

about each year, mostly the Red-capped. The pretty Blue-capped Wren still delights us, and passing flocks of Love-Birds (Budgerigars) and Cockatoo-Parrots. The latter reminded me of my youth when I stuffed birds. I was at Connewarre, shooting birds to stuff, and I saw on the fence two birds that I had not seen before. I shot both at one shot. I had not gone far when the late Mr. Andrew White rode up at a gallop and called out to me, with a rather convincing mien, "I have just let go two Cockatoo-Parrots. If you shoot them, I'll use this stockwhip on you until you'll wish you were in heaven." I felt my knees a bit wobbly, and a silent prayer went up that he would not look in my bag. He did not. I left Connewarre out of my shooting itinerary for a whole year. I learned the name of the birds, though. Now, every time I see one my thoughts flash back to the summertime of youth. The poetry of bird-life will be lost to generations of youth in the near future. Beautiful birds will only appeal as myths, or disembodied spirits. The past will be measured by their present bird-life, such as Starlings, Sparrows, and birds every man's hand is against. What a vast amount of happy imagery will be lost! Materialism gloats over the sacrifice. "Man's Place in Nature" should have in the appendix "Birds' Place in Nature." There is no doubt the Education Department has saved the lives of thousands of birds through the efforts of the bird-lovers among the teachers. Still, it is decreed that until the wood-lot on the farm is a fact instead of a fetich bird-life will almost be a memory. The leaden interest by the community generally in reafforestation is more than a pity—it's a calamity to any country, and a positive millstone around the neck of the most willing Government. Unless the people generally and individually act as guardians to great national interests, the wealth expended on them is worse than lost.

Stray Feathers.

Long-lived Corella.—Mr. R. Eastway, of Sydney, has in his possession a Corella that has been in the family for 35 years, and has every year for that time laid three eggs.—A. S. LE SOUËF. Taronga Park, Sydney, N.S.W. 8/9/20.

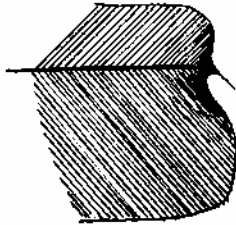
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Acclimatized Birds in Tasmania.—There are many acclimatized birds, such as Sparrows, Goldfinches, and Starlings, here. Orchardists complain about the latter bird, but on the pastoral areas the Starling has been the salvation of many properties, as it has cleared out the small snail which acts as a host to the fluke. European Skylarks have only reached here during the last six years, and are increasing.—CHAS. BURBURY. Hobart (Tas.)

Extension of Locality.—During last week I recorded the extension of range of two birds, both of which have hitherto not been noted for this (Upper Hunter) district, New South Wales. On Monday a beautiful specimen of *Ptilorhis paradisea* (Rifle-Bird) was sent to me by a resident of Stewart's Brook, a tributary of the Upper Hunter River, the bird having been shot (in a scrub just over the watershed of the Paterson River, and about 15 miles due east of Belltrees) by an opossum hunter, who, while flashing an acetylene lamp at night, had mistaken the bird for an opossum. This establishes a farthest west range of the Rifle-Bird. On Wednesday last a party of four *Struthidea cinerea* (Grey Jumper) settled in a tree close to my office here. The birds were on the move, and remained for a few moments only. This is the furthest east record for the species. It is interesting to note that the *Struthidea*, a western bird, has been noted within 15 miles of *Ptilorhis*, a strictly coastal scrub-bird.—H. L. WHITE. Belltrees, N.S.W., 5/9/20.

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Rifle-Bird Feathers.—When skinning the above-mentioned Rifle-Bird I noticed a peculiarity (not previously recorded) at the end of several of the feathers in each wing, and taking the form of a



Showing peculiar pointed tips on wing feathers of male *Ptilorhis paradisea* shot on Mt. Royal Range, Upper Hunter River, New South Wales, on 28th August, 1920.

Shade larger than natural size.

small "thorn-shaped" appendage, which followed on at the extremity of the fine shaft end of the feather.—SID. W. JACKSON. 6/9/20.

