
Holocaust of Bird Life.

Holocaust of Bird Life in the January, 1932, Heat-Wave.

Mrs. Ronald Robertson, of Ruthven Station, Isisford, C.Q., in a letter dated 24th July, 1932 stated that the heat took toll of the birds in that district also. The greatest number of deaths were amongst the Crimson Chats and Finches, and many Crows, Magpies and Shell Parrots perished in the earth-tanks, dams, and waterholes. Birds had little chance owing to the miles of plains with scarcely any shade, girdya and boree casting very little. At the homestead a great many were revived by means of cool water in a teaspoon and by spraying them with water from the bags.

Mr. T. Scanlan, of Copper Pedy, 648 miles north-west of Adelaide, wrote on 28th August, 1932, that it would be impossible to state the number of birds that perished about there during the heat-wave. The Waxbills (Chestnut-eared Finches) died in hundreds, many of them being drowned in the vessels about the camps containing water. A lot of Crows also died.