

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
Western Australia

ANNUAL WETLAND & WATERFOWL REVIEW
NOVEMBER 1977

Compiled by D.R. Munro, Technical Officer
Waterbird Research Unit, for submission to
the W.A.W.A. Bird and Game Committee on
21st November 1977.

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WETLAND AND WATERFOWL REVIEW - 1977-78 SEASON

I INTRODUCTION

This summary was drafted on the 16th November 1977 at the conclusion of ground and aerial surveys of wetland systems within the South-West and Eucla Land Divisions.

For the purpose of illustrating survey routes, classifications of wetlands, rainfall statistics and for general reference to districts, the standard meteorological map has been adopted. A reference copy of this map is appended at the back of this report. Note that all general references are for that part of the State within the bounds of Districts 8 to 12.

II SURVEYS

A. Ground

These were conducted during the period 24th to 29th October, being restricted to the Western sector of the South Central District (District 10A) and a greater part of the South Coastal District (9A), west of Cranbrook, to include the major wetland and drainage systems of the South-West.

The principal purpose of this survey was to determine the degree of breeding and the age structure of young.

B. Aerial

22 hours were accrued during these surveys on the 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th November, totalling an estimated distance flown of approx. 4 000 km.

Practically the whole of districts 8 to 10A were covered, the omissions being the far north of the North Coastal District (8) and the North-Eastern sector of North Central District (10).

From these surveys we obtained information on the status of wetlands and the distribution and populations of waterfowl.

III RAINFALL

For the second year in succession the winter rainfall for all districts (8-12) has been considerably below average with only one month (October) recording above average falls. Those districts to the North and East which are in a low rainfall belt have been seriously affected. The situation for the remainder of the South-West ranges from poor to reasonable.

Generally, the result of consecutive years of below average rainfall has had a serious effect on the status of wetlands which at this time last year were considered to be only reasonable.

Maps (1-4) are included to show the rainfall departure from normal for the years 1969, 1972, 1976 and 1977.

It should be noted that no season was declared in 1969 and in 1972 the season was restricted to the taking of Mountain duck and Wood duck on private property only.

IV WETLANDS

It is quite apparent from available statistics and from our own records that wetlands within the South-West and Eucla Land Division are at the lowest levels recorded for many years. Catchment into

cont'd...

the systems in most areas has been negligible and only in the coastal districts has there been sufficient to raise or maintain the levels of lakes with the result that very few have attained full capacity.

Districts 8, 10, 10A (East), 11, and 12 are classified as being dry. The only wetlands containing water of any consequence are:

- i. that section of the Mortlock river flats from Cunderdin westward. Here there is no flow and the water is confined to the main narrow channel of the system and
- ii. Lake Bryde and several others in this area which are from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ capacity.

A majority of stock dams in these districts are dry with the remainder being very low.

Wetlands within district 10A (West) are classified as being low i.e. less than $\frac{1}{4}$ capacity to $\frac{1}{2}$ capacity. However, the whole of the Toolibin - Taarblin system (except Little White Lake) and Lake Coyrecup are completely dry. Lake Dumbleyung contains very shallow water with numerous exposed sand banks over the entire area as do Lakes Brown, White Water and Nonalling. Stock dams are very low to one-third capacity.

Very few wetlands have attained capacity in districts 9 and 9A though a majority are at least covered and range in capacity from $\frac{1}{4}$ to three-quarter full. There are also exceptions here where some small lakes and flood plains of a shallow nature are completely dry.

The status of the wetlands for 1972 and 1977 is compared in maps 5 and 6. The three classifications chosen for the divisions on these maps are general so are defined as being:-

Dry - Included in this division are those wetlands which it is anticipated will be dry by January.

cont'd...

- Half full - Wetlands within this division are from $\frac{1}{4}$ to three-quarter capacity with a majority expected to retain water until February - March.
- Full - Refers to areas in which wetlands are at least three-quarter capacity and are assured of retaining a satisfactory volume for the whole of a normal summer.
- Note - Not included in this classification are those wetlands which are under tidal influence - i.e. estuaries, inlets, etc.

Table 1 shows the classification of some important wetlands for 1976 and 1977 using the accepted scale which is based on the actual volume of water - i.e. dry - low - $\frac{1}{2}$ full - high - full.

V WATERFOWL

Observations of large populations of waterfowl were frequent on many of the lakes in the South Central and Coastal districts.

Wetlands supporting the largest concentrations were: Lake Yealering, Lake Dumbleyung, Coblinine river flats, Lake Coomelberrup, Lake Gundaring, the Woodanilling system, Lake Towerinning, Lake Muir, the Vasse, Wonnerup, Leschenault and Harvey Estuaries, Lakes Preston and Clifton and Peel Inlet.

Mountain duck were recorded in very large concentrations in several locations - e.g:-

Esperance Lakes	20 000
Woodanilling Lakes.	25 000
Lakes Preston & Clifton	15 000
Lake Dumbleyung	20 000
Lake Walyer Walyer	20 000

Of note was the fact that many of these birds were in moult.

Grey teal were also very common with most lakes in the Shires of Yealering, Woodanilling, Katanning, Busselton and Murray supporting 500 to 1 000 birds. The largest populations sighted were at:-

Lake Dumbleyung	10 000
Coblinine River Flats	5 000
Lake Coomelberrup	4 000
Woodanilling	10 000
Harvey Est.	5 000
Peel Inlet & Lk Goegrup	3 000
Vasse & Wonnerup Est.	3 000

Limited populations of Black duck were observed in small flocks of 10 to 20 birds in most areas but were found in greater numbers in the Arthur, Beaufort and Blackwood river system and on wetlands of the Swan Coastal Plain. However, the largest populations of this species did not exceed 200 birds on any one lake.

