

Mr. L. Reese, of Minnie Downs, via Marree, S.A., writes, under date of 1st March, 1926:—" . . . Since last March we have had 18, 12, and 80 points of rain in three falls, so you can imagine the time we are having. Kangaroos and Emus have died in hundreds, and most of the birds have been compelled to come to the wells, though I am positive that some of them must do without water, as I always see birds 20 to 30 miles away from water when I am crossing from one well to another. There does not appear to be any shortage of food, as the seed-eaters can get plenty and the insects are very numerous, even though we are having such a dry time. We have been "enjoying" a heat wave of 113° in the shade, and that equals 123° in any other house in the district. I think this wave has killed hundreds of birds. Those I have seen dead are Sacred Kingfisher, two Australian Bee-eaters, Bare-eyed Cockatoo, White-winged Caterpillar-eater, two Crows, and three Zebra-Finches. Out of a well about 14 feet deep and 4 x 4 feet I took two Crows (dead) and one Black-backed Magpie, one Bare-eyed Cockatoo, one Zebra-Finch, and one Bee-eater. None of those could fly, but a Murray Magpie (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) had no trouble. There is no alteration in the bird life, except that the Channel-billed Cuckoos have been heard for the past month. I have heard a few water birds flying southwards in the night, as though they were going over to Cooper's Creek from here—Wood-duck, Teal, and Avocets. . . . The Black Cockatoo about this district is *Calyptorhynchus banksi*. The tail feathers of a male bird are sent for identification purposes.