

concert with the Fig-birds and others, they are regular visitors to gardens after soft cultivated fruits. Judging from the seeds on the ground under one nest observed there is little doubt that wild fruits and berries also form a large part of the diet.

The late W. McLennan was responsible for the following interesting note made on Moa Island, Torres Strait:

"Heard a bird call that I thought was a Rail of some sort. Sat down, and started to imitate the call—rather a difficult job. In about half an hour the bird called again, apparently from the ground, about 50 yards away. It called again, this time in the tree above me. It was a Friar-bird. I never heard one utter this call previously—a hissing, throaty 'Kurr-rk' slowly repeated eight or ten times."

I have heard the bird giving the call described. It is evidently only given when the bird is moving slowly about feeding, and brings no response from the mate. A somewhat similar but fainter note is occasionally given by the sitting bird. It is in the early morning or after a shower of rain, however, that the Helmeted Friar-bird is heard at its best. Under these conditions it will perch on the top of a tall tree and give forth some of the harshest sounds produced by any Australian bird, most of them recalling the notes of the familiar Noisy Friar-bird of farther south. The native name "Cog-oo-rada" given to the species is obviously an attempt at imitating its call.

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**Note on the Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*).—**Every year for the past decade, a pair of Frogmouths, which have made their home in Taronga Park, have nested in the same spot. The frail structure which they build has been placed on an angle of a bough about twenty feet above the ground, well clear of the foliage of a large eucalypt. It has been noted that the female only attends to the incubation, at any rate in the daytime. She started to sit this year in the middle of September, and the young left the nest on November 23. They were then seemingly about half-grown, and still with down attached to the plumage.

Observation shows that only the female attempts to camouflage by stretching out and flattening the head. The male has never been seen to do that, but sits complacently, without taking any notice of the observer.

When the young are fully fledged, the whole family disappears from its usual habitat, and the old birds come back in about three months' time. They shift their position according to the weather, getting on the lee side of a tree, and occasionally seeking a new tree, but they spend most of the year within a radius of about 100 yards of the nesting site.—A. S. Le SOUEF, Taronga Park, Sydney, N.S.W., 25/11/36.