Wood duck are normally common through the South Central but their numbers this year are noticeably reduced. There is little doubt that this is a result of the very low water levels in stock dams, one of their favoured locations for selecting a breeding territory. They were recorded in satisfactory numbers on river systems and wetlands in District 9.

VI BREEDING

It is evident that breeding has been minimal in all districts except 9 and 9A where it is felt that recruitment is only marginally down on a normal season. The numbers of broods sighted in these areas compared favourably with past observations.

VII CONCLUSIONS

Water levels will continue to recede through the summer with the result that many of the wetlands, which are already shallow, will become dry. With only a few exceptions it is possible that the whole of the inland lakes systems could be dry by the end of January 1978.

As waterfowl habitat in these areas diminishes and natural pressures increase, it is anticipated that many birds will be forced to migrate to the Eastern States and to the North of Western Australia. Also, a large number, particularly Black duck and Black swan can be expected to seek refuge on lakes in the Metropolitan Area.

With the present weather pattern continuing, the possibility of botulism and toxic algae bloom occurring are almost certain. The result of such an event can only mean the inevitable death of many thousands of waterfowl.

VIII RECOMMENDATION

If we are to adhere to the principle of determining duck hunting seasons based on biological parameters, there remains no alternative but to recommend that:

'NO SEASON BE DECLARED FOR THE TAKING OF WILD DUCK IN THE SOUTH-WEST AND EUCLA LAND DIVISIONS DURING THE 1977-78 SEASON'.



D.R. MUNRO

Technical Officer.

November 18, 1977.

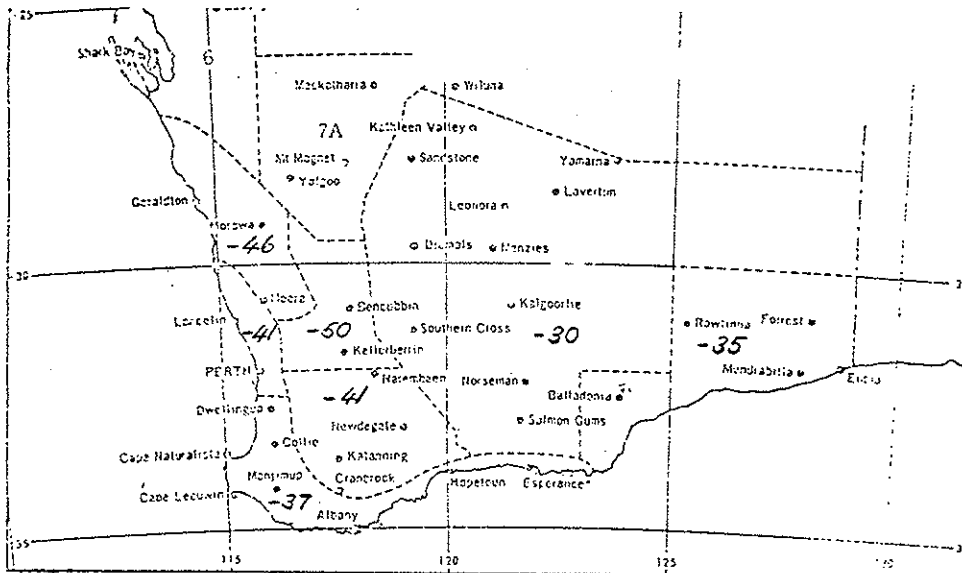
TABLE 1.

STATUS OF SOME IMPORTANT WETLANDS AS AT NOVEMBER 1976 & 1977.

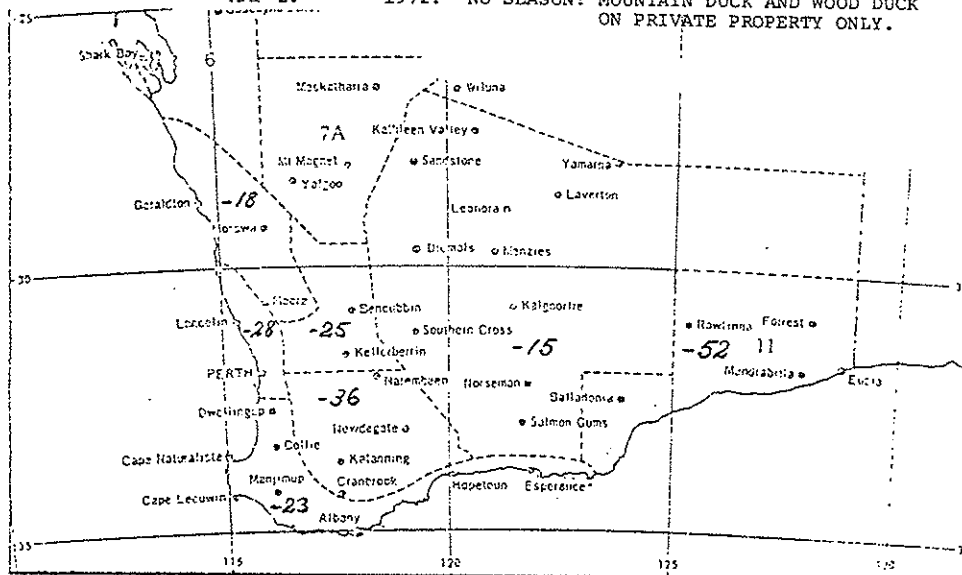
LAKE NAME	WATER VOLUME	
	1976	1977
EGANU	Low	Dry
PINGARREGA	Low	Dry
MOORA	Low	Dry
WANNAMAL	$\frac{1}{2}$ Full	Low
WALYORMORING	$\frac{1}{2}$ Full	Dry
BEVERLEY	High	Low
MEARS	Low	Dry
YEALERING	Full	Low
TOOLIBIN	Full	Dry
TAARBLIN	Low	Dry
NOMAN	Low	Dry
GUNDARING	High	Low
DUMBLEYUNG	Low	Low
COOMELBERRUP	Full	$\frac{1}{2}$ Full
COYRECUP	Low	Dry
EWLYAMARTUP	Full	High
CASUARINA	$\frac{1}{2}$ Full	Low
WARDERING	High	$\frac{1}{2}$ Full
RUSHY SWAMP	Full	Dry
NORRING	Full	$\frac{1}{2}$ Full
FINCHES	High	Dry
TOWERINNING	$\frac{1}{2}$ Full	$\frac{1}{2}$ Full
BENGER SWAMP	High	High

RAINFALL (APRIL to OCT. incl.) DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL (PERCENT).

