

WESTERN ABSTRALIA.

FAUNA CONSERVATION ACT, 1950-1967

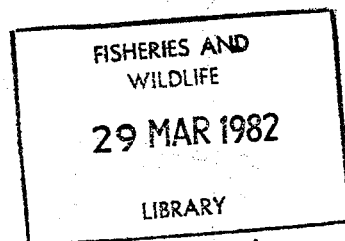
REPORT

of the

DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES AND FAUNA

and of

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
WILD LIFE AUTHORITY



FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE, 30, 1969.

(For Presentation to Both Houses of Parliament)

(COPY)

OCTOBER 20, 1969

TO THE HONOURABLE, THE MINISTER FOR FISHERIES AND FAUNA:

In accordance with the requirements of subsection (5) of Section 7 of the Fauna Conservation Act, I submit my report on the proceedings and work of the Authority during the financial year ended June 30, 1969, and comments relating to the administration of this Act.

REPORT ON THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WILD LIFE AUTHORITY1. MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

A. THE AUTHORITY

Membership

<u>Ex Officio members</u>	No. of Meetings.
Director of Fisheries and Fauna, Mr. B.K. Bowen - Chairman	5
Chief Warden of Fauna, Mr. H.S. Shugg - Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer	6
Conservator of Forests, Mr. A.C. Harris	4
Deputy - Mrs. A.J. Hilesi	1
Chief Vermin Control Officer, Mr. A.R. Tomlinson	4
Deputy - Mr. D. Gooding	2
 <u>Appointed members</u>	
Botanist - Mr. R.D. Royce	6
Zoologists - Professor A.R. Main	6
- Dr. D.L. Serventy	5
Dr. W.D.L. Ride - Director, W.A. Museum	3
Mr. N.A. Beeck - Farmer	5
Mr. H.G. Hall - Farmer	5
Mr. A.H. Robinson - Farmer	5

Meetings

Since the inaugural meeting held on July 5, 1968, the Authority held a total of six meetings (including inaugural meeting) up to June 30, 1969.

B. STANDING COMMITTEES

The Authority appointed from among its members four standing committees on which a number of co-opted members, including staff of the departments and authorities involved kindly agreed to serve. Details of membership and attendances were -

- (1) The Reserves Committee held three meetings to June 30, 1969.

<u>Membership</u>	<u>No. of meetings attended</u>
Mr. B.K. Bowen - Chairman	2
Mr. H.B. Shugg - Deputy Chairman	3
Mr. A.C. Harris	-
Mr. B.J. Beggs (Deputy for Mr. A.C. Harris)	1
Mr. R.D. Royce - Authority member	3
Professor A.R. Main - Authority member	3
Mr. N.A. Beeck - Authority member	2
Mr. A.H. Robinson - Authority member	3
Mr. J. Bannister - Curator of Mammals, W.A. Museum	2
Dr. A.A. Burbidge - Senior Research Officer, Reserve Management	3
Mr. T.L. Riggert - Senior Research Officer, Waterfowl	1
Mr. R.I.T. Prince - Research Officer, Kangaroo Management	1

- (2) Game Management Committee - this committee held one meeting to June 30, 1969

<u>Membership.</u>	<u>No. of meetings attended</u>
Mr. B.K. Bowen - Authority member	1
Mr. H.B. Shugg - " "	1
Professor A.R. Main " "	1
Mr. H.G. Hall " "	1
Mr. A.H. Robinson " "	1
D Dr. D.L. Serventy " "	1
Mr. N.A. Beeck " "	1
Mr. T.L. Riggert - Senior Research Officer, Waterfowl	1
Mr. T. Spence - Director, South Perth Zoo	-

- (3) Protection and Regulation Committee - this committee held no meeting to June 30, 1969.

Membership

Mr. A. R. Tomlinson - Chairman
Mr. H.B. Shugg
Dr. D.L. Serventy
Mr. A.H. Robinson
Mr. N.A. Beeck

- (4) General Purposes Committee - this committee held no meeting to June 30, 1969.

