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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 (*Trucidea 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.