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## Wild Birds in the Back Valley off Inman Valley, S.A.

By Alfred Crompton.

Some years ago, my brother's housekeeper noticed a Kookaburra, *Dacelo gigas*, near at hand when cutting up meat near the meathouse, and threw a morsel to him, which was accepted. This went on for some time, and Jack became quite friendly, coming to sit on the block while the meat was being chopped, and accepting pieces of meat tendered by hand.

On one visit, I went out to the meat block, and was surprised to see the bird alight on the chopping block while I was cutting some meat, and he not only accepted pieces from my hand—a stranger—but allowed me to stroke his head. This friendliness continued for a number of years. He brought his mate, and each year his young family and introduced them. Some of the young became tame, but never as tame as the old bird.

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*CROMPTON—Wild Birds in Back Valley off Inman Valley.*

At one time, two Harmonious Thrushes, *Colluricincla harmonica*, made friends with the house, and came regularly to and into the kitchen to pick up titbits; and outside, if small pieces of meat were tossed in the air, they would catch them on the wing.

Some three or four years ago, a new settler built a house nearer the big trees on the other side of the valley, some 600 or 700 yards away, and the friendly Jacks found them as generous as their old friends, and transferred their solicitations to the newcomers.

When paying a visit last Christmas, I was told that they had recently been receiving visits from a number, occasionally eleven at one time, and not only have they made friends with the Jacks, but they have also made connection with wild Magpies, *Gymnorhina hypoleuca*.

At first, two old Magpies made timid calls at their brush house. Then, in the first breeding season, they brought two or three young ones along; these became more friendly than the old birds. The second season they brought two clutches of young birds, and some of these became quite tame, even coming into the house and hopping on to the old man's knee to get a titbit, and I am now told that they sometimes have nine visitors, three of which come into the house for scraps, which they will take from the hand.

In September last, I saw two come in for 11 o'clock tea, but they could not be persuaded to come on to one's knee.

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