Membership

Mr. R.D. Royce - Chairman
Mr. H.B. Shugg
Mr. W.R. Wallace
Mr. H.G. Hall
Mr. A.R. Tomlinson

(5) Secretariat

Mr. K.J. Ammerer, of the Department of Fisheries and Fauna, was Appointed Secretary to the Authority and to the various Standing Committees.

(6) Visits.

On November 6, 1968, six members of the Authority visited Lake Dumbleyung for an inspection of the area and for discussions with representatives of interested local bodies concerning the control and management of the lake area.

2. RESERVES

A. NUMBER OF SANCTUARIES

On June 30, 1968, there was a total of 239 reserves which were sanctuaries within the meaning of the Fauna Conservation Act, 1950-67, 100 of these reserves were vested in the Authority

By June 30, 1969, a further 31 sanctuaries were created and 16 of these were vested in the Authority.

This brought the total number of sanctuaries to 270, 116 of which were vested in the Authority.

B. CLASSIFICATIONS OF SANCTUARIES

The Authority recommended, and the Minister subsequently approved the four following classifications :

- (1) Barlee Range Reserve No. 26808 - "prohibited area"
- (2) Lake Magenta Mallee Reserve No. 25113 - All existing roads- "unlimited access area"; remainder - "prohibited area".
- (3) Lake Barker Reserve No. 24049 - Holland Track and Lake Johnson Road "unlimited access areas"; remainder - "prohibited area".
(Note: Classification of this area not finalised as the approval of the appropriate Minister in accordance with Section 12B was withheld pending determination of the vesting control of this reserve pursuant to the Land Act.)
- (4) Prince Regent Reserve No. 27164 - "prohibited area".

C. SANCTUARIES RELINQUISHED

- (1) Reserve No. 28462 (Gingin area) - the Authority recommended that this reserve be vested in the National Parks Board of W.A.
- (2) Reserve No. 24438 (Dales Gorge) - the Authority agreed in principle that this reserve be vested in the National Parks Board of W.A.

D. LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The Authority recommended that as a matter of policy sanctuaries should not be vested in local authorities.

3. DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN NATIONAL PARKS AND FAUNA RESERVES

The Authority considered it important to devise a formula to distinguish between National Parks and fauna reserves.

It was decided that:

- (a) If an area was important primarily for its fauna then it should come under control of the Authority.
- (b) if an area had transcending scenic values as well as conservational ones or was to be open to the public on a large scale, requiring a lot of money to be spent on it then it should be a National Park;
- (c) areas of conservational and aesthetic interest that were open to the public but which would have little or no money spent on public facilities should be flora and fauna reserves and controlled by the Authority.

4. MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

The Authority prepared management programmes for the following three sanctuary area:

- (a) Ellen Brook Reserve - No. 27620
- (b) Twin Swamps Reserve - No. 27621
- (c) Bernier and Dorre Islands Class A Reserve 24869.

5. MINING ON SANCTUARIES

The Authority expressed the policy that it should oppose all activities on sanctuaries likely to alter the natural habitat of any reserves. In particular, the Authority was concerned with operations under the Mining Act and the Petroleum Act because of the environmental changes likely to result from operations under these Acts.

The Authority recommended, in view of the number of applications made for mineral leases on sanctuaries, that:

- (a) the question of mining leases on conservation reserves be referred to the State Reserves Advisory Council for the formulation of a general policy;
- (b) to oppose all prospecting or mining on sanctuaries classified as prohibited areas or limited access areas pursuant to Section 12A; these would include sanctuaries set aside to preserve environments in a primitive state - such as the Lake Magenta Mallee reserve, and others which were limited in area or which contained relic populations of rare or threatened species - such as various off-shore islands, the Short-necked Tortoise and Noisy Scrub-bird reserves and the Rock Wallaby reserves in the wheatbelt;
- (c) not to oppose prospecting on reserves of other categories and to negotiate necessary conditions before agreeing to mining operations,

- (d) until alternative safeguards were available, to continue to object to mining claims on fauna sanctuaries in the Wardens Court.

