

*caerulescens*, and *Corone australis* likewise caused trouble. The imported fox was in evidence, eating water-melons, tomatoes, and any low-hanging fruit; however, a Rosella baited with strychnine was irresistible, and baits of this sort soon accounted for six of the animals. By the way, a Rosella is, in my experience, the most attractive of all baits for foxes. Foxes were the means of Choughs (*Corcorax melanorhamphus*) learning another bad habit (they already take toll of newly-sown wheat and ripening maize) by teaching them the value of water-melons as a food in time of scarcity. During the raid of foxes upon our melons, numbers of White-winged Choughs were noticed on the melon patch, but no importance was attached to the fact. After the destruction of the foxes by poison, Choughs were still observed feeding on something, an examination proving that they bored neat holes into the fruit and completely extracted the contents. About the same time they attacked fruit growing on a large mulberry tree near by, and assisted the imported Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in clearing the crop. Overhanging my office is an immense fig-tree of the Purple Turkish variety, said to be nearly 100 years old. It was almost destroyed in 1901 by a gale, but has since re-grown to a height of 30 feet, with a spread of branches 50 feet in diameter, the trunk measuring 10 feet 6 inches in girth at four feet from the ground (see photo.) It bears great crops of most luscious fruit, the season lasting from early in January until April, and is naturally a great attraction for birds. Finding that Starlings were invading the tree in numbers, I determined to try the effect of poison. For the purpose I baited a number of figs, tied them to sticks, and placed same near the top of the tree. The first twenty-four hours gave the following results:—Two possums, three flying foxes, four Magpies, two Peewits (Magpie-Larks), one Harmonious Thrush, five Orioles, several *Ptilotis penicillata* and *Zosterops*, with one Starling. I abandoned the experiment and resorted to the .22 rifle, which gives excellent sport and results.—HENRY L. WHITE. Belltrees, Scone, N.S.W., 11/3/19.

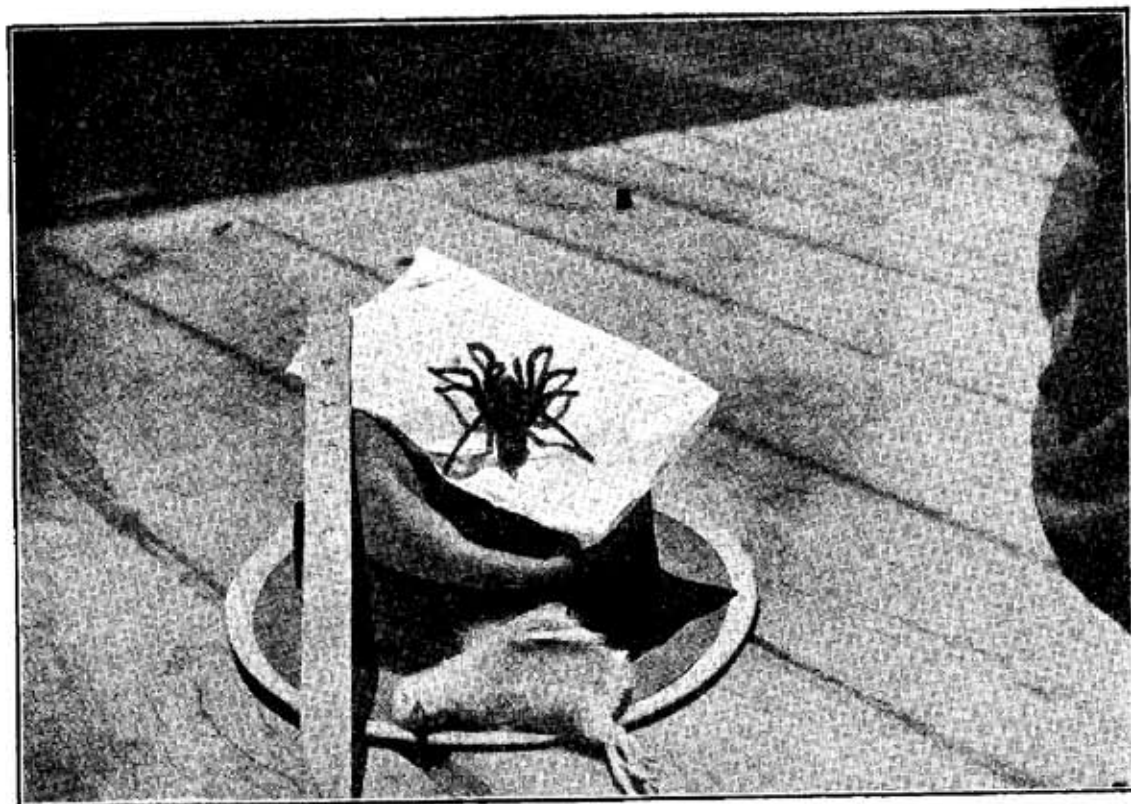
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### Camera Craft Notes.

