

"Billions" of birds die while many more do everything to survive the overwhelming and terrific 1932 heatwave.

A true story from Australian history. While you read these old news snippets, think how the following would be pedaled as "man made climate change" by today's media complete with endlessly repeating video of it all. Also note how the history seems to have...changed.

While heatwaves can be measured by the duration over a certain temperature, the peak temperature reached or the area covered, there are other more meaningful measurements. What could be a more relevant measure of how extreme the heat has been than how many birds were displaced and or died? Below is the evidence in a form of many eyewitness accounts of the type you just cannot make up.

The Adelaide Mail of Saturday July 30 1932 carried a request from the Adelaide museum [Click here](#) (text below).

Museum Makes Unique Death Census

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They already have records from many outposts in the Far North, but they want readers of 'The Mail' and 'The News' to send in particulars of any other great losses. It is thought that the greatest number of deaths was caused by the excessive heat rather than thirst.

The honorary mammologist of the Museum (Mr. H. H. Finlayson) during a collecting trip into the Far North reported the death of hundreds of birds. Great numbers were killed alone by the fortnightly train to Alice Springs. These fell exhausted on the railway line. A large number flew into the fans in the carriages and perished. Thousands fell exhausted in water pools and were drowned.

A letter from Minnie Downs told of the death of thousands of birds on one day. The temperature that day was 125 degrees in the shade—and there was no shade. One woman at Tarcoola filled a 40-gallon drum with shell parrots in one afternoon. Towns actually stopped under the strain of flight after flights of birds, which swarmed exhausted on them. More than 60,000 dead parrots, it was estimated, were in one day. Burns and wells for hundreds of miles were piled with dead birds. In places the dead birds were lying two feet deep over the ground.

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drum, with shell parrots in one afternoon. Trees actually snapped under the strain of flight after flight of birds which swarmed exhausted on them. More than 60,000 dead parrots, it was estimated, were in one dam. Dams and wells for hundreds of miles were piled with dead birds. In places the dead birds were lying two feet deep over the ground. Almost every bushman is a bird lover, and they saved thousands of their feathered friends."

Note "**figures run into billions.**" and "**The temperature that day was 125 degrees in the shade**". The original stories from the "Mammologist" and [more here](#).

During the heatwave of January 1939, the human toll went way over the hundred in both the number killed and the numbers of those who collapsed in the streets without even counting the toll from the fires. Sydney reached a temperature way beyond anything recent. With parts of the city at 113.6 degrees F (45.33 degrees C) and the temperatures as high as 131 F (55 C) being reported by people in the suburbs. Nothing like it has happened for more than the seventy three years since. Read the names of the some of the [dead here](#).

The heatwave of 1932 seems to have been lost in history. Many of the temperature records have been lost or somehow do not reflect the real events (more on this below). In the years around the 1932 heatwave, the large numbers of birds doing damage to crops had been a problem big enough for a bounty "bonus" to be paid in many areas (see links at end).

The weather had been good for birds up until the heat started. Bird species had been noted far north of normal.

"This appears to be the furthest northern record of the presence of the species.-Editors" [from here](#).

Perhaps our ever changing climate had been leading the birds into a trap.

"From one of his dams he said he took out and burnt about five tons of Parrots. ' We made a net with wirenetting,' he said, 'and dragged it from one side to the other and then extracted the birds, as the fisherman does his fish.'" [From here](#)

In the months before the heatwave, most of the summer had already been hot but instead of beginning to cool down it got hotter. The heat covered a huge area. Reports began to come in of phenomenal temperatures. The heatwave stretched far and wide. From Western [Australia here](#) to Tasmania, the papers all began to report the heat. The Adelaide Advertiser records 96 F for Swansea Tasmania but the [BOM page here](#) cannot show any record within 100Km on that day. The Hobart temperature agrees and the BOM shows Launceston a bit higher at 31 C (78.8 F).

We see Menindee with a "**regulation box**" recorded [117.5 here](#).

Also Wilcannia the following day with 120 F and in another article on the same page a record of Port Pirie having its 22nd day above 100F.

The Wilcannia box seems to have been regulation and installed with a thermometer in [1881 here](#).

The Port Pirie site seems to have had a thermometer from [1922 here](#).

Yet, the old daily numbers from these sites do not show at the BOM link either.

The reports of the prolonged and high temperatures came from far and wide and just kept on coming.

"From the [Adelaide Advertiser 27 Jan 1932 Here](#). So where is the BOM record from "William Creek"?

*"The shade reading of 119.4 degrees at Port Augusta marks **the highest official temperature ever recorded at any climatological station** in South Australia"(1932). Bold added [from here](#). So where is this very important data in the BOM records?*

As the temperatures went and stayed up the stories about the effects on people and wildlife increased from a trickle to a flood.

