

die during the night, as they were often found dead under their roosting perches. On Rio station (Dawson River) in the drought winters of 1919 and 1922, many were seen dead, and others were so weak that they could not fly into the trees, but perched on logs. On being approached they would make a short flight and light on the ground, where they were easily caught.

Dacelo leachi, Blue-winged Kookaburra.—These birds were not so numerous as the common "Jackass," and in 1902 were almost exterminated. They increased later, but in the severe winters of 1919 and 1922 they died in numbers on Rio station.

Cracticus torquatus, Grey Butcher-Bird.—Seen dead on Coomoooolaroo during the drought of 1902, and on Rio station in the winters of 1919 and 1922.

Cracticus nigrogularis, Pied Butcher-Bird.—One would think such species as Butcher-Birds would be the last to die from starvation, but in 1902, when the whole of Central Queensland was without a vestige of grass, when the timber on miles of country completely died out, and insects and small birds and reptiles completely disappeared, they died as freely as any other kinds of birds. While I camped on Coomoooolaroo station in the winter of 1926 (when the worst drought since 1902 was raging), snaring wallabies, these birds were so hungry that they took bits of meat from my hand; and when their hunger was satisfied they still continued to take it, but flew off with it, and after placing it in a crack or fork of a tree, returned for more, which was treated in the same way. I did not remain in the locality after the end of June, but as the drought continued till December, probably many of them died.

A list will suffice of smaller birds seen dead in the winters of 1902, 1915, 1919 and 1922. Probably many died in 1926, as it was one of the worst droughts known in Queensland, but I was not in the "bush" after June, and the drought did not break till the middle of December. However, I received information from reliable sources that Emus died in numbers. Most of the birds were dead in the winter months, scarcity of food combined with the cold being the cause. Here is the list:

White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphus*), Grey-crowned Babbler (*Pomatostomus temporalis*), Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*), Magpie-Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*), Grey Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*), Rufous Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*), Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*), Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*), Jacky Winter (*Micræca fascians*), Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*), Brown Weebill, (*Smicrornis brevirostris*), Little Thornbill (*Acanthiza nana*), Purple-backed Wren (*Malurus assimilis*), Red-backed Wren (*Malurus melanocephalus*), Dusky Wood-Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*), Black-headed Pardalote (*Pardalotus melanocephalus*), Noisy Miner (*Myzantha melanocephala*), Noisy Friar-Bird (*Philemon corniculatus*), Double-bar Finch (*Steganopleura bichenovii*).

Blue-winged Parrots Near Broken Hill.—A bird-trapper brought me three Grass-Parrots (*Neophema chrysostoma*), the first that I have seen from about here. He trapped them from a flock of nine. A dry season such as this is the trapper's opportunity, as the watering-places for birds are few and far between—mostly troughs at wells and bores, as all open water-holes are dry.—W. MACGILLIVRAY, Broken Hill (May 20, 1927).