MAP 1. 1969. NO SEASON DECLARED

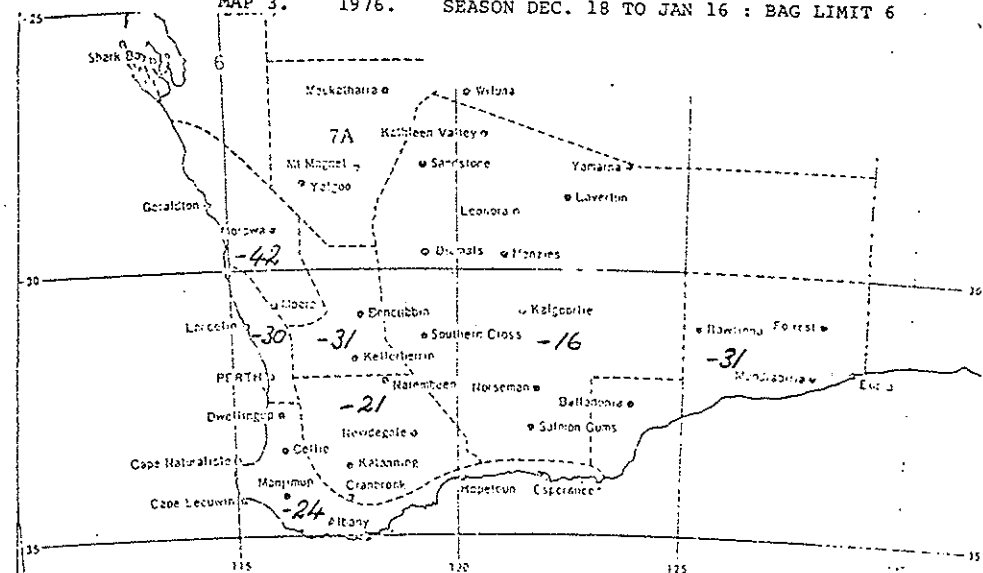


MAP 2. 1972. NO SEASON: MOUNTAIN DUCK AND WOOD DUCK
ON PRIVATE PROPERTY ONLY.

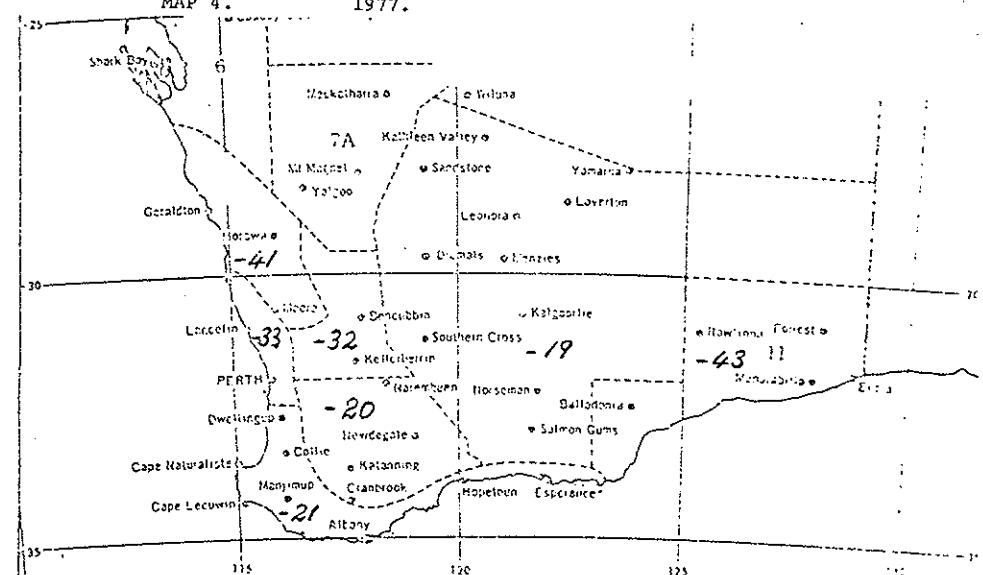


RAINFALL (APRIL to OCT. incl.) DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL (PERCENT).

