

---

*CHALMERS—Bird Notes from Macdonald Downs.***Birds Notes from Macdonald Downs, 150 Miles  
North-East of Alice Springs, C.A.**

By C. O. Chalmers.

1/12/1933. Herewith is a general list of the birds which have been seen in our district. There are more Hawks here than we have identified. We don't like shooting them, and it would require an experienced ornithologist to identify them at a distance, as they are so much alike. They are a hardy race, and we rarely find a dead body. The birds here have trouble to get water during dry periods. After the waterholes dry up they either go back to the springs or drink at the sheep and cattle wells. The nearest permanent spring is situated ten miles from the homestead, and there are eight others, that we know of, within 50 miles. These springs are ideal for the birds in dry times. Up till the end of November, 1933, the season was very dry, and many birds were watering at the troughs—hundreds of Crested Pigeons, Galahs, Zebra Finches, and a little flock of 55 Little Corellas. The November rains caused all the creeks to run, and the birds have spread out. The best time to study the birds is after the March rains (we generally get good rains then).

CHALMERS—*Bird Notes from Macdonald Downs.*

The weather is then delightful right till the end of October, when it begins to get hot. In the dry periods, of course, at the wells or springs, would be best. We are never sure of our rains. When it does rain the country responds quickly, and the birds get busy at once nest building. We have known the Galah to hatch out three broods in succession after a big March rain. Most of the names given by the aborigines to the birds are in imitation of their calls or songs—the native names are in the Illiara language.

- Emu (*Dromaius novae-hollandiae*), "ungura."—Few.
- Stubble Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*), "atillquarra."—Common.
- Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*), "urrilyarra."—Common.
- Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*), "unduppa."—Few.
- Flock Pigeon (*Histriophaps histrionica*).—Rare.
- Plumed Pigeon (*Lophophaps plumifera*), "undurita."—Common.
- Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*), "bulkra."—Plentiful.
- Black-tailed Native Hen (*Tribonyx ventralis*).—Common in rainy times.
- Grebe (*Podiceps* sp.).—Few, in rainy times.
- Silver Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*).—One seen in February, 1931—stayed three days.
- Banded Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*), "chelka aturra aturra."—Few.
- Black-fronted Dotterel (*Charadrius melanops*).—Few.
- Red-necked Avocet (*Recurvirostra novae-hollandiae*).—Few.
- Southern Stone-Curlew (*Burhinus magnirostris*), "ura peelpa."—Common.
- Bustard (*Eupodotis australis*), "rungoraba."
- Brolga (*Grus rubicinctus*).—Few; visit here occasionally.
- Yellow-billed Spoonbill (*Platalea flavipes*).—Few in rainy times.
- Heron (*Notophox sp.*).—Few, seen after rain.
- Mand Goose (*Chenonetta jubata*).—Common in rainy times.
- Plumed Tree Duck (*Dendrocygna eytoni*).—Common in rainy times.
- Grey Teal (*Querquedula gibberifrons*).—Common after rains.

## CHALMERS—Bird Notes from Macdonald Downs.

- Pink-eared Duck (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*). — Plentiful after rains.
- Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaetus audax*), "enidja."—Plentiful.
- Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*).—Plentiful.
- Black (Fork-tailed) Kite (*Milvus migrans*).
- Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*).—Common.
- Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksi*), "yurrineta."—Plentiful, 95 seen in one flock on the Fraser.
- Major Mitchell (Pink) Cockatoo (*Kakatoe leadbeateri*).—Few.
- Little Corella (Bare-eyed Cockatoo) (*K. sanguinea*).
- Galah (*K. roseicapilla*), "ilunja."—Very plentiful.
- Cockatiel (*Leptolophus hollandicus*), "orrororow."—Plentiful.
- Port Lincoln Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius*), "alpadja."—Common.
- Mulga-Parrot (*Psephotus varius*), "urryingburing."—Rare.
- Budgerygah (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), "atittera."—In dry periods a few only, but in wet periods they are in countless thousands.
- Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*), "anuningwa."—Common.
- Sacred Kingfisher (*Halcyon sanctus*), "yurawondera."—Few.
- Spotted Nightjar (*Eurostopodus guttatus*), "kudarquita."—Common.
- White-backed Swallow (*Cheramoeca leucosterna*).—Occasionally plentiful.
- Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*), "teejijirra."—Common.
- Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*), "acarlarduree."—Few.
- Magpie-Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*), "quadjaleteete."—Common.
- Crested Bellbird (*Oneoica gutturalis*), "qwib barla barl."—Plentiful.
- Ground Cuckoo-Shrike (*Pteropodocys maxima*).—Few.
- Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*), "martin anreangurra."—Few.

*Bird Notes.*

White-winged Triller (*Lalage tricolor*).—Few.

Red-breasted Babbler (*Pomatostomus rubeculus*),  
“joackidja.”—Common.

White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*).—Scarce.

Crimson Chat (*E. tricolor*).—Common.

Orange Chat (*E. aurifrons*).—Rare.

Brown Songlark (*Cinclorhamphus cruralis*), “chuickal-  
bilang” ?—Common at times.

Black-faced Wood-Swallow (*Artamus melanops*), “purpine-  
gil.”—Common.

Dusky Wood-Swallow (*A. cyanopterus*).—Few.

Red-browed Pardalote (*Pardalotus rubricatus*), “carba  
cultililitil.”

White-plumed Honeyeater (*Meliphaga penicillata leilava-  
lensis*).

Yellow-throated Miner (*Myzantha flavigula*), “umbineba.”

Zebra Finch (*Taeniopygia castanotis*), “chubia.”—Plentiful.

Western Bower-Bird (*Chlamydera guttata*), “akurickur.”—  
Few.

Raven (*Corvus coronoides*), “ararngura.”—Plentiful.

Crow (*Corvus ceciliae*), “ungula.”—Plentiful.

Pied Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus nigrogularis*), “albuta albuta.”  
—Common.

Black-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*).—Common.

White-backed Magpie (*G. hypoleuca*).—Rare.

