

2. That a report be furnished to the next congress, to be held in Brisbane.

3. That only genera and species be dealt with. It is considered that the time is not opportune for a final treatment of sub-species, for much more still remains to be done, and many changes of name of sub-species may still be necessary.

4. That the Council accept without any change the names fixed by the B.O.U. for the 50 species of birds on the Australian list which are also included in the British list, and that the 80 generic names be accepted for birds of those genera common to Britain and Australia.

5. That a Committee to prepare a report be constituted as follows:—Capt. S. A. White, Dr. W. MacGillivray, Dr. J. A. Leach, Colonel W. V. Legge, Messrs. Chas. Barrett, A. J. Campbell, A. F. Basset-Hull, R. Hall, D. Le Souëf, G. M. Mathews, A. H. E. Mattingley, and R. A. Zietz.

6. That the B.O.U. list be taken as a model, and that the same kind of information be supplied about each species, including particulars as to the food, distribution, the pronunciation and derivation of scientific names.

7. That the vernacular names be considered with a view to their simplification. It is suggested that the Education Department of each State be asked to insert a request in the *Education Gazette* asking those interested to send local names to the R.A.O.U.

8. That the measurement of each bird, from tip of beak to tip of tail, be included in the notes on each species; that a bibliography be included.

9. That the only reference in the way of synonymy be to the R.A.O.U. list, Gould's "Birds of Australia," and the original description.

10. That a comprehensive introduction dealing with the principles of nomenclature and the chief characteristics of the Australian avifauna be included.

Suggestions from R.A.O.U. members with regard to the proposed second edition of the "Check-list" will be welcomed by the Council.

Camera Craft Notes.

So many members of the Union are interested in bird photography that it has been decided to devote space in each issue of *The Emu* to the subject. It is hoped that members will contribute notes and prints. As many photographs as possible will be published, but those of the rarer birds, nests, and eggs will, of course, be given preference. Notes on the behaviour of birds when faced by a camera, devices used to obtain photographs under difficulties, hints for the field and the dark room, and so forth, will be welcomed.

Emu-Wrens in Tasmania.—In November, 1914, I spent a few days in the Springfield district, Tasmania, where Miss J. A. Fletcher showed me several nests of Emu-Wrens (*Stipiturus malachurus*). At one of these nests, containing three nestlings about a week old, I spent several hours on a hot afternoon, but did not succeed in obtaining a photograph of the parent birds. The camera was concealed in a clump of sword-grass a few feet from the nest, with only the lens showing, while I remained hidden some four yards away, at the end of the rubber tubing attached to the shutter release. Time and again one or other of the Emu-Wrens approached the nest, always from the back of the tussock in which it was built, and crept around, like mice. They came silently, but, when startled by the least sound, flew away with a faint whirr of wing. The birds were anxious about their brood, but would not venture in front of the nest while the camera lens stared at it. On several occasions one or other of the birds carried food. The male dodged around for half an hour, carrying in its beak some small insects; eventually it disappeared, and doubtless ate the food itself. On the following day I tried my luck at another nest, which held eggs, but the result was not better. The birds were seen moving among the grass-stems within a foot of the nest, but declined to appear for even a moment at the "front door." I departed from Springfield without having exposed a single plate on an adult Emu-Wren.—CHARLES BARRETT. Melbourne, 10/6/15.

Rare Photographs.—The photographs by Mr. James Ramsay, Pitt-street, Sydney, New South Wales, reproduced in this issue, are of special interest. They comprise old male Satin Bower-Bird (*Ptilonorhynchus holosericeus*) at a bower in a deserted garden at Schofield's Creek, Barnard River, Scone district; Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*) and young (taken by flashlight), at Ashfield; and Yellow-bellied Shrike-Tit (*Falcunculus frontatus*) approaching nest. The prints were sent to the editors of *The Emu* by Mr. H. L. White, of Belltrees, Scone, in a letter to whom Mr. Ramsay states:—

"As regards difficulty, either the *Podargus* or the Shrike-Tit gave me more trouble, but the Satin-Bird easily eclipsed these as a test for patience; he was indeed a wily old bird. The first day I lay under some straggling grape-vines from 10 o'clock till 3.30, when a heavy shower put an end to any hope of securing an exposure. The second day I was ready earlier, and had everything in readiness by 9 o'clock, and never left my hiding-place till 3.45, when I exposed one plate just as the rain came down. The shutter, however, which had been set in the bright sunlight, proved too fast for the greatly reduced light, and I was not able to develop a good picture. During almost all the second day the old Satin-Bird was in sight, either in the casuarinas by the creek or actually in the old mulberry tree above the bower, and I dare



Satin Bower-Bird, ♂, at Bower.

not either alter the shutter or rise and stretch my legs. Luckily, I had gathered a supply of mulberries and had a pocketful of biscuits, so I managed to put in the day with only the inconvenience of a little stiffness. The last day (on which I stayed simply as a last hope of securing a picture). I made more of a shelter for myself, both to guard against the sun and to hide me from all sides, for inquisitive Rosellas (which came to feed on the dead thistles round the bower) and Leatherheads and numbers of *Strepera* used to peer at me from a distance of a few feet, and I fancied that they somehow alarmed the Satin-Bird, for he used



Yellow-bellied Shrike-Tit and Nest.