MAP 3. 1976. SEASON DEC. 18 TO JAN 16 : BAG LIMIT 6

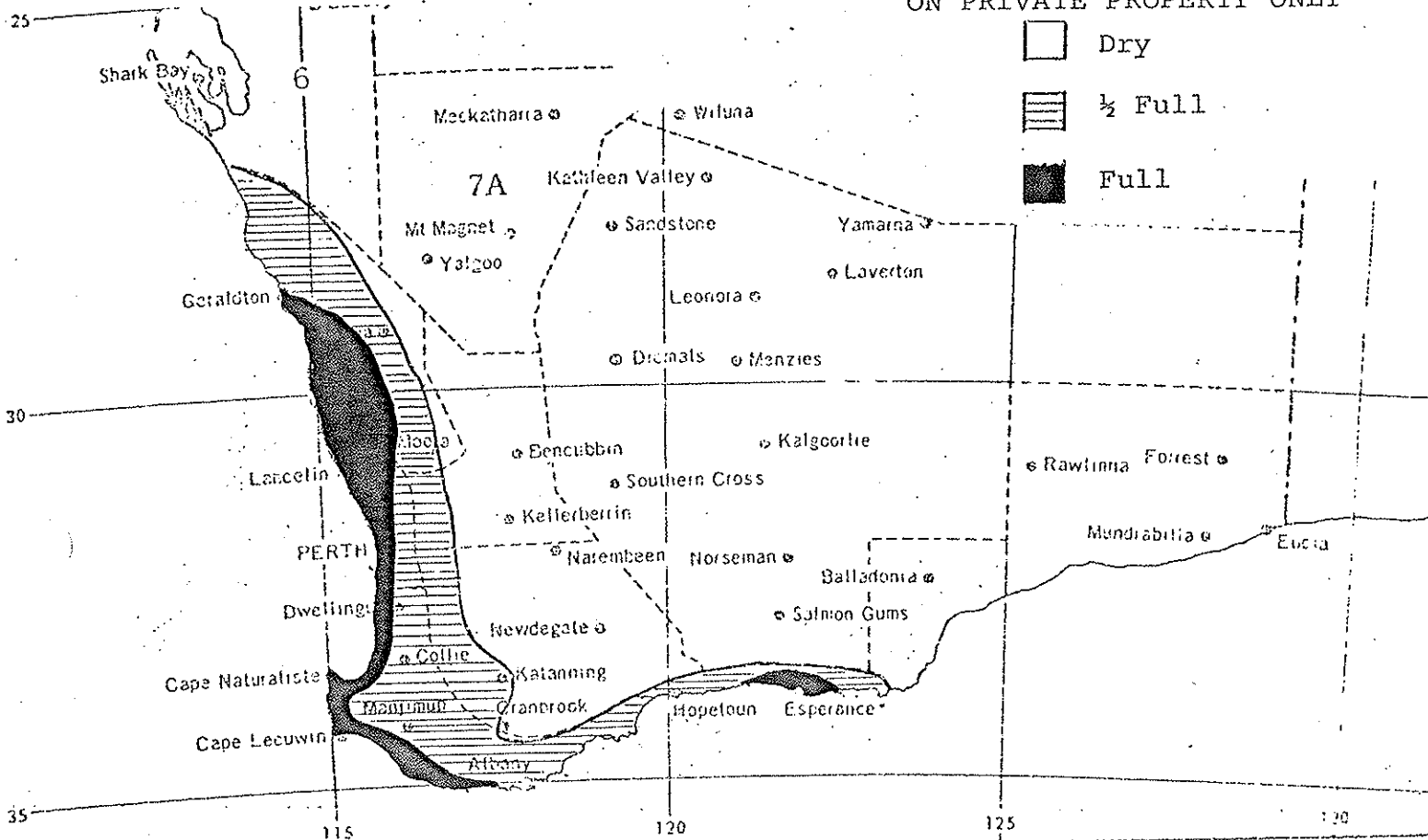


MAP 4. 1977.

