

OBSERVATIONS ON BIRDS

Dr. D. L. Serventy, of the Wildlife Survey
Section, C.S.I.R.O., has written asking for information

concerning any unusual occurrence of any species of bird. He says this is proving a most unusual year, and a number of northern birds have been reported in districts much farther south than they have ever been seen in previous years. For example, Inspector Bowler has reported that on a visit to Perth by road towards the end of August he was surprised at the large numbers of straw-necked ibis he observed between Geraldton and Moora, one flock of at least 150 birds being seen flying about 4 miles south of the latter place. Other northern birds which have been reported in the south are the brolga, as far south as Geraldton, and the magpie goose, at Mullewa.

Reports have also been received in regard to the occurrence of the black-tailed native hen, the fork-tailed, the letter-winged and the black-shouldered kites, the spotted harrier and the Pacific heron. Dr. Serventy has in course of preparation an article dealing with the invasion and he will be glad to have any field information from departmental officers. Any observations which the staff may care to report to the Department will be passed on forthwith to Dr. Serventy, who asks that the particulars given should include the species, locality, date and general abundance of the species.

PEMBERTON HATCHERIES - 1952 HATCHING SEASON

Inspector J. S. Simpson has submitted a most informative report concerning hatching operations at Pemberton this year. His remarks are summarised below -

After years of varying success, the Pemberton-Warren Trout Acclimatisation Society must feel proud and happy at the culmination of their efforts to maintain a stock of rainbow breeders from which sufficient ova can be secured to meet all restocking requirements throughout the State. Some years ago the Society set a target of a million ova annually, and in 1940 the new hatchery, designed to incubate 500,000 eggs, was completed. This year, without any additions to the original structure, a total of 1,054,670 ova were laid down, which meant that the cement troughs intended to hatch 25,000 ova each had to carry 50,000 and more.

This overcrowding naturally involved a very great deal of extra work, as the eggs were two or three deep, thus rendering the removal of the dead eggs doubly tedious. It was really a worrying business