

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.

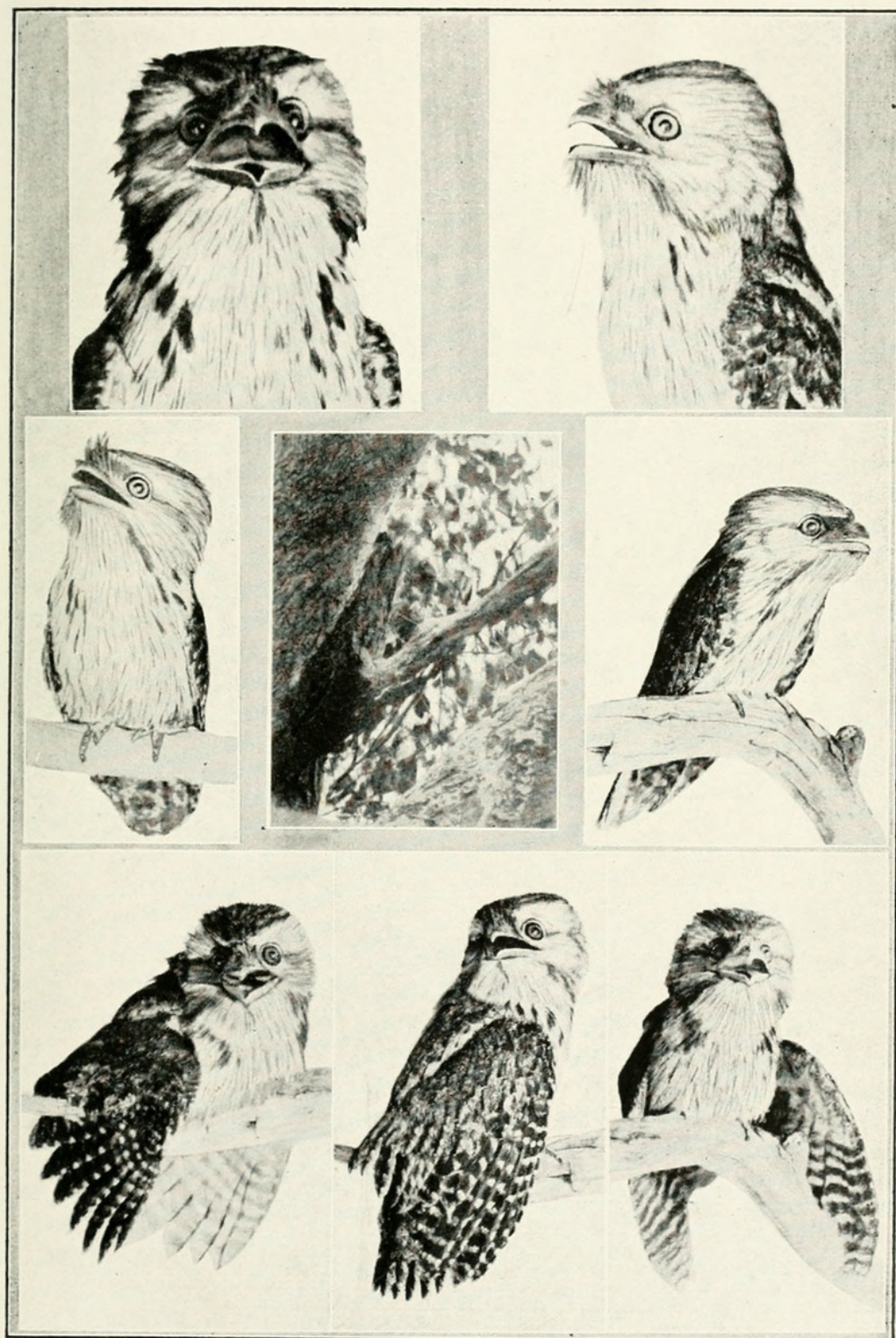
NEW SOUTH WALES.

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.

QUEENSLAND.

ACTIVITY in the ornithological world of Queensland during the past few months has centred chiefly in the operations of the Gould League of Bird-Lovers. Abandoning the practice of giving formal lectures, this body has conducted of late a series of conversaziones, a particular family of native birds being discussed at each monthly meeting. On each occasion the leader of the discussion was a member of the R.A.O.U.—viz., Messrs. A. H. Chisholm (Cockatoos and Parrots), J. O'Neil Brenan (Game Birds), H. A. Longman (Birds-of-Paradise), G. H. Barker (Honey-eaters), and Dr. R. H. La Barte Cummins (Flycatchers and Robins). It had been intended to close the series with the September fixture, but the success of the meetings prompted the adoption of a recommendation to the council of the League making for their continuance.