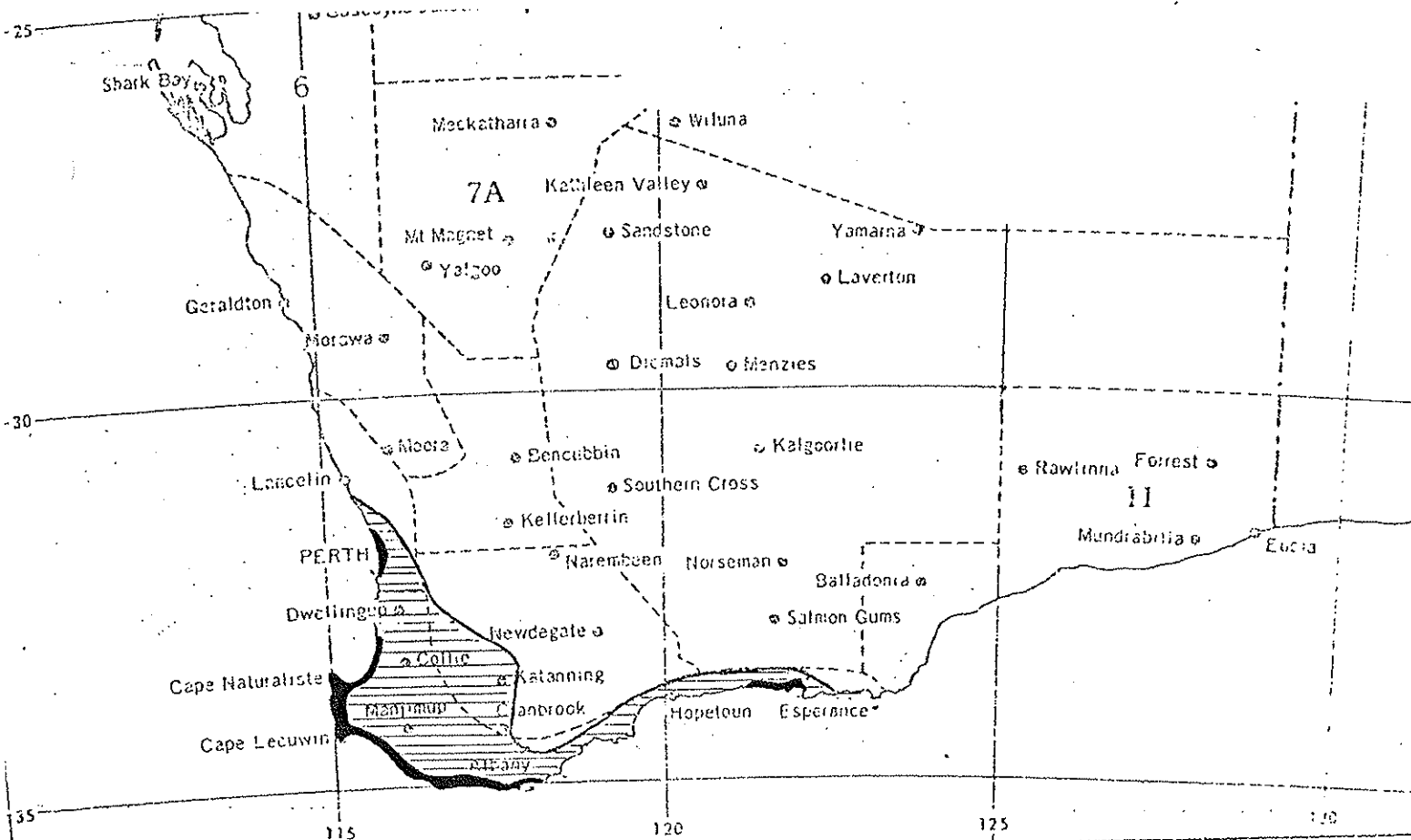


CLASSIFICATION OF WETLANDS

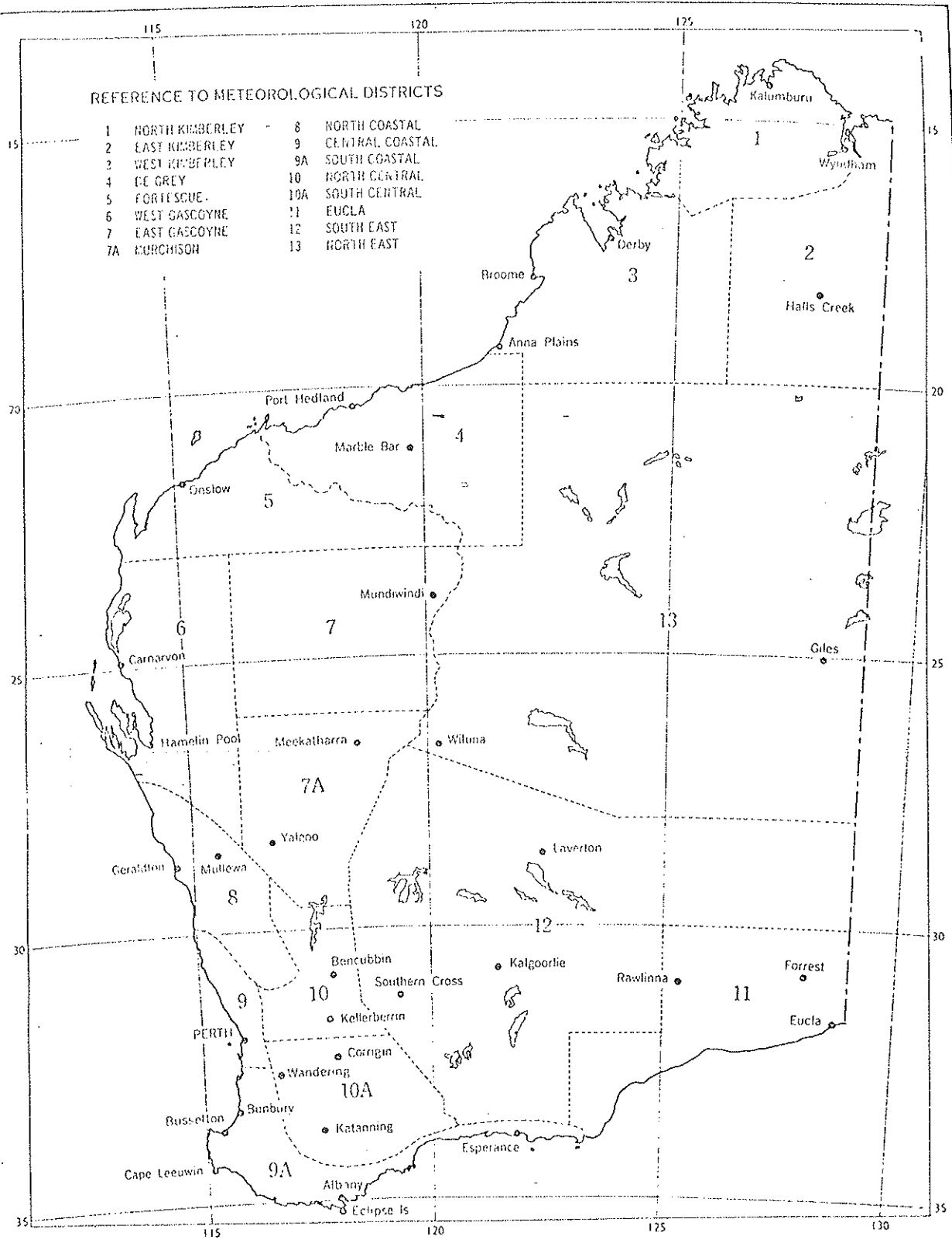
MAP 5 NOV. 1972. NO SEASON : MOUNTAIN DUCK AND WOOD DUCK ON PRIVATE PROPERTY ONLY



MAP 6 NOV. 1977.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA



MAP 7.

DON MUNRO.

Would you please set out for me, step by step, an account of the routine which you, Jim Rolfe and Tom Riggert have gone through in previous years in order to determine whether or not there should be a duck season, when it should start and finish, bag limits for each species, areas to be closed or open, etc.

For each step in the whole process I would like to know when it was done (i.e. which week of which month), who did it, the time involved, the areas visited or surveyed, the equipment used (e.g. aircraft, vehicle or boat, type used) and a rough idea of costs.

If there are other inputs to the systems such as Field and Game reports, Wildlife Officers reports, Honorary W.L.O. reports, or whatever, would you please include them also.

