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*Bird Notes.*

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Mr. M. W. Mules thus describes the occurrences at Finkle Siding on 7th, 8th, and 9th January, 1932:—"When returning from Alice Springs to Adelaide with Mr. Michael Heenan in January last our motor-car broke down at the Afghan Crossing

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on the River Finke, owing to a broken pinion in the differential, and we were forced to leave the car and make an attempt to find a habitation, as we were running short of water; and as the weather was very hot we were unable to walk during the daytime, so we set out at night, and, after walking about ten miles, we came to the railway line and eventually found a siding which turned out to be the Finke siding. We were very hospitably received so we decided to camp at the siding and wait three days for spare parts to come up by the Alice Springs train. During the daytime thousands of birds came to water at the siding, water being available to them in a small wooden tub, from which they could get a cool drink at all times. Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*) were to be seen at all times in hundreds watering at the tub, which was shaded, and also making use of any solid shade cast by the buildings of the siding. One could disturb them, walk on a few paces, look back and find the shade occupied by birds as thickly as ever. Shell Parrots and Bee-eaters (*Merops ornatus*), mingled with the Zebra Finches, and one would observe them in the middle of the day all sitting absolutely motionless together in almost a solid mass wherever there was a solid shade. Bee-eaters and Crows (*Corvus* sp.) were very much affected by the heat, more so than the Zebra Finches, although more Finches were seen dead than any of the other birds, because they outnumbered the other birds by thousands. The birds noticed killed by the heat were Crows, Shell Parrots, Zebra Finches, Bee-eaters, and a bird which I have not identified. It was about the size of an Australian Snipe (*Capella hardwicki*), and was probably an Eastern Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominicus*), but it must be queried. On returning to the motor-car on 9th January with five camels and a blackboy, whom we had engaged to pull the car to the siding for repairs, we discovered that there was a number of dead Zebra Finches beneath; evidently they had endeavoured to escape the heat by getting in the shade under the car. On unpacking my suitcase, which was at the bottom of the load—the car had been covered with a tarpaulin—I found my thermometer, which would register up to 110 degrees Fahrenheit, had burst, and my companion's thermometer, with a similar register, had also burst. The unofficial shade readings at the Finke siding on 7th, 8th, and 9th January, 1932, were respectively 118 degrees, 120 degrees, and 116 degrees Fahrenheit."