Local members of the Union have also been closely interested in matters affecting the National Parks (of which Queensland has two large and seven small ones), chiefly the big reservation on the Macpherson Range. The Bunya Mountains "Park" is being made accessible through the efforts of the public-spirited citizens of Dalby, but, so far from the larger reserve being made available, its primeval beauty and wonderful birds (including *Menura* and *Atrichornis*) have been menaced. One point in this connection is explained in the following paragraph, clipped from the *Brisbane Courier* of 7th September:—"Unusual features attached to proceedings before the Brisbane Land Agent yesterday in a case which concerned the Queensland National Park, Macpherson Range. About $2\frac{1}{4}$ square miles of this big reservation had been thrown open for use under occupation license, and there were three applicants for the area—namely, Messrs. H. Markwell (Hill View), P. J. O'Reilly (Roberts's Plateau), and A. H. Chisholm (Brisbane). When the case was called Mr. Chisholm explained that he attended as an officer of various natural history bodies to object to a portion of the National Park being alienated in any way. This reservation, he said, had been dedicated by Parliament to the people, and it was wholly wrong to allow private encroachment, even if such were legal. Apart from this consideration, the presence of cattle would affect the primeval nature of the park, and tempt the licensee to ringbark trees in order to strengthen the grass. In the event of the policy of opening being persisted in, he was prepared to pay the rent in order to keep the land free from possible harm. The case was then adjourned until the afternoon to allow of the Minister being consulted. It was announced on resumption that the occupation was to be proceeded with, and the area was submitted to auction, with an upset price of £2 16s. a square mile per annum. The successful bidder was Mr. Markwell, at £12 5s. a square mile, a higher bid by Mr. Chisholm being adjudged to have come too late." On the following day the Minister for Lands (Mr. Coyne) defended the action of the Department, and said he proposed to safeguard the "Park."

Sanctuaries continue to be created throughout the State. A splendid concession (and one which will interest members who attended the Brisbane congress last year) is the proclamation of the whole of Stradbroke Island, Moreton Bay, as a sanctuary for native birds and animals. This island has an area of 123 square miles, and ranks next to Hinchinbrook Island (North Queensland) as the largest insular reservation in Australia. The greatest sanctuary of all is the Barron Shire (N.Q.), the whole 490 square miles of which were proclaimed a sanctuary at the request of the shire council.

Late in August Brisbane members of the Union had the pleasure of entertaining at tea Professor J. Burton Cleland, R.A.O.U. (South Australia) and Colonel (Dr.) Horne, R.A.O.U. (Victoria), both of whom were in Brisbane in connection with the Australasian Medical Congress.

Queensland will be represented at the annual meeting of the R.A.O.U. in Perth. The distance is too great, however, to ensure a good attendance from this State.

A. H. CHISHOLM, *State Secretary*.

Review.

[“The Birds of Australia.” By Gregory M. Mathews, F.R.S.E. Vol. viii., parts 1 and 2.]

It is a relief to Australian ornithologists to see again the parts of this great work. It was feared that, on account of the enormous increase in costs, publication would have to be suspended; but fortunately that catastrophe has been averted.

The high standard set up at the beginning, so many years ago, is well maintained in the parts under notice. Indeed, it is surprising that, whilst in every other direction the effects of shortage of material and increased costs are plainly visible, yet this remarkable work has gone on in a marvellous way unimpaired, and on a uniformly high level of excellence. As a matter of fact, increased excellence is seen in these parts, for all the plates are by the famous bird artist Grönvold—a sufficient guarantee of their accuracy and high finish. However, the placing of two or more species on a plate may possibly be due to the demands of economy.

The field notes are, as usual, varied and interesting, and are contributed by many of the best-known Australian field workers. The researches into the past history of the species are thorough, and the essential facts are fully set out.

Approval, too, may be expressed of some general remarks on the classification of birds made by Mr. Mathews. These suggest a hope that his many years of constant, faithful, and critical study of masses of material and literature have placed Mr. Mathews in the position of being able to suggest an up-to-date classification of birds.



Le Souef, A S and Chisholm, Alexander Hugh. 1920. "State Secretaries' Reports." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 20(2), 108–110. <https://doi.org/10.1071/mu920108>.

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