

By L. R. Reese.

Minnie Downs, via Marree, 1/10/29.

Since I last wrote (26/5/29) we have had 36 points of rain, which count as nil. On the 16th September I noticed the first of the Pallid Cuckoos (*Cuculus pallidus*) to arrive, and on the 29th September the first of the Bee-eaters (*Merops ornatus*) put in an appearance. Birds are scarce in the district at present; in fact, those that are about are the pests.

8/12/29.

No rain having fallen since I last wrote, there is no alteration noticeable in the bird life. Pallid Cuckoo, a few White-winged Trillers (*Lalage tricolor*), and Willie Wagtails (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) are still with us. Masked Wood-Swallows (*Artamus personatus*) are numerous, a few Red-tailed Black Cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus banksi*), some Cockatoo Parrots (*Leptolophus hollandicus*), and Galahs in thousands.