**The Australian Goshawk** (*Astur approximans*).—These fine birds are found all over Australia and Tasmania, as well as in New Caledonia. The young are very differently marked from the adults, and much confusion was caused in originally naming them as a different species. The adult birds have fine pencilled markings across the brown breast, whereas the young have somewhat radiated lines, through each feather being crossed by two bands of dark brown, the lower one having a triangular form. These birds, being swift on the wing, are naturally destructive to bird-life, which they frequently take unawares when swiftly gliding through the timbered country where they are naturally

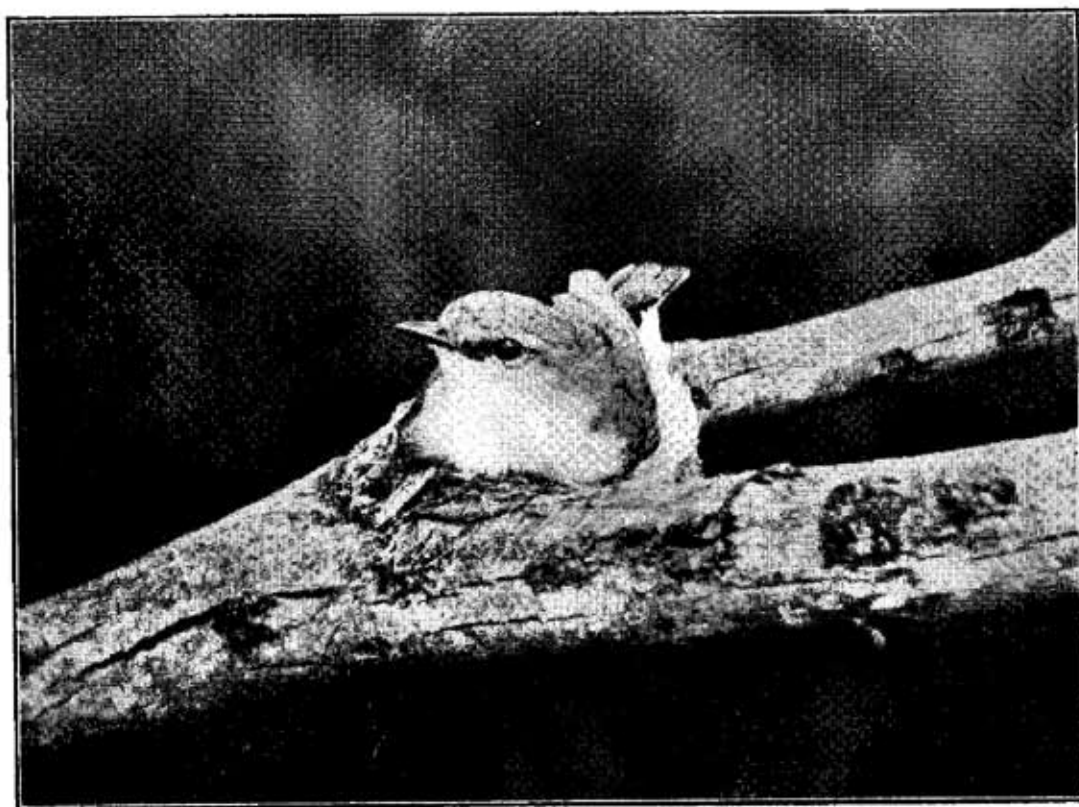


The Australian Goshawk (*Astur approximans*).



Large Spider (*Selenotypus plumipes*) and Chicken removed by it.

PHOTO. BY A. H. CHISHOLM, R.A.O.U., QUEENSLAND.



The Australian Brown Flycatcher on Nest.

PHOTO. BY R. T. LITTLEJOHNS R.A.O.U.



to be found. They are bold, active birds, and seldom let their prey escape them. They can catch the swift-flying Carrier Pigeon. The habits of these birds in Australia are identical with those of America and elsewhere.

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**Spider and Chicken.**—In the accompanying photograph note the dead chicken and the spider. The latter has a spread (not extended) of five inches. These spiders no doubt destroy much bird-life. The chicken (one of a brood) disappeared. The tracks showed something had been dragged. Following up, we found the chicken 50 feet away. When one of my people took hold of it, there was tugging resistance. Investigation revealed the spider with one of the chicken's legs down a hole. The spider tugged and endeavoured to pull the chicken down its hole, which was about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter. To give an idea of the proportions of each, I had them photographed on my hat, with a 12-inch rule beside. Possibly Finches, Larks, and Pardalotes are part of the spider's prey.—J. R. CHISHOLM. The Plains, Prairie Table-land, North Queensland.

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**Posing the Sitter.