

FAUNA PROTECTION ACT, 1950

Australia's birds and animals are unique and of considerable economic and scientific importance. A great deal of harm, as is apparent in the grasshopper menace, has already been done by indiscriminate destruction, and many species of fauna are nearing extinction—and extinction means that they will be lost to the world forever. In the hope that this trend may be halted, steps have been taken under the Fauna Protection Act to provide protection to those birds and animals which are of economic, scientific or aesthetic value.

In addition, in regard to fauna which to some extent are inimical to agricultural development, an endeavour has been made to maintain a reasonable balance between the needs of agriculture and the needs of conservation by the proclamation of open and close seasons. Such seasons operate also for a few traditionally sporting birds, but it must be emphasised that the penalties for taking in a close season are just as severe as for taking fully protected species.

Under the Act all birds, animals and reptiles are protected in all parts of the State with the exception of those which are specifically declared to be not protected.

ANIMALS

Practically all native animals are protected. The following, all of which are recognised as being harmful in some way or other are **not protected**:—

Spotted Native Cat (Chuditch)	Black Rat (Tree or Ship Rat)
Wambenger	Brown Rat
Red Kangaroo (Marloo)	Mouse
Hill Kangaroo (Euro or Biggada)	Domestic Cat (gone wild)
except form occurring on Barrow	Wild Dog (Dingo)
Island	Fox
Jungle Kangaroo (Sand Wallaby)	Gould Flying Fox
Rabbit	Pigmy Fruit Bat

BIRDS

Quite a few kinds of birds are unprotected. Mainly they are the species which do damage to cereal crops or fruit. The following are **not protected**:—

Indian Turtledove	Smoker
Senegal Turtledove	King Parrot
Black Cormorant	Port Lincoln Parrot (Twenty-eight)
Goshawk	Budgerygah
Collared Sparrowhawk	Silvereye
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Raven
Little Falcon	Little Crow
White-tailed Black Cockatoo	Crow
Little Corella	Domestic Pigeon (gone wild)
Galah	Goldfinch

REPTILES

Only a few species of reptile are protected. They are either useful (for example, as "mousers" in farmers' barns) or quite harmless. The following list contains the names of the **protected** reptiles:—

Rock Python	Ramsay Python (Womo)
Brown Rock Python	Goannas
Children Python	Bob-tailed Lizard
Carpet Snake	Friiled Lizard
Black-headed Python	Slender Snake Lizard

Further particulars in regard to open seasons and other matters may be obtained from the Fisheries Department, 108 Adelaide Terrace, Perth.

A. J. FRASER,
Chief Warden of Fauna.