

melanophris was not seen beyond 39°52'S. These two species have been recorded appreciably further northwards during the winter months. Fleming gives only two oceanic records for *Catharacta skua*, July and October being the months concerned. On the present voyage this species was observed in 39°52'S, 156°50'W, the position being very close to that of Falla's October record—39°S, 153°W (Fleming, 1950). The southernmost limit at which a tropic-bird (*Phaethon* sp.?) was seen (31°31'S, 131°48'W), is some 6° further south and 17° further west than the southernmost record given by Fleming for the genus.

REFERENCE

- Fleming, C. A. 1950. 'Some South Pacific Sea-bird Logs,' *The Emu*, 49, (3), 169-188.

Powerful Owls in South-western Victoria.—In *The Emu* of August, 1948, I recorded discovery of Powerful Owls (*Ninox strenua*) in the Portland district of Victoria. Since then the presence of the species at both Tyrendarra and Heathmere has been confirmed. The accompanying photo was taken by Mr. Claude Austin on October 1, 1950. The bird was sitting on the half-eaten remains of a ringtail possum (*Psuedocheirus*) and allowed the photographer to approach to within twenty feet. The locality was in messmate (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) forest two miles north-east of Tyrendarra P.O. in the same native cherry tree (*Exocarpus cupressiformis*) in which I first saw a Powerful Owl in November, 1944.

The latest previous appearance of the bird in the locality was in April, 1949, and since then I have made many returns to the forest but failed to find a trace of the owls in any of the trees formerly used by them. On the day the photo was taken we went there 'on spec.' and were surprised to find that the Powerful Owl had returned. That this return was quite recent was established by the fact that we failed to find any trace of whitewash or pellets under the tree.

The Heathmere birds were in their former terrain—the thick scrub along the Surrey River—in April, 1950, as Mr. Percy Finck (the original finder) and I heard their loud 'woo-hoo' calls there after dusk, but the dense scrub prevented our approaching the birds without frightening them. While inspecting forest land east of Milltown in September, 1949, I came across a patch of whitewash and pellets in thick messmates. This evidently marked the territory of a third pair of Powerful Owls, as the site is ten miles from the nearest 'roost' of either the Tyrendarra or Heathmere birds. —NOEL F. LEARMONTH, Portland, Vic., 10/11/50.



Powerful Owl sitting on half-eaten ringtail possum in forest two miles
north-east of Tyrendarra P.O.

Photo. by Claude Austin.