

FAUNA PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Fauna Protection Act, 1950, Messrs. H. M. Whittell, O.B.E., L. Glauert, B.A., F.G.S., and D. L. Serventy, B.Sc., Ph.D., have been appointed members of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee for a period of three years from July 1, 1952. The Conservator of Forests, Mr. T. N. Stoate, and the Chief Vermin Control Officer, Mr. A. R. Tomlinson, with the Chief Warden of Fauna, Mr. A. J. Fraser, as chairman, are ex officio members of the Committee.

WILD-DUCK BANDING PROGRAMME

The Department is this year embarking upon an interesting new investigation programme on the native ducks, of which several species occur in Western Australia and are of considerable interest to the general public and naturalists. Very little real information is known about their habits locally, but impressed by the far-reaching results obtained in Great Britain and the United States, this State now follows New Zealand and Victoria in adopting the technique.

The rings being used are of aluminium and each bears a serial number and an inscription requesting the finder to return the ring to the Fisheries Department, Perth. The Department will operate regularly a duck-ringing trap at Queens Gardens, Perth, in association with the Perth City Council. The co-operation of the State Gardens Board has been obtained in working traps in other parts of the metropolitan area. Soon it is hoped to establish trapping stations in various other centres of the South West in association with competent ornithologists.

From the information obtained from the ringing programme, the Department hopes to trace the dispersal and general movements of the various species of ducks. Other factors of biological value for the conservation programme, such as the average life span, homing tendencies and the like, will be revealed.

Each district Inspector is requested to furnish a monthly report on the wild ducks in his district.