6. DUCK SHOOTING SEASON - 1969.

The Authority agreed to the principle of a biological opening for the duck shooting season, and recommended that the 1969 season in the South West and Eucla Land Divisions should open in January. It was also agreed that until further information was available, that there be no alteration to the open season proclaimed for the Kimberley, North West and Eastern Land Divisions, except to exclude fauna sanctuaries or other important refuge areas known to the Department. It was also recommended that the Burdekin Duck be not included among the species that may be shot in season,

7. EMU SITUATION

The Authority recommended, as a result of a survey of the emu situation, that the open season for emus in the Shire of Bridgetown be terminated

8. KANGAROO SITUATION

After reviewing the overall kangaroo situation, the Authority made the following recommendation in respect to:

(1) Grey Kangaroo

- (a) That the Agriculture Protection Board review its declaration of this species as vermin;
- (b) that subject to agreement with the Agriculture Protection Board, grey kangaroos be formally protected throughout their range, except in areas, if any, where they are then still vermin;
- (c) that open seasons be declared in any areas where the Grey Kangaroo is considered to be a widespread nuisance (as, for example, in the shires of Albany, Plantagenet, Granbock, Augusta-Margaret River and that part of Denmark north of the South-Coast Highway);
- (d) that a permit (to be issued without fee) be introduced to allow authorised property owners to destroy Grey Kangaroos causing damage to properties not included in the open season areas.

(2) Red Kangaroos and Euro

- (a) To be not protected where declared vermin;
- (b) Open seasons to be subject to conditions to control exploitation in shires where they occur in excess numbers;
- (c) to be protected elsewhere and permits to destroy to be issued without fee as necessary to control their numbers.

(3) Kangaroos in General

- (a) That the Department institute licensing of all processors, chillers and professional shooters and institute a system of royalties in order to control the cropping of kangaroos and to manage it as an industry.
- (b) That the following scale of license charges be prescribed -
- i. Processors - Licensing of premises - \$100 a year
 - ii. Chillers - Registration - no fee.
 - iii. Professional shooters - Licensing - \$10 a year
 - iv. Royalty Tags - 20 cents each - any carcass or skin in any chiller etc. (other than in a stage of actual processing) not accompanied by a sealed tag to be confiscated and sold on behalf of the Department.

9. STAFF

A. FAUNA RESEARCH

Two graduate officers joined the staff of this section during the year.. They were A.A. Burbidge, B.Sc., (Hon) Ph.D., and R.I.T. Prince. (and) Fauna Warden (Pingelly) to Technical Officer Gd. 2 to assist Dr. Burbidge in the reserve management unit.

B. FAUNA WARDENS.

One additional warden was appointed in Mr. L. Moss, to take charge of Fauna Patrol District No. 4, with headquarters at Carnarvon. One warden, Mr. T. Nelson, of Wyndham, resigned.

The following officers are now stationed in the districts indicated :-

District No. 1. - Wyndham - Warden G.J. Hanley
District No. 2. - Wittenoon - Warden R.F. Dear
District No. 3. - unfilled
District No. 4. - Carnarvon - Warden L. Moss
District No. 5. - unfilled
District No. 6.) - Wongan Hills - Warden L. Silvester
District No. 7.)
District No. 8.) - Pingelly - Warden K.D. Morrison
District No. 9.)
District No. 10 - unfilled
District No. 11)
District No. 12) - Albany - Warden A.T. Pearce.
District No. 13 - Perth - Warden A.R. Marshall
Senior Warden S.W. Bowler - Perth
Temporary Cadet Warden R. Gardiner - Perth.
Cade Warden D. Mell - Perth.

C. HEAD OFFICE

The Chief Warden of Fauna, Mr. H.B. Shugg, is assisted by Mr. D. Arnold who joined the staff during the year, transferring from the Forest Department. He is assisted by Mr. K.J. Ammerer, secretary to the Authority, while the Fauna Branch is serviced by the normal departmental clerical and administrative back-up.

10. FINANCE.

As in previous years, costs of administration of this Act were met from normal departmental funds and were not specifically segregated.

