

By L. R. Reese,
Minnie Downs, via Marree, S.A.

Letter dated 8th November, 1928:—"On the 4th inst. we had 73 points of rain, which is more than we had from the 1st January, 1928, to that date. The reason I mention rain is because the birds in this district are absolutely controlled by it. Previous to the 73 points our rainfall from 1st January was 67 points, and during that period I only saw one Crow (*Corvus ceciliae*) nesting. Since the rain I saw two nests of Crested Pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) with one egg in each. The Galahs (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*) and Bare-eyed Cockatoos (*K. sanguinea*) are as big a curse as ever and are in thousands. Most of the other birds have left the district. Where you would see hundreds in a good season, you only see two or three pairs now. I have not seen a Fork-tailed Kite (*Milvus migrans*) for months, and Ducks, which are here in millions in a good season, are now very rare. All the other water-fowl have practically gone, and in a sixty-mile ride in the dry country between the rivers not six birds would be noted—possibly a Crow, a Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*), or a Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*) might be seen. Diamond Doves (*Geopelia cuneata*), Crested Pigeons, and Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*) are just as plentiful as in a good year. Those three species, with Galahs and Bare-eyed Cockatoos, are the only ones that do not leave here in a bad time.