

Bird Notes.

The following notes have been received from Mr. L. Reese, of Minnie Downs Station, over 200 miles north-north-east from Marree (the Queensland border is 55 miles to the north and 40 miles to the east from the homestead; the nearest part of Cooper's Creek is 12 miles away):—

15th March, 1924.—Square-tailed Kites (*Lophoictinia isura*) I see daily. Channel-bill Cuckoos (*Scythrops novae-hollandiae*)

are very plentiful at the present time. There is a slight flood in the Diamantina, and they usually remain for a few months from the time of the first flood. Pied Geese (*Anseranas semipalmata*) are always on the lakes at Coongy. Plumed Whistling Ducks (*Dendrocygna eytoni*) come and go. I only saw one invasion of the Letter-winged Kites (*Elanus scriptus*), when about 30 birds came. Flock Pigeons (*Histriophaps histrionica*) occasionally come—the largest flock was about eight birds, but at Bedourie, 150 miles north from here, I have seen them literally in millions. The Bee-eaters (*Merops ornatus*) are here.

21st March, 1924.—The Channel-bill Cuckoos are very plentiful at present. The Diamantina is in flood, and these birds always come ahead of the flood. At night the water birds are flying northward to meet the flood-waters. I have heard Black Duck, Teal, Pink-eared Ducks (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*), Plumed Whistling Ducks, with Stilts and Avocets, passing over.

18th April, 1924.—The Bee-eaters have all gone. The Wag-tails (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) were a bit late in arriving this year, but they made up for it in numbers. I have not seen so many since 1916. There are not half as many Channel-bill Cuckoos here as there were a month ago. The Wood-Swallows have all gone, but the White-backed Swallows (*Cheramoeca leucosternum*) have come close to the house during the past few days.

12th May, 1924.—The Channel-bill Cuckoos have all gone. White-backed Swallows are about the house again. Galahs (*Cacatua roseicapilla*) and Bare-eyed Cockatoos (*Cacatua sanguinea*) are in large flocks. Fork-tailed Kites are plentiful, and a few Native Companions (*Antigone rubicunda*), Black-backed Magpies (*Gymnorhina tibicen*), Finches, Crows, Wag-tails, Desert Chats (*Ashbyia lovensis*), Magpie-Larks, and Wood-Swallows are present. I have heard that the Ducks are laying at the flood-waters. At night the water birds are still busy making either to or from the Cooper. We have had no rain since December, therefore most of the surface water has dried up, so the birds are compelled to go in to the river.