120 F at Aramac QLD

"Fowls and other feathered birds Seemed to be greatly affected, as also were spiders, the latter falling from their webs lairs in a stupor," [Here](#)

120 F at Collarenebri after the max temp had climbed above the 100 for more than a month straight. The headlines read, "FOUR DEATHS. Birds Fall from Trees. HORSES DIE IN PADDOCKS" . [Here](#).

121 F at Tomingley [here](#)

121 F with an average for the week of 119 F at Quilpie QLD [here](#):

121 F at Pooncarie and 119 at Renmark [here](#).

123 F at Loxton S.A. [here](#)

125 F Minnie Downs station SA. [here](#) Location listed [here](#).

126 F near Tarcoola [here](#)

The Adelaide Advertiser, Sydney Morning Herald and Burnie advocate preserve the incredible high temperatures recorded at places like Ouyen on the 27th of January at 124 Degrees F (51.1 Degrees C). [Here](#) , [Here](#) and [Here](#).

For some reason that record is a no show at the BOM [here](#).

Note also that the Ouyen temperature is hotter than the BOM's Australian record maximum temperature [here](#).

Let alone those numbers you see when you click on the "VIC" tab. This leaves also us with the another obvious question. After all these years of "global warming", why does this not happen any more?

From Melbourne

"The terrific heat during the last few days has caused tremendous poultry losses. In the Werribee district, on one farm, 3500 birds were found dead yesterday. Many smaller farms report severe losses." [Here](#)

"Four persons. Including an eight-months old child, have died In the country as a result of the terrific heat. Many elderly people collapsed and had to be treated.

Stock has been affected. Horses have collapsed from sunstroke in paddocks. Some have died and others have been treated. A pathetic and frequent sight was the effect of the heat on birds. Large numbers of them died in the trees and fell to the ground. Fowls have also died. In all the highland streams near Bombala fish

are dying In hundreds through lack of running water" [Here](#).

"I have noticed many casualties amongst the birds." [Here](#)

"Heat in the Interior of South Australia. Temperature of from 116 ø to 120ø F. for sixteen consecutive days caused the death of thousands of birds of all sorts."

[See page 390 here](#).

Ducks fly along rivers when disturbed. No doubt, the good hunting was in part due to the ducks fleeing the heat further up stream. [Hunting here](#)

"GREAT HEAT IN N.W. KILLS MYRIAD BIRDS » Thousands Throng Dams; Drowned RABBITS DYING GREAT heat in the north-west of the State has caused the death of countless native birds. Station hands found at one dam the bodies of 60,000 shell parrots. "...many birds are drowned at the watering places when they seek drink in thousands and push one another in. Once their feathers are wet they cannot get out again. At many dams branches of trees had been broken by the great weight of birds that had perched on them. "Heat has also greatly reduced the number of rabbits. That pest is not nearly so bad as might be expected after such a good season." From [here](#)

So why is this heat wave going missing? Even the data from Adelaide for December 31 and January 32 is different to the newspapers with the BOM data cooler. [here](#)

Later on in the year after the heatwave came Australia's silliest war. Perhaps caused by the EMU's fleeing the heat and then finding themselves near food.

War Against the EMU.

Here is a sample *"Meredith had established an ambush near a local dam, and over 1,000 emus were spotted heading towards their position. This time the gunners waited until the birds were at point blank range before opening fire. The gun jammed after only twelve birds were killed, however, and the remainder scattered before more could be killed." More of this silly but true story [here](#).*

"Perth, October 31.Emus, which already have done extensive damage to the crops in the Campion district, have reappeared in large numbers, and a machine-gun party, in charge of Major Mededith, leaves to exterminate the pest tomorrow night. The State Government is providing transport, and settlers will meet the cost of ammunition."

"Lewis gunners are making good "bags" in their war on the emus in the Campion (W.A.) district. It is re ported that the emus are now invading the Walgoolan district" [here](#) <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/83438532>

A crazy but factual video on the emu war subject: [Click here](#)

As with all wars there is a cost that needs to be paid and even this part was silly! [here](#)

The heat was just part of the strange weather of 1932.

Adelaide, October 31.-More unseasonable weather was experienced in Adelaide today, when strong winds reaching 55 miles an hour struck the city and suburbs, uprooting trees and levelling hoardings. Three plate glass windows, 8ft. by 12ft, on the Pullney Street frontage of J. Craven and Co.'s drapery emporium, were blown in and smashed to fragments . [Here](#)

Some links to News paper details of Parrot bonus etc.

[a](#),[b](#),[c](#),[d](#),[e](#),[f](#),[g](#),[h](#),[I](#),[j](#),[k](#),[l](#),[m](#),[n](#),[o](#),[p](#),[q](#),[r](#),[s](#),[t](#),[u](#).