
*Bird Notes.***Bird Notes.**

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

8th May, 1934.—The Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*) is still with us, and has been here since last I wrote (16th August, 1933). The Channel-billed Cuckoos (*Scythrops novaehollandiae*) are numerous along the Diamantina River. As there is no surface-water on the tableland or sandhill country they do not leave the main channel, so I do not see anything of them in my locality. Nearly all species of birds go to the river when the waterholes dry up in the back country. Foxes are not nearly so numerous as in previous years, but dingoes have taken their place, and one species is just as bad as the other for killing the ground birds. It is a pity they do not

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attack Galahs (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*), which are increasing annually in thousands on areas where rain-storms have fallen. Emus (*Dromaius novae-hollandiae*) are in hundreds, but I have not found a nest this year. After a fifty-point shower of rain in March some Spur-winged Plovers (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*), Pratincoles (*Stiltia isabella*), and Australian Dotterels (*Peltohyas australis*) were seen for a few days.

19th June, 1934.—Since 1st January we have had 188 points of rain in seven falls. I was mustering horses for a week on "Clifton Hills," and I have never seen so many Pallid Cuckoos in this district before. The tent-caterpillars (*Teara*) are plentiful here, and they are the favourite food of the Cuckoos. I heard that the Pelicans (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) were nesting a mile or two from the old spot, but the Spoonbills (*Platalea*) and other birds were in the old spot—the flood water, Goyder's Lagoon. I heard some Red-tailed Black Cockatoos (*Calyptrorhynchus banksi*) at "Pandy" last week. At the present time Galahs are the only birds I see, even the Zebra Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*), Crested Pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*), and the Fork-tailed Kites (*Milvus migrans*) have left, but Crows (*Corvus* sp.) are here. The river channel is alive with birds, as there is plenty of food, as well as shelter for them there.