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Nest of the Brown Hawk.—As regards the question whether the Brown Hawk is its own architect, I may mention that one nest of this bird, built on a dead "apple-tree" (*Angophora*) near the sea, on South Coast, N.S.W., from the coarseness of the material, seemed to be entirely of its own construction, though I did not see the Hawks actually at work upon it. The species was, I think, *Hieracidea orientalis*. In other instances I have found this bird add a few coarse sticks—usually to the nest of a Magpie or Crow-Shrike. I have often watched these useful birds rabbit-hunting in small companies on sandy flats near the sea, while they, of course, include grasshoppers and other noxious insects in their diet; yet they are sometimes (unlawfully) shot as being chicken-stealers! The *berigora* does not, I think, prey on other birds. I have seen a Magpie-Lark calmly perch within two feet of a *berigora*, while

in another instance a pair of these Hawks, though they made continuous endeavours to rob a Great White Egret, feeding in a mud-pool, of its prey (eel fry, chiefly), never attempted to injure it. The Egret, not in the least alarmed, effectually kept the bandits off with vigorous thrusts from its sharp beak.—H. V. EDWARDS. Bega, N.S.W.

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Some Vagaries of a Southern Stone-Curlew.—During a visit to "The Homestead," Goorambat, Victoria, in 1918, I was interested in seeing a tame Southern Stone-Curlew (*Edicnemus grallarius*) standing in daylight close to one of the wheels of a motor-cycle upon the verandah. Drawing the attention of Lieut. Hall, a scion of this pioneer family, he informed me that ever since his sister reared this bird it took a fancy to the motor-cycle. No matter where the cycle was placed, this bird always slept during the daytime close to one of the wheels. Lieut. Hall having occasion to visit adjacent towns upon military duties at night-time, this bird would accompany him and return with the cycle, flying close to the motor the whole journey. During a visit to Goorambat township one evening the bird failed to return home with the cycle. A few days later, Lieut. Hall, being informed by Mr. Mitchell, storekeeper of this town, that the bird was in his garden along with a tame Stone-Plover he had, the sight of the cycle failed to entice this bird home again, and up to the time of writing it enjoys the company of one of its own kind.—C. F. COLE. Wangaratta (Vic.), 5/6/1920.

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Spring Birds in Tasmania.—Spring in Southern Tasmania opened definitely early this year. It is usual for her to make a slender show, several feints, and dawdle for months—at least two. The birds do their best to impress the season, but low and many changes of temperature are common. This 15th June was the end of a mild winter. A Spotted Diamond-Bird (*Pardalotus punctatus*) flew to the edge of the cultivated ground on that date, followed a few days later by the Dusky Fantail (*Rhipidura diemenensis*). Early in July the Fire-tailed Finches (*Zonagrinthus bellus*) had returned to their several gullies and to definite parts of them. The Yellow-throated Honey-cater (*Philotis flavigaster*) in the sunshine was filling the air with its hard, strong, single note, which is double on close acquaintance. The silver wattle has come into blossom three weeks before its usual time, and almond bloom was well out in June. Invertebrate life is again just beginning to move and offer itself as food for the birds, which in June must be in other countries or starve. The bush then is silent; now it is relatively full of sounds.—ROBERT HALL. Bellerive, Hobart, 17/7/20.

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Notes from Karooka.—Many nests were noticed during last spring when I was spending a fortnight at Karooka, 25 miles east. This is a splendid place for studying bird-life. I watched a pair

of Rufous Whistlers building their nest quite close to the house, also four pairs of Blue Wrens, three pairs of Scarlet-breasted Robins, one pair of Flame-breasted Robins, and endless Tits and Wattled Honey-eaters, Fly-catchers, Yellow-faced Honey-eaters, &c., &c. One day I noticed a very small White-throated Fly-catcher building its delicate little nest in a low bush. She was so tame that I could sit within six feet of her and watch her working. This season has been a bad one generally, and a good many birds are not nesting at all, and many tragedies of young dead birds have occurred amongst the few nests I have found here. Almost every Magpie's nest I found this season failed to rear its young, the little bird being found dead beneath the tree when half-fledged; food evidently was scarce. A Little Falcon swooped down above a Magpie's nest, and, without pausing a second in its flight, snatched a nestling in its talons and swept upwards, pursued by the shrieking parent. These Falcons have a chuckling call, which they frequently repeat while sitting on the branch of a tree. They are also keen on catching young rabbits—the more they catch the better.—Mrs. A. NORTON. Walcha (N.S.W.)

