

Camera Craft

Tawny Frogmouth. — I have pleasant recollections of a Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*) nesting in the National Park of New South Wales. The nest was built on the splintered top of a broken "blue gum" some twenty feet above the ground; from this elevation the brooding Frogmouth had quite an extensive view of open forest country bordered by an upland swamp.

When one approached within thirty yards or so of the sitting bird she would assume the protective attitude common to this and allied species, greatly elongating her body and straightening her neck and head, with eyelids almost closed. Apparently this position was somewhat of a strain to the "Mo-poke," for after a little while her body would relax and become squat again. A slight movement or noise underneath the nest would cause her to open her eyes fully and peer below.

It was almost impossible to dislodge this bird from the nest; if touched with a stick her resentment was considerable; when actually pushed away she would utter a harsh croaking note in protest and sometimes give the usual call of "Oom" repeated many times; soon she would be back again taking great care not to tread on the recently hatched young bird. One of the two eggs had failed to incubate and the addled egg disappeared from the nest within a fortnight—the nestling did not leave until about thirty days after hatching, and then only on being disturbed, when it fluttered weakly to the ground. The approximate dates of the young bird hatching and leaving the nest were October 25 and November 24 respectively. The male bird invariably rested nearby during the day time and often became excited in answer to the call of the female.—K. A. HINDWOOD, R.A.O.U., Willoughby, N.S.W.

Yellow-throated Scrub-Wren's Eggs.—During the 1928 season I found three nests of the Yellow-throated Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis lathami*), each containing a pair of abnormally-coloured eggs. The eggs in the first nest were a dark cream colour shading to light cream. The second nest contained pure white eggs, while in the third the eggs were of a purplish-white ground colour with dark purplish-brown caps. Most of the nests of this species that I found contained two eggs, a few three and one four. The two last-mentioned were deserted.—E. L. HYEM, R.A.O.U., Barrington, N.S.W.



Tawny Frogmouth expressing alarm.

Photo. by K. A. Hindwood, R.A.O.U.