FROM A PHOTO. BY J. RAMSAY.

to investigate on all sides before coming into the mulberry tree, although the two females with him were far more trusting; but I never saw them take the slightest interest in the bower. There were many opportunities on the third day, but I only managed to expose three plates, as, after each exposure, I had to let the bird leave the bower, naturally, and it would be hours sometimes before he again got in focus. My great regret was that I had no cinematograph, as there were times when the bird was playing round the bower, rearranging feathers, &c., for as long as five minutes at a stretch."

Simple Devices.—The few brief months of the nesting season come and go, and at the end of the season, as the enthusiastic bird-photographer goes through his list of discarded negatives, he often thinks regretfully of the fact that eight or nine months may elapse before he will have another opportunity of pitting his skill with the camera against wild birds. However, this thought should not trouble him very much, for, by the exercise of a little patience and care, he can find plenty of opportunities for artistic work among the birds in almost any month of the year. In the summer, isolated pools of fresh water in scrubby country are almost certain to be used by birds for drinking and bathing.



White-bearded Honey-eater.

FROM A PHOTO. BY L. G. CHANDLER.

If a stick or stone be placed in the centre of one of these pools, birds coming to drink will invariably perch on it as the highest point of vantage.

Birds may be attracted by keeping a shallow tray, cut from an old kerosene tin, filled with clean water. Birds in the neighbourhood should be liberally fed with bread-crumbs. In the past few years I have secured a number of photographs through keeping a drinking tin in a convenient spot. A Yellow-breasted Shrike-Robin (*Eopsaltria australis*) was photographed while on the ground at Easter time, when I was accompanied by my friend, Mr. Maurice Thompson, R.A.O.U. We saw a pair of Robins feeding in an open situation, where a hole had been dug in the sandy soil, and in less than half an hour, after we had generously assisted the birds to obtain food, one had become so



Tawny Frogmouth and Young.

tame that it accepted a grub from my companion's fingers. It is interesting to watch a Yellow-breasted Shrike-Robin when it is perched. Should the stick sway slightly, the bird's body sways in unison, but its head remains stationary. This enables the bird to focus its eyes on any desired spot.—L. G. CHANDLER. Malvern (Vic.), 15/5/15.

Stray Feathers.

Figs Eaten by Butcher-Bird.—A few days ago I noticed a Collared Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus destructor*) devouring ripe figs. Whether the bird did so for the sake of the fruit only, or whether it was attracted, in the first instance, by the numbers of insects which infested the figs, I do not know. I have not before known these birds to eat fruit, but this season being exceptionally dry, with a great scarcity of insect life, might account for the change of diet.—L. G. CHANDLER. Melbourne, 21/4/15.

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Extension of Locality.—While working in the bush the other day, I observed a male Olive Whistler (*Pachycephala olivacea*), and, knowing that this species was supposed not to range further north than New South Wales, I thought that I might have made a mistake. However, further observations led to my sending this note to *The Emu*. The olive-brown back, dark grey head, white throat marked with brown, the faint grey band across the chest, and the reddish-brown under surface served as recognition marks.—NOEL V. I. AGNEW, R.A.O.U. Moreton Bay, Queensland.

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Cockatoos in Western Australia—Mr. E. A. Le Souëf states * that he saw a flock of "hundreds of Bare-eyed Cockatoos (*Cacatua gymnopsis*)," apparently in the Moore River district of Western Australia. I should say that the Cockatoos were probably *Licmetis pastinator* (Western Long-billed Cockatoo), which, I know, still occurs about there, and also further north. I have never seen any other species of White Cockatoo about there, except *Licmetis*, and Mr. Le Souëf states that the birds he saw "were using their long bills to dig up yams," which certainly confirms my surmise. Apparently, no specimens were obtained for identification, and, if the birds were *Gymnopsis*, it is probably a first record for that locality, as I can find no previous mention of their having been observed there. Neither Mr. Lawson, in "A Glance at the Birds of the Moore River (W.A.)," † nor Mr. A. W. Milligan, in "Notes on a Trip to the Yandanooka District, Western Australia," ‡ mentions *C. gymnopsis*, but both speak of *Licmetis* as occurring in these localities.—TOM CARTER. Sutton, Surrey, England, 11/3/15.

* *Emu*, vol. xiv., part 3, p. 172. † *Emu*, vol. iv., part 3, p. 132.

‡ *Emu*, vol. iv., part 4, p. 152.