

spring traps set by rabbiters seem to capture incidentally a good many birds. I found a White-backed Magpie caught by the leg, which was almost severed. I completed the severance without protest from the bird, and it flew off; but in another instance I found one of these birds with its beak cut clean off, not far from the root. It could not eat, and died a day or so after discovery. In another instance a fairly large black snake, furious at its detention, was found imprisoned in the jaws of a rabbit trap.

*The Soldier-Bird.*—Professor Newton, "Dictionary of Birds," page 428, makes a curious misstatement regarding the Sanguineous Honey-eater or "Blood-Bird" (*Myzomela sanguinolenta*), which, he says, is "called 'Soldier-Bird' by the colonists owing to the colouring of its plumage—crimson or scarlet." It is, of course, the Garrulous Honey-eater (*Myzantha garrula*) which is known as "Soldier-Bird," from its pugnacious disposition. By the way, at a time when the whey from cheese factories was allowed to remain outside in open barrels, &c. (to be subsequently fed to hand-reared calves), the "Soldier-Birds" in some South Coastal (N.S.W.) districts manifested a strange fondness for this by-product, and many of the birds fell into the receptacles and were drowned. This winter—a very dry one—these bold birds, with Magpie-Larks, Common Magpies (Crow-Shrike), Black-and-White Fantails, &c., are drinking from my horse's water-tub.

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### Stray Feathers.

**Migration of Crows.**—Lately I have noticed an exceedingly interesting migration of Crows. As many as 2,000 of these birds were seen in one flock, all flying in one direction. They all seemed to be cawing at the same time, and made a noise like a train going through timbered country in gloomy weather. I have never noticed such a large flock apparently migrating before. It is probably due to the dry weather and the consequent lack of water.—J. R. CHISHOLM. Prairie, North Queensland, 25/4/20.

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**Native Companions.**—Probably owing to the severe drought in New South Wales, two fine specimens of Native Companions (*Antigone australasiana*) visited Mr. R. Sammon's farm, Boorhaman, during September, 1919. These two birds became very tame, strutting about the homestead paddocks, and were a source of pleasure to the Sammon family, who fed them with wheat. Early in December one of the birds disappeared, probably being shot. The remaining bird is still to be seen gracefully strolling around. The writer, on 31st May, 1920, drove within 15 yards of this lonely bird. The Native Companion was a common species in this district years ago, Mr. Sammon informing the writer that these two birds are the first he has seen for 16 years or so. What



Chisholm, J. R. 1920. "Migration of Crows." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 20(1), 37–37.

<https://doi.org/10.1071/mu920037a>.

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