J.A.K. LANE
Research Officer.

July 18, 1977.

SCHEDULE FOR WETLAND SURVEYS & PROCEDURES
FOR DETERMINING A DUCK HUNTING SEASON.

In preparing this account of pre-duck hunting season surveys and related particulars I have presented each item in order of normal sequence. To illustrate the general routes, districts and distances involved during the surveys I have included a map in addition to a list of the wetlands.

The list of wetlands covered by both ground and aerial surveys are those which are most frequently included in our schedule. Alterations to the duration and sequence occur due to variations in the seasonal patterns which may also result in the deletion of some areas from the survey.

The wetlands have been divided into five sectors, each of which may be inspected separately or concurrently depending on the circumstances existing at the time.

SCHEDULE OF LAKES INSPECTED DURING AERIAL
AND/OR GROUND SURVEYS.

NORTHERN

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. WANNEROO LKS | 19. GREEN HEAD SLT. LKS. |
| 2. LK LOCK McNESS | 20. SNAG ISLAND SLT. LKS. |
| 3. LK CHANDALA | 21. LK INDOON |
| 4. LK CHITTERING | 22. LK LOGUE |
| 5. LK MUNGALA | 23. LK ARROWSMITH |
| 6. LK NAMBUNG | 24. ARROWSMITH RIVER |
| 7. LK BAN BAN | 25. LK YARRA YARRA |
| 8. WHITE LK | 26. THREE SPRINGS SLT. LKS |
| 9. BEERMULLAH LK | 27. LK NULLEWA |
| 10. LK WANNAMAL | 28. LK NEDO |
| 11. KARAKIN LK | 29. DAMBORING LK |
| 12. LK NAMMING | 30. LK HIND |
| 13. SALT LAKE | 31. LK NINAN |
| 14. MOORA LKS | 32. LK WALYORMOURING (OAK PARK) |
| 15. LK PINJARREGA | 33. LK KOOMBERRING |
| 16. LK EGANU | 34. COWCOWING LKS. |
| 17. GREEN LK | 35. DOWERIN LKS |
| 18. WHITE LK. | 36. CUNDERDIN SLT. LKS. |

CENTRAL AND EASTERN

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 37. STH TAMMIN SLT. LKS | 44. KONDININ LK |
| 38. LK MEARS | 45. LK JIUKIN |
| 39. YENYENING LK (BEVERLY LKS) | 46. LK GRACE |
| 40. NONALLING LK | 47. LK PINGRUP |
| 41. WHITE WATER LK | 48. LK PINCARNUP |
| 42. BROWN LK | 49. LK MAGENTA |
| 43. LK YEALERING | 50. LK BUCHAN |

cont'd...

EUCLA AND SOUTH EAST COASTAL

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 51. LK MENDS | 65. CULHAM INLET |
| 52. BANNITUP LK | 66. HAMMERSLEY RIVER INLET |
| 53. MULLET LK | 67. FITZGERALD INLET |
| 54. LK WARDEN | 68. FITZGERALD RIVER |
| 55. PINK LAKE | 69. SNT MARY RIVER MOUTH |
| 56. LK MORTIJINUP | 70. PABELUP LK |
| 57. LK QUALLILUP | 71. BREMER BAY |
| 58. LK GORE | 72. YELLILUP SWP |
| 59. LK KUBITCH | 73. HILLIUP LK |
| 60. LK GIDONG | 74. PALLINUP RIVER |
| 61. BARKERS INLET | 75. PALLINUP RIVER MOUTH |
| 62. STOKES INLET | 76. ANDREW HILL STN LK |
| 63. LK SHASTER | 77. LK MARDAWARDUP |
| 64. JERDACUTTUP LKS | |

SOUTH/WEST COASTAL

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 78. CAMEL LK | 106. LK JASPER |
| 79. BALICUP LK | 107. QUILAIJUP LK |
| 80. MUNRILLUP LK | 108. GINGILUP LK |
| 81. POOTENUP LK | 109. SCOTT RIVER |
| 82. MILYUNUP LK | 110. HARDY INLET |
| 83. LK KWORNICUP | 111. BLACKWOOD RIVER |
| 84. LK CARABUNDUP | 112. BROADWATER |
| 85. NUKENNULUP LK | 113. VASSE ESTUARY |
| 86. BIG POORRARICUP LGN | 114. WONNERUP INLET |
| 87. TOOTANACUP | 115. WONNERUP EST. |
| 88. BOKARUP SWP | 116. STIRLING |
| 89. LK UNICUP | 117. LESCHENAULT EST. |
| 90. LITTLE UNICUP | 118. BENDER SWAMP |
| 91. PINDICUP LK | 119. LAKE PRESTON |
| 92. NOOBIJUP LK | 120. LAKE CLIFTON |
| 93. COWERUP SWP | 121. HARVEY RIVER MTH |
| 94. RED LAKE | 122. HARVEY EST |
| 95. LK MUIR | 123. BIG LK |
| 96. BYENUP LGN | 124. LK MEALUP |
| 97. TORDIT-GARRUP LGN | 125. PEEL INLET |
| 98. POORGINUP SWP | 126. MURRAY RIVER MTH |
| 99. FRANKLAND RIVER | 127. MURRAY RIVER |
| 100. WALPOLE INLET | 128. GOEGRUP LK |
| 101. BROKE INLET | 129. SERPENTINE RIVER |
| 102. LK MARINGUP | 130. LK WALUNGUP |
| 103. GARDNER RIVER MTH | 131. LK COOLOONGOOLUP |
| 104. WARREN RIVER MTH | 132. LK JANDAKOT |
| 105. DONNELLY RIVER MTH | |