Copies of a report and a statement on the Fauna Conservation Trust Fund, signed and certified by the Auditor General, is attached as Appendices 1 and 2 respectively.

11. ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation continues to be inadequate and generally unsuitable. This situation has arisen due to the rapid expansion of the Department and the specialised needs of the research staff in particular. Head Office is located at 108 Adelaide Terrace, the Fauna Wardens at "Koonwarra House", 233 Adelaide Terrace, the Waterfowl Research Unit is based at Fisheries District Office, Ellam St, Victoria Park, and the Reserves Management and Kangaroo Research Units are in temporary premises at 266 Hay Street, East Perth.

Funds have been requested to allow the preparation of plans for a Fauna Research Station to accommodate all the units together. With the probability of additional space becoming available at Head Office, it is anticipated that the Fauna Wardens will be located here in the not too distant future.

12. REGULATIONS

The drafting of a new set of regulations to replace those already prescribed has proceeded as best as could be managed. Due to various factors including delays in the determination of policy, shortage of experienced staff, and the necessary allocation of time to activities that had to receive higher priority, progress has been disappointing. However it is anticipated that the revised regulations will be submitted to you before the end of this year. Administration and enforcement work has been made much more difficult without adequate and up to date regulations and the highest priority will be allocated for their early completion.

13. ENFORCEMENT.

Despite their training and dedication to their duties, wardens find it difficult to detect offences against the Act due principally to the size of their districts. Once detected it is not a simple matter to adduce sufficient evidence to sustain a prosecution. However, in addition to the convictions listed below, wardens have intercepted many other probable offenders and issued warnings and explained the requirements of the Act and regulations.

In this work, departmental officers have received great assistance from honorary wardens who are able to exert considerable local pressure

on friends and neighbours to respect the protection afforded most of our wildlife and who perform a most worthwhile task in educating and informing the public on the need for protection and conservation. Many of the convictions were the result of information and co-operation from wardens and the public at large. The details of convictions recorded were as follows :

Section of Act	Number Convicted.	Result		Amount
		Cautioned	Fined	
16	22	1	21	\$ 580.00
17(2)(e)	11	3	8	170.00
26	2	-	2	45.00
Totals	35	4	31	\$795.00

14. RESEARCH

A. RESERVE MANAGEMENT.

Work at the Tuttanning Fauna Reserve aimed at improving our understanding of the needs of reserve management and the better conservation of the flora and fauna is being continued. Various graduate and post-graduate students and visiting scholars, together with personnel of the Department and the Western Australian Museum, the Department of Agriculture and the Division of Wildlife Research, C.S.I.R.O., continue co-operative research at the biological research station which was built there for the Department some years ago.

B. WATERFOWL BANDING

The waterfowl banding team has, during the past year, been conducting research at Moora and on the metropolitan lakes and swamps. The aim of this research is to learn about waterfowl migration, behaviour, mortalities, life span, reproduction and feeding habits. The basic technique used for this work is duck banding.

Duck banding is an established practice of marking waterfowl by placing small metal bands around the leg, which enables the research worker to keep records on individual animals throughout their natural life. During the past year approximately 2,500 ducks were trapped, banded and then released again to resume natural life. The bands do not cause any difficulty to the birds. In Western Australia it was found that titanium bands were needed instead of the usual mono-metal type which are rapidly destroyed by salt water.

The main species banded during the trappings were Black Duck, Grey Teal, Wood Duck, Mountain Duck and Blue Winged Shovelers. The species would also compose the bulk of species taken in shooters bags. When ducks are shot during the annual open season the bands are returned to the Department with information about the location of the bird when shot. By continually collecting information received from the duck banding team working in the field and information received from shooters, migration and distribution patterns for ducks in Western

Australia can be assessed.

Not only have waterfowl been recovered after long migration within Western Australia, but during the 1968-69 shooting season in Victoria two birds from Western Australia were taken there.

In general the duck banding programme furnishes the Department of Fisheries and Fauna with basic information on the waterfowl found in this State. This information is needed before any management programmes can be established to conserve waterfowl in this State. The data is now being prepared for a computer programme which will aid in a further assessment of the data so that preliminary steps of waterfowl management may commence in the forthcoming years.

