

By L. R. Reese, Minnie Downs, via Murrumbidgee.

9/4/1929.—There have been 13 points of rain this year, so the birds are conspicuous by their absence. On the 16th March I saw a couple of Bee-eaters (*Merops ornatus*), but I have seen none since that date. These birds are most regular in their coming and going to and from this district. They arrive with the first hot days, and depart as soon as the fierce heat is over, and I have never known them to make a mistake. The following species are always with us, and the dry weather does not seem to make any difference in their numbers:—Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*), Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*), Cockatoo-Parrot (*Leptolophus hollandicus*), Bare-eyed Cockatoo (*Kakatoe sanguinea*), Galah (*K. roseicapilla*), Budgerigah (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*), Magpie-Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*), Dusky Wood-Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*), White-plumed Honeyeater (*Meliphaga penicillata leilavalensis*), Yellow-throated Miner (*Myzantha flavivula*), Chestnut-eared Finch (*Taeniopygia castanotis*), and Black-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*). The greatest enemy the birds in the interior have is the heat. After the thermometer has registered 110° I have always found quite a number dead. Other observers have also noticed this. Bare-eyed Cockatoos and Galahs will

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become as big a curse as the rabbits in a few years' time. As they have so few enemies, they are increasing rapidly. A Falcon takes one occasionally; otherwise I don't think they are molested.

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