

FAUNA PROTECTION IN SOUTH-WEST

On May 27, the Chairman (Mr. Fraser), Dr. D. L. Serventy and Mr. G. E. Brockway - members of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee - accompanied by the Acting Secretary (Mr. H. B. Shugg) and the Fauna Warden (Mr. J. Traynor), left Perth by road to investigate certain aspects of fauna conservation in the South-West. Unfortunately Mr. L. Glauert and Mr. A. R. Tomlinson, the other members of the Committee, were unable to accompany the party through pressure of other business. Inspector A. V. Green joined the party at Bunbury and was present at the Busselton and Donnybrook meetings and Major H. M. Whittell also attended the Busselton meeting.

An inspection of a proposed sanctuary 12 miles west of Waroona was made. The area concerned consisted of a swamp on the property of Mr. H. Doman, but as clearing was being undertaken around the swamp and it was reported that the owner intended to drain out most of the water it was decided to take no action until these activities had been discussed with Mr. Doman, who is at present overseas.

In the evening the party attended a public meeting in the Weld Hall, Busselton. The meeting had been called to discuss a petition signed by over 160 local residents who had signified their desire that the Vasse and Wonnerup estuaries be opened to duck shooting. Representatives of the signatories and of local residents opposed to the petition debated the pros and cons of the subject. At the conclusion of the debate Mr. Fraser and Major Whittell replied to queries and addressed those present on the purposes and activities of the Committee, and gave an assurance that all views expressed would be considered before making any decision. A request was also presented that a section of the Capel River be closed to duck shooting.

Next morning an inspection of the estuaries in dispute was carried out by the Committee and the

party proceeded to Donnybrook. A meeting was held with members of the Preston Road Board and the Board's recommendation that the Preston River be closed to the shooting of all wild game was discussed. The opportunity was also taken to examine the kangaroo problem and it was decided to include the Preston District in the area of the open season.

The party returned to Perth on May 29 after calling on Mr. Angus Robinson of Coolup on the way.

MODERN EQUIPMENT FOR "LANCELIN"

In order to facilitate "Lancelin's" programme of investigation, a hydraulic winch has been purchased by the Department from the Raymond Hydraulic Transmission Co., of Melbourne, at a cost of approximately £720 ex works. The pump is driven at a constant speed of 720 r.p.m. from the vessel's main motor, controls being located in the wheelhouse, and the winch has a lifting power of 3,100 lb. Two winding drums and two gypsies have been provided with separate clutch and brake for each. The winch will be used for weighing anchor and for warping in trawls, pulling craypots, etc., and will very greatly increase "Lancelin's" efficiency.

An A.W.A. Marconi echosounder, purchased by C.S.I.R.O. at a cost exceeding £500, is also being installed. The sounder, which sends out impulses and records depths, has been made available to the Department on loan. By pre-determining the nature of the sea bottoms by using the sounder, the saving in nets should be considerable and the investigational programme greatly facilitated. The Department is most grateful to C.S.I.R.O. for its kindly gesture.

As soon as the new equipment has been fitted and fully tested, "Lancelin" will sail for Shark Bay and Exmouth Gulf to continue the prawn-trawling survey.