

wards, talons extended. The Sparrow plunged into a dense blackberry bush, and the Hawk landed nearby in dense grass. I left the house and approached the shack. The Hawk, on the ground, was eating a small lizard, and flew off at my approach. The Sparrow was still in the blackberry and was difficult to flush, but eventually flew off unharmed. The time was then 0935 hours.

DISCUSSION

It appears from the foregoing observations that the Sparrow-Hawk will take both small birds and lizards, and that it can kill in quite dense cover, but will not follow into brambles. The bird is alert even when preening and sunning, and can launch an attack in an incredibly short space of time, although the prey species may also take fast avoiding action and escape. When it is perched in the open or on a hill, prey species do not always recognize the Sparrowhawk as a menace, but I have seen two Grey Fantails and two Crescent Honeyeaters acting in concert to mob a Sparrowhawk perched in eucalyptus foliage.

Extreme mobility of the head is shown in preening and searching movements, and the purpose of the "bobbing" may be, as has been suggested in the case of waders, to judge distance by relative movement of the objects in the field of vision.—Hugh Wilson, 1950, "Visual Perception among Waders: A suggested Explanation of the Habit of 'Bobbing'," *The Emu*, 50: 128-31.

The efficient stripping of the feathers between the mandibles would tend to dislodge feather-lice and other parasites.

Nankeen Kestrel as Predator on House Mice.—The Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*) is widely recognized as a predator on the introduced House Mouse (*Mus musculus*). Often Kestrels are found frequenting farm buildings and haystacks in search of the rodents. The birds sometimes continue their hunting long after sunset, as reported many years ago by the late Tom Carter in an account of the bird-life of the region of the North-West Cape, Western Australia (*Emu*, III (1), 34, 1903).

When hay or straw carting is carried out the Kestrels swoop down on mice disturbed from the stooks. One bird kept under observation at Sutherlands, S.A., during the morning of February 18, 1948, captured six mice between 6 a.m. and noon. It used a lone tall mallee tree as a look-out perch and it came close beside the waggon and horses to capture the mice. Once it secured a mouse under the waggon-pole right between the horses.—E. F. BOEHM, Sutherlands, S.A., 16/11/60.