SOUTH CENTRAL

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 133. LK TOOLIBIN | 156. RUSHY SWP |
| 134. LK TAARBLIN | 157. FLAGSTAFF LK |
| 135. IBIS LK | 158. NORRING LK |
| 136. BILLY LK | 159. LITTLE NORRING |
| 137. BOKAN LK | 160. LK QUARBING |
| 138. NOMANS LK | 161. LITTLE PARKEYERRING LK |
| 139. WHITE LK | 162. PARKEYERRING LK |
| 140. LITTLE WHITE LK | 163. WAGIN LK |
| 141. ARTHUR RIVER FLATS | 164. LIME LK |
| 142. ARTHUR RIVER | 165. MURDUALMURRIN LK |
| 143. LK TOWERINNING | 166. YATES SWP |
| 144. BEAUFORT RIVER | 167. DORMDUCKING |
| 145. WILD HORSE SWP | 168. LK GUNDARING |
| 146. NUNNING SWP | 169. LK DUMBLEYUNG |
| 147. SPRATS LGN | 170. COBLININE RIVER |
| 148. FITZES SWP | 171. WHITE WATER POOL |
| 149. MAYDALLING SWP | 172. LK COOMELBERRUP |
| 150. MURIPIN LK | 173. COBLININE RIVER FLATS |
| 151. MARTINUP LK | 174. CORACKIN SWP |
| 152. LK CHARLING | 175. LK CASUARINA |
| 153. QUEEREARUP LK | 176. EWLYAMARTUP LK |
| 154. WARDERING LK | 177. LK COYRECUP |
| 155. DIRTY SWP | 178. KWOBRUP SWP |

2. Ground Surveys (General)

The equipment most frequently used and proven to be most satisfactory are the Ford 4 x 4 truck and the dinghy, powered by a 9.5 h.p. outboard motor. On occasions, the Dogget runabout powered with the 25 h.p. O.B. motor is used, particularly to cover rough water or when more than two persons are involved. Two officers are required to conduct these surveys efficiently as much handling and carrying of the boat and equipment is necessary.

3. Aerial Surveys (General).

For some years now we have been chartering Aero-commanders from Executive Air-West Pty. Ltd. piloted on most occasions by Mr Tony Abbott. The principal advantage of these twin engine aircraft is that greater distances can be covered in a relatively short time. Dr. Riggert was present on every flight accompanied by either myself and/or one of the members of the Bird Committee (see item 9 for particulars).

4. Preliminary Ground Survey

Preferably this survey is conducted during the first week of September when the initial benefits of the first rainfall catchment are normally expected. Coastal areas are assured of sufficient rainfall at this time to provide the necessary requirements for waterfowl therefore this survey is usually restricted to the Northern, Central and South Central Districts where rainfall and subsequent waterfowl habitat are less predictable.

The aim of the survey is to determine the status of the Wetlands, whether breeding has commenced and to generally familiarize ourselves with the situation existing at the time. The time required for this survey is 4 or 5 days depending on variations to the schedule and the availability of navigatable water. A detailed report is compiled from field notes taken during the survey to be used for reference purposes when the final summary is prepared.

5. Comprehensive Ground Survey

This survey is undertaken during the last two weeks of October or approximately four weeks prior to the date set down for the Bird Committee meeting at which the recommendations are discussed.

It is usually completed in two or three stages and includes the whole of the areas covered during the 'initial survey' in addition to those wetlands of the Swan Coastal Plains and the South coast regions. The total time required can be up to eight days.

From this survey we assess the extent of breeding and the age structure of young birds to determine when the bulk of these birds will be self-sufficient and capable of flight. At the same time we examine the status of wetlands to ascertain what the catchment and detention of water has been so that a prediction can be made on the expected availability of refuge areas for waterfowl during the summer months.

6. Aerial Surveys

Flights are made during the first week of November or two weeks prior to the Bird Committee meeting.

These surveys usually comprise three flights with a possible confirmation check of any areas of particular interest or when unseasonal flooding occurs in such areas as the Murchison or Kalgoorlie districts.

The areas usually covered on each of the flights are:

- i. Northern Sector
- ii. Central/ Eastern and South East Coastal/Eucla
- iii. South/Central and South/West Coastal

7. Summary

From the reports compiled on the completion of each of the surveys a summary is prepared to be presented in support of our recommendations for the duck shooting season. The summary concludes with an evaluation of the season based principally on the assessed production and the availability of water.

8. Recommendations

Dr. Riggert has been responsible for drawing up the conditions which he considered should apply. A copy of the recommendations and the summary is presented to each of the committee men at the meeting. In preparing the recommendations the following format, parameters and formulae are used.

Parameters

Factors to be considered when setting the season for the taking of wild duck are:

- i. total wetlands and suitable breeding habitat and conditions for the season,
- ii. predicted availability of suitable refuge and loafing areas during the summer months,
- iii. extent of breeding, and the
- iv. age structure of the young.

- 8a. Area Opened - S.W. and Eucla Land Division, excepting those areas defined as closed areas within the above boundaries. Closed areas are listed in the Duck Shooters Guide. A continuous season applies throughout the remainder of the state but the same restrictions apply in respect to protected species and shooting on reserves, sanctuaries, National Parks, etc.

- 8b. Opening Date - Ideally the opening is best set when the bulk of young birds are capable of flight and ample wetland areas exist to provide maximum refuge habitat. More often than not though it is necessary to compromise between these two and arrive at a final decision after considering other influencing factors, including moon phase.

Many shooting organisations may still press for the resumption of the traditional opening which was always held on the weekend prior to Christmas Day. However, in latter years they have gradually accepted the principal of setting the season on a biological basis.

