor was a fine specimen of the Pale-headed Parrot (*Platycercus adseitus palliceps*) of Queensland, presumably an escapee, which was still about at the end of the month.

By J. SUTTON, NETHERBY.

February 28.—A Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike has been about the place this month.

March 1.—I caught a young Stubble Quail in the hedge three days after the big grass fire near Glen Osmond.

March 10.—Saw a young Goldfinch being fed by a parent.

March 11.—Noticed about twenty White-fronted Chats in South Park Lands.

March 13.—Noticed about twenty White-fronted Chats in a paddock near Mitcham.

March 15.—A *Grallina* flew at a "Kitty" whilst it was rolling up to begin an end on the Parkside Bowling Club green.

March 16.—Hawk (C.C.) resting in a peppermint gum annoyed by two Willie Wagtails, which were only a few feet away and attacked it frequently.

March 18.—Same Hawk attacked by a Magpie whilst on the wing. Magpie was very discreet, and was feet behind at each snap which I could hear.

March 19.—Pardalote calling "peepoh" or "meat hook" heard for first time this year.

March 22.—A Spinebill seen in the garden.

APRIL, 1922.

By J. W. MELLOR, LOCKLEYS.

Some of the visitors to this district have left us during the month, notably the large Wattle Birds and the Musk and Purple-crowned Lorikeets.

The Striped Diamond Bird (*Pardalotus striatus subaffinis*) has been about in the large gum trees, and was noted first on April 6.

April 7.—Female of the Red-capped Robin (*Whiteornis goodenovii*) was noted at Lockleys, but no male was present.

April 10.—Although the Murray Magpies (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) are quite common, and nest near the house, I have never seen them so plentiful as now. On the evening of the 10th I flushed quite a number from a small bushy tree where they

had congregated to roost for the night. In all there were about twenty.

April 11.—I was pleased to note several Red-backed Parrots (*Psephotus haematonotus*) feeding on the ground amongst the grass, showing that these old friends have come to stay. The Pale-headed Rosella that arrived last month was associating with them. This Rosella Parrot has quite made his home at Mellor Park, and comes down to drink from the wild birds' water-pot not far from the back door.

On the same day several Brown-headed Honey-eaters (*Melithreptus atricapillus mallee*) were flying in a small flock. A small covey of White-browed Babblers (*Morganornis superciliosus*) were very inquisitive, and hopped right up to where I stood.

April 14.—Although the Shrike-tit (*Falcunculus frontatus flavigulus*) is not a common bird, no fewer than three came to drink out of the water-pot, where next day I also noted a Black-chinned Honey-eater (*Melithreptus gularis loftyi*).

April 22.—A female Flame-breasted Robin (*Littleraphoebicea albicans*) flitting about in search of insects.

On April 25 quite an invasion of Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo neoxina*) was witnessed, the rain having brought out many gnats and flies, which attracted them in quite large numbers.

BY J. SUTTON, NETHERBY.

The Black-chinned Honey-eaters (*Melithreptus gularis*), Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes (*Graucalus novae-hollandiae*), White-naped Honey-eaters (*Melithreptus lunulatus*), Yellow-breasted Shrike-tit (*Falcunculus frontatus*), Musk Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta concinna*), Purple-crowned Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*), and Crimson Parrots (*Platyercus elegans*) have been about the whole of the month.

On April 7, after the rain, Scarlet-breasted Robins (*Petroica multicolor*) and Spotted Diamond Birds (*Pardalotus punctatus*) put in an appearance.

The Nankeen Kestrel (*Cerchneis cenchroides*) has been seen on many occasions, and on April 9 one was attacked at the height of about 150 feet by four Magpies simultaneously, three attacking from above, downwards, and one from beneath, upwards. It was wonderful to see how the Hawk dodged the attack, but on one occasion one of the "downward" Magpies knocked out a mouthful of feathers from the Hawk's back. The snapping of beaks could be distinctly heard, but the Hawk did

not appear to fight, and after five minutes the Magpies ceased attacking.

On the 16th inst. a Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*) was heard, and was seen on 17th inst. near some thick shrubbery. It has not been heard nor seen since the last date. On 23rd inst. a Barn-owl (*Tyto alba*) was heard, and on 24th inst. a Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*) was noticed at 6.50 p.m. on the bough of a *Pinus insignis*, six feet from the ground. On 22nd inst., on a visit to the National Park, Belair, I took a census of the birds seen and heard. I covered about a third of the area, and saw 288 and heard ninety-one birds of thirty-nine different species. The predominating birds were White-bearded Honey-eaters (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae*), White-plumed Honey-eaters (*Meliphaga penicillata*), Superb Warblers (*Malurus cyaneus*), Wattle Birds (*Anthochaera carunculata*), and Spotted Diamond Birds (*Pardalotus punctatus*).
sive birds.