**—Photographers of birds have so many difficulties to contend with that any hint, however simple, which tends to overcome them may be acceptable. While photographing adult birds, those sitting on a nest especially, we have often experienced considerable trouble in inducing the subject to take up a suitable position. There appears quite a usual desire on the part of most birds to face the camera directly, in which case the picture will give a very unnatural appearance to the head and bill. A ruse we have seldom found to fail is for one of the party—if there be more than one—to draw the bird's attention from the camera by moving slowly round the nest, or by the operator, if he be alone, carrying out the same purpose by means of a white handkerchief on the end of a long stick. The bird will almost certainly follow the moving object with its eye, and it soon becomes necessary that the subject itself should move in order that this may be done. Especially is this method effective when it is desired that the position of the head only be altered. The picture reproduced illustrates this point. The Brown Flycatcher photographed persisted in facing the camera, and once it had settled down comfortably nothing would move it. Afterwards, however, by moving around as described, before the subject had time to settle down on the eggs, we were able to obtain pictures in the position shown.—S. A. LAWRENCE and R. T. LITTLEJOHNS. Melbourne, 30/1/19.

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**The Moult of Penguins.**—It is interesting to notice how quickly Penguins are able to shed their feathers, but we have to remember that during that time they do not enter the water, and therefore have to do without food; hence the necessity of a quick moult.



Two Frogmouths in the picture—find them.

PHOTO. BY D. LE SOUEF, C.M.Z.S.

On the Macquarie and other Antarctic islands they congregate in immense numbers—in one case well over a million birds—to go through the necessary process. They seem to take off many of the moulting feathers with the help of their bills. The feathers of the upper portion of the bird seem to come off first, and in patches, more or less, the whole process taking about a week, and the last to be discarded seem to be those of the tail. The illustration shows those moulted in one night only from a specimen in the Melbourne Zoological Gardens of the Royal Penguin (*Eudyptes schlegeli*), from the Macquarie Islands. It is difficult to realize what an immense number of feathers must be shed, say by a million birds, and how matted the soil must be with them. Then we have to remember that this goes on year after year, and must affect the character of the soil of the rookeries, in course of time, as they get mixed up with the mud and slush.—W. H. D. LE SOUËF, C.M.Z.S. Zoological Gardens, Parkville.

