

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.

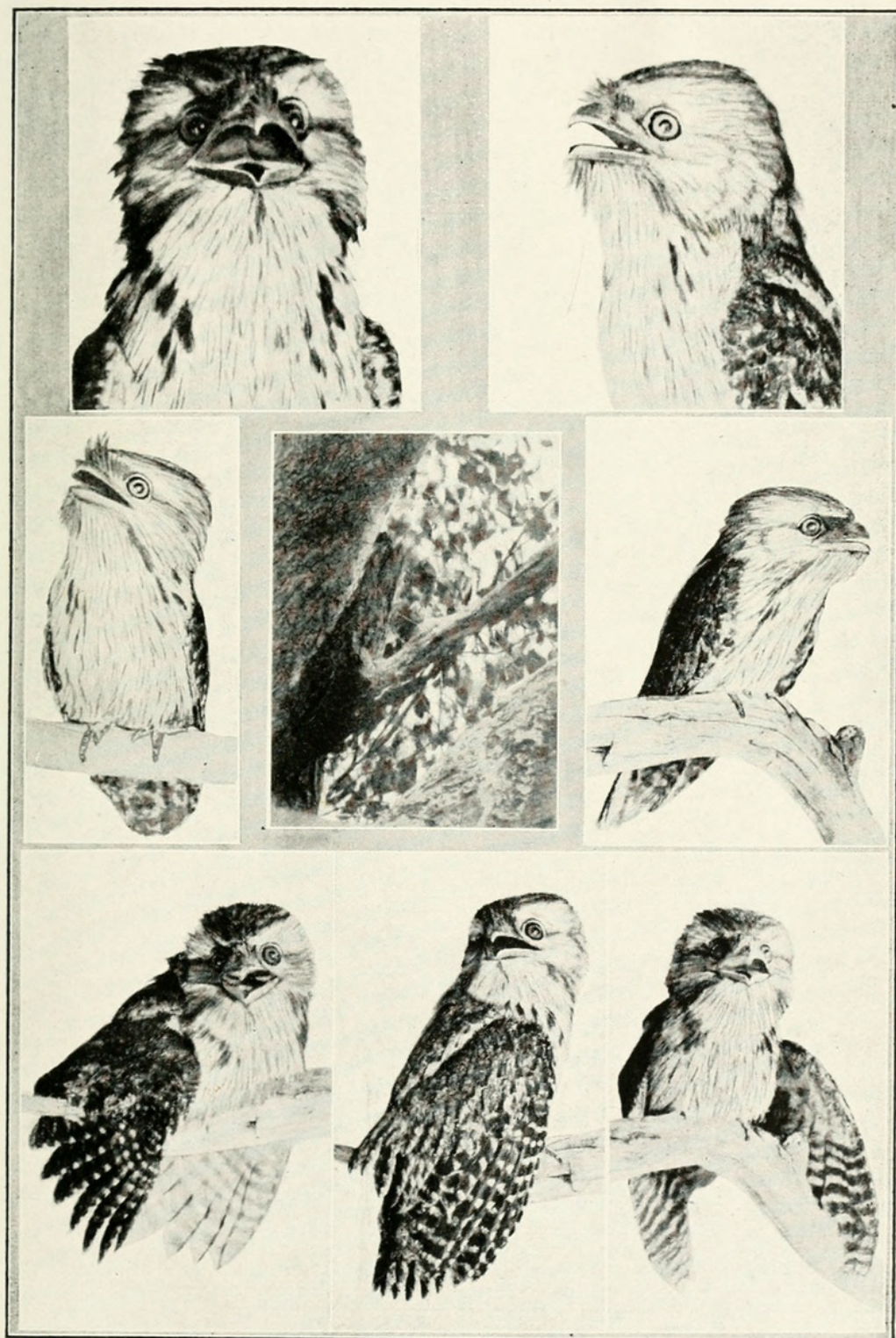
NEW SOUTH WALES.

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.



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