By R. BECK, TAPLEY'S HILL ROAD.

April 2.—Three Spiny-cheeked Honey-eaters (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*). It was the first appearance of these birds in the district. They were shy and hard to observe for about ten days. They are now quite tame, and spend a lot of time in a Moreton Bay fig tree close to the back door.

April 9.—A Rufous-breasted Whistler (*P. rufiventris*). The first appearance here.

April 11.—A Red-capped Robin (*P. goodenovii*).

April.—Several Ground Cuckoo-shrikes (*Pteropodocys phasianella*).

Mr. W. Weidenbach reported having seen at Glen Osmond on April 27 and 28 several Regent Honey-eaters.

MAY, 1922.

By J. W. MELLOR, LOCKLEYS.

The month has been one of activity amongst the Hawk family at Lockleys, several species having been observed.

On May 3 I noted a Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*) flying round and uttering its well-known whistling call. These birds are somewhat partial to young rabbits when they come down here, but on the Murray and around Lakes Alexandrina and Albert and the Coorong I have noted that they are very partial to fish diet, especially the bodies of the "boney bream,"

when these fish are cast up on the shores. On this account they are locally known as the "Fish Eagle."

On May 4 the Brown Hawk (*Tracideca berigora*), which was at one time plentiful in the district, but now scarce, was seen flying overhead.

All the month the little Nankeen Kestrel (*Cerchneis cenchroides*) has been busy capturing mice. These are truly useful birds in keeping down the mouse pest.

The Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*) has also been diligent in securing the common Sparrows for food, and in this respect it also is a very useful bird. In dissecting the stomach of one of these birds, shot in the country and forwarded to me for identification, I found the remains of no less than three sparrows.

On May 5 I noted quite a number of Flame-breasted Robins (*Littlera chrysoptera phoenicea*), for the most part in sombre garb, probably females or young males, but here and there a beautiful old cock bird would stand out like a small flame of fire. These birds were, however, migrating, as by May 15 none was about, nor have they since been noted. They seldom stay more than a few weeks at the most, and none stays to breed, and I am of the opinion that these little birds are one and the same as the Tasmanian birds, and that they migrate to the Island State to breed.

On May 17 several Southern Spiney-cheeked Honey-eaters (*Acanthagenys ruficularis cygnus*) were about, their loud and beautifully liquid calls being heard at quite a distance away.

During the latter part of the month several Fantailed Cuckoos (*Cacomantis rubricatus*) have been about. They are very quiet indeed in themselves, but their presence is fully heralded by all and sundry of the small birds that make a great commotion while the Cuckoo is about.

The Red-backed or Grass Parrot (*Psephotus haematotus*) has apparently come back to stay, as I saw several during the last few days of the month.

BY J. SUTTON, NETHERBY.

FLAME-BREASTED ROBINS.—First seen on May 7, and have been about the gardens every day since then.

RED-CAPPED ROBIN.—A female was seen on May 7—the first time I have noticed one here for four years. It has not been observed since.

FANTAILED CUCKOO.—One was seen on May 7 worried by two Willie Wagtails. It was not calling, and has not been seen or heard since that date.

GOLDEN-BREADED WHISTLER.—A female was seen about Netherby on 12th inst. Male birds were heard singing in Long Gully on 24th inst.

BLUE MOUNTAIN LORIKEET.—Appeared about 16th inst., but only remained a few days.

WHITE-SHAFTED FANTAIL.—One arrived at Netherby on 26th inst.

MOPKE.—At 10.35 p.m. on 24th inst. a mopoke flew from a fence post by the footpath near Urrbrae in Fullarton Road. The post was six feet from the electric light.

At Myponga on 8th inst. many Crimson Parrots were seen, Crescent Honey-eaters were calling, and a fair number of Willie Wagtails was noticed.

At Aldgate on 20th inst. Tawny-crowned Honey-eaters were about, also Crimson Parrots, Crescent Honey-eaters, White-shafted Fantails, Sordid Wood Swallows. A Fantailed Cuckoo was heard calling. No Wattle Birds nor Willie Wagtails were seen or heard.

At Long Gully on 24th inst. the Brown and White-throated Tree-creepers were near the Railway Station, and Golden-breasted Whistlers were seen. White-naped and White-bearded Honey-eaters were numerous.

On 13th inst. many Blue Mountain Lorikeets were in the National Park, but on the 24th inst. none was there.