- 8c. Opening Time - We have always recommended and it is generally agreed and accepted that the opening should be at 6.00 p.m. on a Saturday evening. Points in favour of this time are that it:

- i provides hunters who may have business commitments etc. on the Saturday morning ample time to travel to their selected shooting area.
- ii exposes the birds to the minimum of pressure because of the restricted period of light available to shooters, and
- iii less vulnerable due to the cooler conditions prevailing at this time.

Wildlife officers argue for a midnight opening because of the difficulty in policing daylight openings which are frequently marred by some shooters commencing before the declared time. This action can create much ill-will amongst the hunting parties and frustration for the Wildlife Officer/s policing the lake.

Although we sympathise with the officers on this point the alternatives are less desirable. In fairness to the shooters (the majority of whom are decent and law abiding sportsmen) it would be unreasonable to defer the opening to midnight of the Saturday and thus deprive them of a full weekend outing. Conversely, to open the season at midnight of a Friday would nullify the advantages gained from a 6.00 p.m. Saturday opening.

Note: that at Lks Wannamal, Coomelberrup and Benger Swamp, night shooting between the hours of 6.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m. is prohibited to provide added protection for the Freckled duck. Therefore, the opening at these centres is at 6.00 a.m. on the Sunday.

- 8d. Duration of Season - This is determined by forecasting the anticipated status of wetlands during the summer period.
- 8e. Closing Date - Determined from preceding item. Although legislation requires that a definite closing date be declared, that closure date may be subject to review and accordingly altered for any legitimate reason.

8f. Closing Time - Usually midnight of a Sunday except for those lakes where night shooting is prohibited. The closing time for these areas is 6.00 p.m.

8g. Bag Limits - To be decided according to the production assessed from surveys. The maximum usually recommended is 10 birds per day for either a normal or exceptional season. During a poorer season the limit has been restricted to 6 birds.

Possession Limit - In most instances this is calculated at twice the daily bag limit but occasionally, e.g. when the opening coincides with a long weekend, it may be increased to three times the daily limit.

8h. Closed Areas - A list of all reserves, closed or open is contained in each issue of the Duck Shooters Guide. The decision to close additional reserves may be considered necessary if,

- i. it is an important drought refuge, particularly in a low rainfall district,
- ii the lake supports rare or endangered species,
- iii other waterbirds utilize the lake as a breeding site - e.g. Egrets, Ibis, Cormorants, etc.
- iv there is a risk of endangering the habitat through human intrusion.

8i. In concluding this section I would like to offer two suggestions:

- i. That when the public are officially advised of the declared season, mention should be made of any popular areas which are not suitable because they are either very low or completely dry. The situation has occurred in the past where hunters have travelled several hundred kilometers only to find that their favourite haunt is dry. If we are aware of such a situation I feel that it is our duty to advise them as a public service.
- ii. As the duck breeding cycle and the shooting season commence in July of any one year and continue into the next, all reference to a season should be in the form - e.g. 1977-78. As duck shooting seasons can commence in either December or January some confusion can arise. If for no other reason than to simplify our own records I feel that this inclusion is justified. Additionally, and for the same reasons, the day as well as the date should be included in each and every instance.

9. Survey Expenditure

Maximum estimates on the number of days involved, manpower requirements and costs are shown in the table hereunder. Calculations have been based on the current rates of \$120.00 per hour (air charter) \$20.70 and \$5.00 per day (travelling and camping allowances) and \$3.57 per hour for flying time.

Not included, is the time required for preparing vehicles, maintenance to equipment, compiling data, preparing charts and writing reports, etc., which requires an additional three weeks.

SURVEYS	PERSONS	DAYS	HOURS	ESTIMATED COSTS (\$)		
				TRAV. TIME & FLYING	FUEL & CHARTER	TOTAL
GROUND	2	15	120+	550	250	800
AERIAL	2	4	15	110	1800	1910
	2	19	135+	660	2050	2710

10. Miscellaneous

No other official inputs are received for information relating to wetlands or waterfowl, although individual Wildlife Officers may at times submit a report or verbally advise us of conditions in their localities.

The report submitted by the Field and Game Association in 1967/77 was presented just prior to the Bird Committee Meeting. As the report is to support their recommendations I suspect that they would be reluctant to make it available to us, nor would I be prepared to accept the validity of their submissions. This comment is not intended to be derogatory but is based purely on some inaccuracies which occurred in the last report. On the contrary, relations with the association have improved considerably over latter years and they have shown themselves to be a most cooperative and obliging organisation. To further improve the alliance between the association and our department can only assist in all aspects of wildlife and reserve management.

:

D.R. MUNRO
Technical Officer.

August 2, 1977.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 1975 WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON.

AREA OPENED: South-West and Eucla Land Divisions.

OPENING DATE: 11th January 1975. (Moon phase is last quarter).

OPENING TIME: 6.00 p.m.

DURATION OF SEASON: ~~12 weeks~~ 11 weeks 3 days

DAILY BAG LIMIT: Ten birds per licensed shooter per day
as listed below (9 species).

Whistling Tree-Duck	(<u>Dendrocygna arcuata</u>)
Plumed Tree-Duck	(<u>Dendrocygna eytoni</u>)
Black Duck	(<u>Anas superciliosa</u>)
Chestnut Teal	(<u>Anas castanea</u>)
Grey Teal	(<u>Anas gibberifrons</u>)
Blue-winged Shoveler	(<u>Anas rhynchotis</u>)
White-eyed Duck	(<u>Aythya australis</u>)
Mountain Duck	(<u>Tadorna tadornoides</u>)
Wood Duck	(<u>Chenonetta jubata</u>)

POSSESSION LIMIT: Not more than 2 days bag limit.

CLOSING DATE: 1st. April 1975

CLOSING TIME: 12.00 midnight.

All other restrictions in accordance with departmental regulations
pertaining to take of game species.

EXAMPLE.

Dr. T. L. Riggert,
SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER.

November 11, 1974.