

## BIRDS AND EXTREME HEAT

As *Land for Wildlife* member Bill Dawes of Yealering retreated to the coolness of his kitchen on Saturday 3 February, he watched the twenty-eight parrots jostling for places in the trees outside his kitchen window. The temperature was around 45°C and the wind was howling from the northwest. The birds were sheltering on the southeast side of the trees, but it was not enough protection, within two hours, they were all dead.

Driving around his Yealering property the next day, Bill counted around 200 dead birds – mainly twenty-eight parrots, but also a few yellow-throated miners. The most dramatic sight was 12 dead parrots and four yellow-throated miners under an isolated small jam tree. Bill wonders why they choose to shelter in this isolated tree and not in nearby tree belts.

Bill is a great observer of nature and has never seen anything like this in the 78 years he has been living in the area.