

*Bird Notes.*

By L. R. Reese, "Minnie Downs," via Marree, 29th May, 1930.

We have had very little rain this year, so there is no feed or water on the tableland country or in the sandhills, consequently all bird life is on the River Diamantina. The Pelicans (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) are breeding in thousands, nesting on the ground in the lignum (*Muehlenbeckia Cunninghamii*) on "Clifton Hills." On the lignum bushes are hundreds of young Black-legged Spoonbills (*Platalea regia*). At two other places Straw-necked Ibis (*Threskiornis spinicollis*) are nesting in hundreds, with a few Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) and a few White-necked Herons (*Notophox pacifica*). Young Grey Teal (*Querquedula gibberifrons*) are in great numbers. A few young Black Ducks (*Anas superciliosa*), Plumed Tree-Ducks (*Dendrocygna eytoni*), and Pink-eared Ducks (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*) are noticed on the waterholes. Budgerygahs

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(*Melopsittacus undulatus*) are nesting in thousands—six young are very common, but eight and nine young ones are occasionally found in a nest. Yesterday 40 Brolgas (*Grus rubicundus*) settled close to my house. A nest of an Emu (*Dromaius novae-hollandiae*) was found with nine eggs, all fresh. In a cake one of those eggs is equal to 12 hen's eggs. Only four Bustards (*Eupodotis australis*) have been seen. Usually they come here in hundreds after a flood; perhaps they will arrive later. Spur-winged Plovers (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*) have hatched extensively during this flood, with mostly four eggs in a nest. A few Australian Dotterels (*Peltohyas australis*) and Crested Pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) have also nested. At the end of August last a Crested Pigeon built a nest at the house at Pandy Station and hatched two young ones. The Crows got one, and the other young one died when it fell to the ground. In October the nest was rebuilt, and two more hatched out. In December two more were hatched, and a further two in February—all in the one nest. The Channel-billed Cuckoos, or "Flood-Birds" (*Scythrops novae-hollandiae*) have all gone back to the north. A few Pallid Cuckoos (*Cuculus pallidus*) are still here. Masked Wood-Swallows (*Artamus personatus*) and Dusky Wood-Swallows (*A. cyanopterus*) are numerous. I heard for the first time in this district a Crested Bellbird (*Oreoica gutturalis*). There are numbers of small birds nesting, and a few days ago I noticed for the first time eight Tree-creepers (*Climacteris* sp.), but I could not identify them. The drought has not yet broken, though the flood has saved the district.