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Invasion of Musk Lorikeets.—The gardens of Devonport are at present invaded by large flocks of green 'Keets, which seem to have been driven away from the higher plateaux, where they absorb the nectar from blossoming eucalypts, by the severe weather. Although heavy falls of snow have taken place in the high country, down here on the coast the days are still warm and delightful, and the 'Keets are revelling in the sunshine and in the feast of late pears which still remain on some of the tall trees. There is an old tree near me from which the fruit was not gathered, and the birds spend the whole day there, their musical notes being evident quite a distance away. They have no fear, and I have walked up to within a few feet when dozens of them have been on the ground feasting on fallen fruit. Sometimes four or five will surround a single pear, all pegging away together until the spirit of jealousy seizes one, when he immediately attacks the rest, and there is a "rough and tumble" for a few minutes until matters are adjusted. Although in flocks, the pairs still cling together, and it is charming to see a male and female, when they can hold no more sweet fruit, sit on a branch nestling closely and caressing each other with their bills. All appear to be "Musks" (*Glossopsittacus concinnus*); there are no Little Lorikeets (*G. pusillus*) in the flocks which I have examined.—H. STUART DOVE. West Devonport (Tas.), 22/5/20.

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One Effect of Land Clearing.—It is stated that Cormorants are largely on the increase, but this may not really be the case, but that the birds from outlying parts are being forced into the more settled parts. When the blacks were plentiful in Central

Queensland they undoubtedly consumed large quantities of Cormorants' eggs, but in the days of the blacks there were numerous large swamps where the birds bred freely. Now, like the blacks, these swamps are gone, and the Cormorants breed there no more. Queensland is fast becoming a "dry" country; by "dry" I mean that the surface water is fast disappearing—not merely for a time, but for good. Thirty or forty years ago we had numerous large creeks, which formed chains of large water-holes and swamps, where the various kinds of waterfowl bred in considerable numbers, and which were teeming with fish, and which even a protracted drought could not dry. What do we find to-day? Where these large holes existed are beds of sand. One can follow the creeks from end to end, even after rain, and not find a drop of water; consequently the fish are restricted in their breeding-grounds, and the Cormorants are forced to remain at those waters that do not dry up, with the result that they are rapidly cleaning the fish out. Nor are the Cormorants the only culprits; the Pelican takes his toll—and it is not a small one.—H. GREENSILL BARNARD, R.A.O.U. Rio Station, Edungalba, Q.

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The Black-listed Shag.—While in the Monaro district of New South Wales, in April and May last, I noticed a considerable number of Black Shags fishing in the rivers—probably in quest of the fry of "English" perch, which are fairly abundant. The rivers in that quarter were at one time well stocked with trout—Brown, Loch Leven, and Rainbow—but now, apparently, only the Rainbow trout is present. These fish, in the main, seem to have died out during severe droughts, when the streams became abnormally sluggish, and therefore unsuited for the healthy existence of the trout. Their disappearance cannot fairly be attributed to Cormorants, as the carcasses of many adult fish were found lying near the banks. Yet the Cormorants were, say, 30 years ago, much less numerous in that quarter. The presence of tasty introduced fish has no doubt attracted these birds thither in greater numbers, though they always, to some extent, fed in these streams on the native minnows and young eels. Cormorants have, I think, at any rate two good points—viz., they include the young of the lagoon or river tortoise (*Chelidon longicollis*) and those of the brown eel (*Anguilla reinhardtii*) in their diet. The adults of both tortoise and eel are themselves greedy devourers of the spawn and fry of our valuable food fishes, which, by the way, do not include the dainty and fastidious trout. The latter fish is, I think, too difficult to catch ever to be of much economic value.—H. V. EDWARDS. Bega, N.S.W.

