

Camera Craft Notes.

Attracting Birds.—Among the growing army of bird-photographers in Queensland, and especially those living in the country, a favourite device for attracting birds is to place small tanks, dishes, and other receptacles containing water in suitable positions. By the exercise of this humane method, Mr. E. M. Cornwall, of Mackay, has, as readers of *The Emu* are aware, obtained many excellent photographs; and it has been used to advantage of late by Mr. D. W. Gaukrodger, of Alice Downs station, Blackall, Central Queensland. During the bad spell of dry weather recently experienced in Queensland Mr. Gaukrodger "snapped," at his water-tins, many species of birds, a couple of which are here reproduced.—A. H. CHISHOLM. Brisbane.

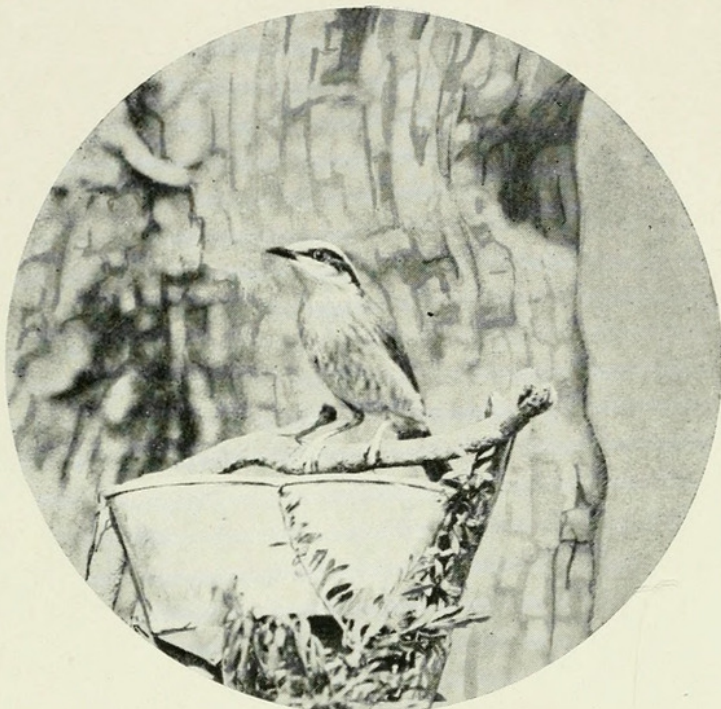
State Secretaries' Reports.

TASMANIA.

I HAVE pleasure in reporting that the *Animals and Birds Protection Act* is now in operation in this State. The Act is the outcome of over ten years' agitation by the nature lovers of Tasmania, and, while not a perfect measure in some respects, yet it is a vast improvement upon the *Game Protection Act* which it superseded. One essential difference is that the management is now in the hands of the Police Department, and not the Lands Department, as formerly. The Act will do much good as regards the indiscriminate destruction of our native fauna, and the skin trade will be subjected to closer inspection in the future than it has been in the past. Several heavy penalties, including one of £62 and one of £50, have already been imposed for offences against the Act.

Up to the present the authorities had little knowledge of the extent of the skin trade. When the measure was being drafted and discussed the question of the cost of administration was naturally considered, and some objection raised on this account. It was held in some quarters that the revenue derived from the Act would not amount to £1,000, but those of us who were advocating the measure maintained it would be more like £5,000 per annum. As a matter of fact, even our estimate has been exceeded, and already £8,000 (eight thousand pounds) has been received in licence fees, &c., apart from fines.

At a recent meeting of the Fisheries Commissioners a report was received from a sub-committee dealing with certain of the inland lakes. One clause recommended that, as the Australian Coots were eating all the weed and interfering with the fish, steps be taken to reduce their numbers, which, owing to the dry season, had become very plentiful in certain areas. I was able to have this clause deferred for further consideration, and in the



Singing Honey-eater at Drinking Vessel.



Spotted Bower-Bird Coming to Drink.



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