Once a basis for waterfowl management can be established on the duck banding programme a more specific programme can be established for individual species which are threatened with extinction, i.e. Freckled Duck or those ducks which could become an economic problem to the Agricultural community i.e. Wood Duck and Black Swan.

Species of ducks and waterfowl banded in summer 1967-68 from 15.11.67 - 8.1.68 inclusive at Banding Station, Moora. All species listed below were taken with standard wire traps.

Black Duck	<u>Anas superciliosus</u>	464
Grey Teal	<u>Anas gibberifrons</u>	466
Mountain Duck	<u>Tadorna tadornoides</u>	38
Wood Duck	<u>Chenonetta jubata</u>	34
Common Coot	<u>Fulica atra</u>	26
Pink-eared Duck	<u>Malacorhynchus membranaceus</u>	5
Blue-winged Shoveller	<u>Anas rynchotis</u>	2
Hybrid (Black Duck-Teal cross)		1
	Total ..	1,036

Species of ducks and waterfowl banded in summer 1968-69 from 30.11.68 - 3.4.69 inclusive at Banding Stations. Moora and Metropolitan area. Species listed below were taken with standard wire traps and two (2) sizes of Cannon nets - 4.10 gauge and 12 gauge.

Black Duck	<u>Anas superciliosus</u>	1,704
Grey Teal	<u>Anas gibberifrons</u>	90
Wood Duck	<u>Chenonetta jubata</u>	37
White-eyed Duck	<u>Athya australis</u>	5
Blue-winged Shoveller	<u>Anus rynchotis</u>	1
Pink-eared-Duck	<u>Malacorhynchus membranaceus</u>	1
Native Hen	<u>Tribonyx ventralis</u>	2
White-faced Heron	<u>Notophox novae-hollandiae</u>	1
	Total ..	1,841

Recoveries in species from 15.11.67 to 20.5.69. Birds were either shot or found dead:

		<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Black Duck	<u>Anas superciliosa</u>	278	12.8
Grey Teal	<u>Anas gibberifrons</u>	67	12.0
Wood Duck	<u>Chenonetta jubata</u>	10	14.0
Mountain Duck	<u>Tadorna tadernoides</u>	6	15.7
	Total ...	<u>361</u>	

DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES AND FAUNA.

APPENDIX 1.

Ref. Audit 846/66

Audit Department,
2nd Floor Treasury Buildings,
54 Barrack Street,
PERTH 6000.

11th August, 1969.

(COPY)

THE HON. MINISTER FOR FISHERIES
AND FAUNA.

FAUNA CONSERVATION TRUST FUND

Audit of Accounts for the year
ended 30th June, 1969.

The accounts of the Fauna Conservation Trust Fund have been audited for the year ended 30th June, 1969, in accordance with Section 17F(3) of the Fauna Conservation Act.

The statement of Receipts and Payments for the period, submitted for audit, has been checked and is correct.

The opening balance represents moneys previously held in a Private Trust account at the Treasury, established for the purpose of recording donations for research into, and preservation of, the short-necked tortoise.

Regulations have not been gazetted in respect of the issue of licenses under Section 17B of the Act and no licenses were issued prior to 30th June, 1969.

(sgnd) W. Adams.
AUDITOR GENERAL.

encls.

APPENDIX 2

FAUNA CONSERVATION TRUST.

STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 1.7.68 to 30.6.69.

<u>RECEIPTS.</u>		<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
Balance on hand 30.6.68	\$32.40	Adjustment of amount credited in error June, 1968	\$ 2.00
Donation	1.00	28.11.68 Share of Portable Combination Anemometer ATA KIEKI W/- Tripod	20.00
		30.6.69 Balance as per ledger	11.40
	<u>\$33.40</u>		<u>\$33.40.</u>

(Signed J. Waldron
A. ACCOUNTANT.)

(signed) B.K. Bowen.
DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES AND FAUNA.

I certify that this Statement is correct.

(signed) W. Adams
AUDITOR GENERAL