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Macpherson Range Scrub-Birds.—In his interesting description of his expedition to the Macpherson Range (*Emu*, April, 1920), Mr. Sid. W. Jackson, R.A.O.U., mentions that specimens of the

Crimson Parrot (*Platycercus elegans*) secured there, when compared with others received from different parts of Australia, were found to be a different shade of colour, the back being a peculiar brick-red. This bird is plentiful in the Blue Mountains, and I have noticed a similar shade of colour there among a lot in a trapper's possession, but the shade changed as the birds grew older. So far as my observation goes, the bird is over two years old before it dons its full adult livery. The colouring of the back is very gradual. The red and black shades show out first at the base of the neck, and slowly progress downwards until the limit of their surface is covered. The head and neck, hitherto a comparatively dull red, now blaze into a beautiful crimson. The red on the back does not brighten till some time longer. The Macpherson Range is the refuge of many beautiful scrub-birds that were once numerous along the eastern streams, as the Clarence, Richmond, and Tweed, and the area recently set apart as a sanctuary should be netted to keep back the fox, which is rapidly following the rough country northward. I knew the Richmond in boyhood, when every bend was clothed with thick scrub from the range down to the junction of the two arms, and those scrubs sheltered many beautiful birds that are now strange in the neighbourhood. When the wild cherries were ripe the trees would be alive with Satin Bower-Birds. These wandered from one scrub to another along the river. The Cat-Bird, Regent-Bird, Whip-Bird, Scrub-Turkey, and King Parrot were common, and about the thickly-wooded foothills on each side of the range, at the heads of the Richmond and Logan Rivers, Bell-Miners were very numerous. They, at least, still tinkle sweetly where they gladdened the bush in the years gone by.—E. S. SORENSON, R.A.O.U. Sydney.

Camera Craft Notes.

The Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*).—Last September I came across a nest of the Tawny Frogmouth placed in a large sugar gum (*Eucalyptus corynocalyx*), while on an excursion up the George's River, near Sydney. One of the birds was on the nest, and, not having climbing gear with me, I decided to return the following week to get one of the birds, if possible, to photograph. On returning a week later I found the bird still sitting. With the assistance of climbing gear and a net attached to the end of a long stick, I succeeded in capturing the sitting bird, which turned out to be the female. I managed to get it home, though it made several attempts to get free, and all the time made a noise like a worried Crow. The nest, containing two young, I left without a guilty conscience, for I knew that the other bird, which I discovered in a near-by tree, would come to the rescue. When I arrived home I placed "Tawny" in the fowl-pen and

took several photographs. As can be seen, the bird became very scared, and I experienced great trouble in trying to get it on the perch specially arranged for the purpose. The lens of the camera seemed to attract it more than anything, and it kept darting at it every now and then, at the same time snapping its mandibles with a loud metallic noise. At dusk, when I went to take the bird back to its nest, I was surprised at not being able, at first sight, to see it. Upon closer examination I found it mimicking the branch I photographed it on. So well was it camouflaged that it took my brother quite a time to discover it. Imagine my disgust when I discovered I had not a plate left to take this wonderful example of mimicry.* On releasing the bird near its nest it flew to a near-by tree and remained there for some time. I discovered the other bird sitting on the nest as if nothing had happened at all. I went a week later with the intention of capturing the young, only to find the whole family missing. Very likely one of those destructive "tame-wild" cats was to blame. The measurements of the photographed bird are—tip to tip, 26 inches; length of body, $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches.—JAMES POTTER, R.A.O.U. Houghton, Carlton-parade, Carlton, N.S.W.

State Secretaries' Reports.

