

Fig. 2.—Section across the bill of an embryo, showing the nasal tubes (n.c.) widely separated by the intervening culmen.

Fig. 3.—The characters of the bill of a downy chick. The nasal tubes are still lateral in position.

Fig. 4.—Dorsal aspect of the head of an adult bird, showing the dorsal position of the nasal tubes.

Fig. 5.—Section across the bill of an adult bird, showing the nasal tubes, dorsal in position but still separated by the culmen.

REFERENCES:

1. Forbes, W. A. 1882. *The Voyage of H.M.S. Challenger*, "Report on the Anatomy of the Petrels," pt. XL (issued in 1882), p. 57.
2. Loomis, L. M. 1918. *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.*, 4th ser., vol. II, pt. II, p. 42.

Feeding Habits of *Podargus*.—Referring to Dr. Serventy's paper on the feeding habits of *Podargus* I note that Mr. H. Stuart Dove suggests that it was possibly a small rodent, and not the above species which attacked my grapes, when I lived near Wilson's Inlet. My house was an isolated one, and apart from the familiar introduced house mouse (*Mus musculus*), the only small rodent I met with was the native rat (*Rattus assimilis*), but it was rare, and I found it difficult to obtain a specimen when I wanted one. The bunches of grapes mentioned were hanging near the ground and the trap was set as close as possible. As far as I knew there was only one pair of *Podargus* living near my garden and I certainly did not suspect either of the pair was the culprit; but the evidence strongly points that way. I may further add that as the bunches ripened they were enclosed in paper bags to prevent damage by the Silvereyes (*Zosterops australasica*). That would be no protection against a rodent but quite effective against a soft-billed bird. After the release of the captive, the trap was again set and remained so for some time but without further result, and no further damage was done to the grapes. I do not wish to imply that *Podargus* is a regular fruit-eater. Other birds will vary their diet in this direction, given the opportunity. I have known *Acanthiza apicalis* peck at damaged grapes, and in a locality not far from Geraldton, several "Wild Canaries" (*Meliphaga penicillata carteri*) were pointed out to me, feeding on the grapes trained on a large pergola. In further confirmation of Dr. Serventy's contention that *Podargus* is a ground feeder, our member, Mr. Sedgwick, who is an assiduous bird-watcher, told me he has often seen that bird drop down to the ground from some fence post or other point of vantage, secure its prey and return to the same perch.—F. LAWSON WHITLOCK, Bunbury, W.A.