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**Tawny Frogmouth** (*Podargus strigoides*).—Probably no perching bird is more difficult to detect than Frogmouths. They almost invariably sit lengthways on the bough, and, should any danger approach, stretch their head straight out and partially close their eyes, making their body look exactly like a broken-off bough. I remember, many years ago, when nesting with a well-known medical member of the R.A.O.U., finding the nest of one of these birds, but we both came to the conclusion that someone had found the nest before we had, and had thrown a stick across the nest and probably broken the eggs; anyhow, I climbed up to make quite certain, when, to our surprise, what we thought was a stick flew off the nest, in which was an egg. I am afraid our confidence in ourselves was taken down several pegs at being so deceived, as we both fancied our powers of observation. I have never yet found a female bird sitting either on the eggs or young during the day, but always the male, and the female usually perched in a neighbouring tree; she probably takes her turn at night. The illustration was taken close to the Midpin homestead, near Moree, in New South Wales. Both birds were on the tree, and we only caught sight of one by chance, and the other was not detected until I was taking the photograph.—W. H. D. LE SOUËF, C.M.Z.S. Zoological Gardens, Parkville.

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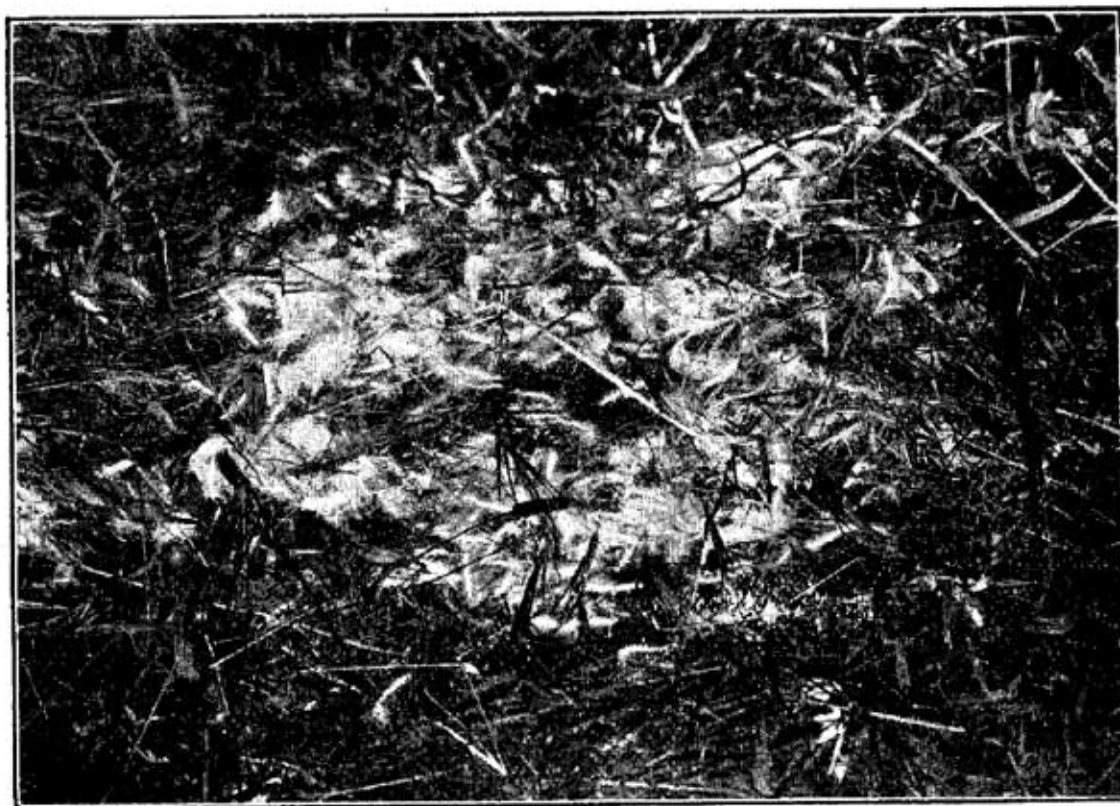
I HAVE always found it a somewhat hazardous undertaking, from an artistic viewpoint, to photograph a bird among green leaves while the sun is shining strongly. Particularly is this the case in regard to fruit trees, the leaves of which glint and gleam under the influence of the sun in a manner most inimical to photographic effectiveness. This factor has interfered on several occasions with attempts I have made to secure good studies of the White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater (*Campephaga humeralis*), and in November last it operated in respect of a pair of Scarlet-