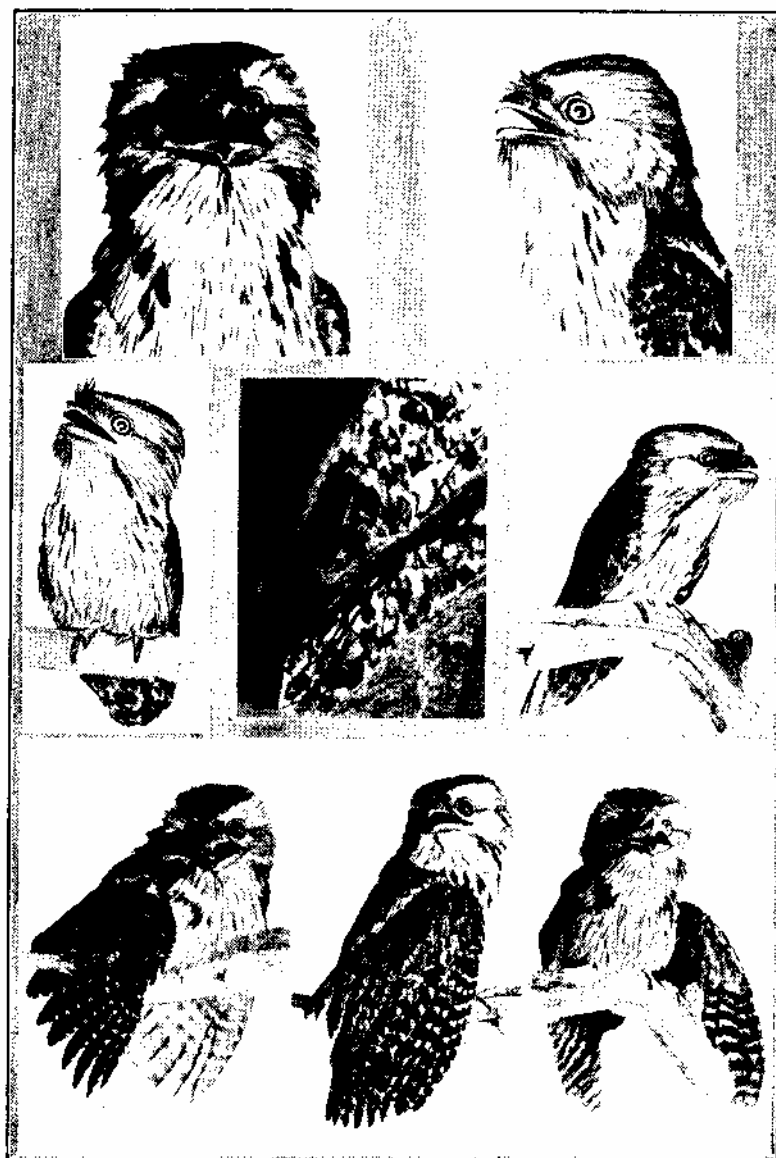
NEW SOUTH WALES.

IN order to secure uniform action in the various States and to assist the Governments in having the *Bird and Animal Protection Acts* observed, there has been formed "The Australian Zoological Control Board," consisting of representatives of the various zoological gardens, together with nominees of the State Governments and probably of the Customs Department. In the past there has been very little restriction on the export of our fauna, and thousands of birds were taken away every year by dealers, very often for the benefit of foreign firms; but it is hoped now that everything that goes out will be through the Board, who will see that our birds are not exploited for trade purposes, and those that are sent away go under the best possible conditions to scientific institutions.

The Customs recently, under a Federal proclamation prohibiting the export of plumage, prohibited the export of upwards of 2,500 Galahs and Parrots that had been taken in the open season under the State Acts. The Control Board had then to take these over and consign them direct to the New York Zoological Gardens, with a request that the Director, Dr. Hornaday, would see they were distributed, in accordance with the spirit of the proclamation, to zoological and scientific institutions only.

A. S. LE SOUËF, *State Secretary*.

* Mr. D. Le Souëf has kindly supplied a picture of the bird in camouflage position.



Poses of the Podargus.

The central picture, showing the protective position, is from a photograph by Mr. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S.

PHOTOS. BY JAMES POTTER, R.A.O.U.