



Mr. Bellchambers at his mound. The male Mallee-Fowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) assists in uncovering the egg and also in covering it again.

Photos. by E. Whittington, R.A.O.U.

· Grey Jumper (*Struthidea cinerea*)—VP.

Black-throated Butcher Bird (*Cracticus nigrogularis*)—FP.
Notes more flute-like than those of the Collared Butcher Bird.

Black-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*)—P.

Camera Craft

Mallee Fowl in Captivity.—In October a party visited the home of Mr. T. P. Bellchambers, who lives in Humbug Scrub, in the ranges about 25 miles from Adelaide, to see Mallee Fowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) in captivity. Mr. Ernest Whittington, R.A.O.U., supplies the following notes, with two photographs (see plate):—After a delightful lunch, a move was made to the cages where the Mallee Fowl are kept. These unique birds, which retain the reptilian characteristic of hatching their eggs by the heat of the sun and rotting vegetation, have been Mr. Bellchambers's special study, and he has achieved most gratifying results. Mr. Bellchambers entered the cage and began to open the first mound. The male bird was soon on the scene, and started vigorously scratching back the material which was removed. In several minutes a large flesh-tinted egg was exposed to view. It was taken out and shown to the interested visitors, and then returned to the egg chamber. Mr. Bellchambers scraped back some of the earth and decayed vegetation which generates the heat, and the male bird did the rest. Owing to the wet conditions at Humbug Scrub it takes so long for the excessive moisture to dry out of the mound building material that the early eggs have always been lost. This year Mr. Bellchambers has constructed a mound of his own, and he has succeeded in getting a temperature of 76deg. The eggs hatch at between 85 and 96 deg. The naturalist thinks that by removing the early eggs to his own mound he will, if he cannot hatch them, at least be able to keep them fresh until the heat is sufficiently developed in the birds' own mounds. When Mr. Bellchambers was in the mallee country, catching the birds for the various zoos, he made a mound at his camp, and placing the eggs he found in this receptacle, he was able to save himself endless walking and watching, and to catch the chicks as they hatched out. It was explained that the chick when hatched was fully fledged, and that it forced its way from the chamber through the overhead mass, and was at once able to fly and care for itself without any help from the parent birds.

Frog eating a Bird.—One wet day my attention was drawn to a sound in the hedge at the rear of my studio. Thinking it was a Snake with a frog, I went in the direction of the sound, and to my surprise saw a frog hanging by the hind legs, as one would say, just like a monkey, with the bird hard and fast in his mouth. How the frog caught the Grass-bird (*Megalurus gramineus*) I do not know. On watching the operation again, to my surprise he was making a meal of the bird, so I thought it was worth a photo. In about five minutes he had the bird so far down (see No. 1), and about two hours later so far (see



An Australian Tree-Frog ingesting a Grass-Bird (*Megalurus gramineus*).

Photos. by A. Friend, R.A.O.U., Ingham.

No. 2). In about three hours' time it was out of sight. Two hours later it evidently began to hurt, and the frog brought the bird up. The frog, still looking sick, I kept him caged up, and next day let him out, when he was bright and happy. I may say that when he disgorged the bird, it was partly digested. I was interested in this performance, and made it known to as many as I could, showing it to the Mayor: he said that had he not seen it, he would have stated that I did not take enough soda with it.—ALFRED FRIEND, Ingham, N.Q.