A Penguin moulting at the Melbourne Zoological Gardens.

PHOTO. BY D. LE SOUEF, C.M.Z.S.



Feathers moulted in one night by the Penguin figured above.

PHOTO. BY D. LE SOUEF, C.M.Z.S.

PLATE L.



Scarlet-breasted Robin (female) on nest in fruit tree (Victoria)



Black-faced Flycatcher (female) perched above nest (Queensland).

PHOTOS, BY A. H. CHISHOLM, R.A.O.U.



breasted Robins (*Petroica leggii*) which had their trim little nest in an apple-tree in the orchard of Mr. C. P. Kinane, at Lilydale (Vic.) The accompanying picture—the best result of several exposures—is not intended to illustrate this point, however, so much as the trust of a bird when it is treated with consideration. Both Mr. Kinane (who, as one of the journalistic “Woodlanders,” will be remembered in Melbourne as an enthusiastic bird-photographer of other days) and his good wife are on fraternal terms with the bush-birds, and, as a natural corollary, these Robins evinced but little fear of the camera. In most cases a bird will fly off at the click of the shutter; but on this occasion I was able, with the camera close to the nest, to photograph the little mother, change the slide, secure a fresh focus, and take another study, without causing the sitting bird to leave the eggs. The picture shows with what keen attention, however, she watched the strange proceedings.

The study of the Black-faced Flycatcher (*Monarcha carinata*) represents another unusual event in the photography of wild birds. This species was found by the Brisbane Field Naturalists' Club to be very numerous in the thick, damp jungle of the Macpherson Range, when that splendid bird country (which has been reserved as a National Park for Queensland) was visited by club members from last Christmas to New Year. On every part of Mount Bithongabel, which looks almost sheer down, from a height of nearly 4,000 feet, into New South Wales, the strenuous “Why-you! whit-choo!” of these birds could be heard. Only one nest was found, however, and that by accident. It was an exceedingly pretty bird-home, the dark green, mossy tendrils which mainly comprised the material harmonizing splendidly with the obsessing greenness of the surrounding vegetation. The fork of the pliable branch on which the nest was placed was only about 7 feet from the ground, and undoubtedly the opportunity for photographs would have been excellent had it not been for the poor light in the tangle, even at mid-day. Lacking the reflective mirror which is so favoured of Mr. Herbert K. Job\* and other American bird-photographers, it was impossible to take instantaneous pictures, and, as any attempt to get the nest into brighter light would have menaced the callow young, there was nothing for it but to try “time” exposures. To photograph a bird in this way as it sits *on* the nest is not remarkable, but this was the first occasion on which I have been able to take a “time” picture of a bird as it perched *above* a nest. The trustfulness of the Flycatchers was due, of course, to the fact that there is very seldom human intrusion into those lonely wilds. Incidentally, the birds were a devoted pair; both paid close attention to the young ones, and on several occasions the male fed the female at the nest, after the fashion of *Eopsaltria*.—A. H. CHISHOLM.  
Brisbane, February, 1919.

\* “The Sport of Bird Study.”