

BLACK KITES

One of the interesting sights of a recent trip round the Flinders Range was the Black Kites (*Milvus migrans*) sailing over the towns and homesteads. Even a temporary camp would attract a few, in ones and twos. They were first noticed at Hawker, then at the various settlements along the railway as far as Lyndhurst, where the writer turned east. At Leigh Creek the air was full of them; there must have been hundreds. Although numerous at Moolawatana, their numbers decreased through Wooltana and

Balcanoona towards Wirrealpa, and none was seen between Blinman and Hawker.

Curiously, we noticed no kites at all during the spring of 1955 and 1956, when similar trips were made, except that no country north of a line from Beltana to Wertaloona was visited. However, in 1954, Black Kites were to be seen south of that line as far as Hawker.

A partial explanation may lie in the fact that 1955 and 1956 were exceptionally wet years, and the kite tastes may have been better satisfied elsewhere.—B. C. Newland, September 22, 1957.