

Frogmouth is also capable of a tremendous scream when captured in his wild state.

These birds greet me each night with a succession of "oom-oom-oom-ooms," uttered from twelve to nineteen times. It is quite a common sound, as I heard it coming mysteriously across the Murray River lagoons by night.

During daylight my birds use their protective "broken-branch-like" attitude only on the overhead appearance of Hawks. Directly the male sees the Hawk he "freezes" immediately, at the same time uttering "oo, oo!" quickly—at which sound the mate, even if she has not perceived the Hawk, "freezes" also. On several occasions by mimicking this danger signal I have caused the birds to "stiffen out" on the instant.

The male bird, who is the talkative one, sometimes calls to his mate in a succession of notes which are too rapid and too low to distinguish from one another. Always when calling, the birds shift from one leg to the other, at the same time swaying to and fro in a comical manner.

The Tawny Frogmouth has another call, and this is where confusion may arise. It is two deep-sounding, loud "ooms," uttered in two distinct syllables, and which I define as "morepork." This "oom-oom!" to which I was listening intently several nights ago when camped in thick forest—where the Boobook Owls were calling also—is far louder and even farther sounding than the "mopoke" of the Owl. It is a slower and more deliberate call, and is repeated at much slower intervals than the call of the Boobook. I hold—and have had the satisfaction of being confirmed in my belief by observation of both species in captivity—that both birds thus call somewhat similarly, though the Frogmouth usually calls in a succession of "ooms" and on rather rare occasions gives forth his "morepork" note.

Both these rarely-seen birds have vanished when daylight comes again, and if the bush people see the slow-moving Frogmouth asleep in a tree from which "morepork" issued the previous night, then of course that bird to them is responsible for the "mopoke" calls they hear so often—and they have a certain amount of truth on their side.

Spread of the Goldfinch.—A correspondent in the July issue of *The Emu* remarks on the presence of European Goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*) at Armidale (northern N.S.W.) and the editor supplements the note by stating that he has seen the species at Tamworth (a few miles further north), but no further north. These pretty birds, however, have for several years been fairly abundant in the south of Queensland; a few pairs may be seen at almost any time about Stanthorpe orchards. Doubtless they have reached Warwick ere this and are spreading over the Darling Downs. In 1919 I saw a pair flying about Stradbroke Island, Moreton Bay, but judged them to be escapees from confinement. The Goldfinch may do a little harm as a seed-eater, but it is certainly more desirable than most other introduced birds.—A. H. CHISHOLM, Sydney.