

Assistant Inspector N. E. McLaughlan and Cadet Inspector M. J. Simpson are at present on p.v. "Kooruldhoo" at Lancelin Island.

Assistant Inspector V. J. Sinclair and Cadet Inspector B. Carmichael are now stationed at Lancelin Island.

Mr. George Coombes rejoined the staff as a temporary Assistant Inspector and is at Geraldton assisting Inspector S. W. Bowler.

The Relieving Inspector (Mr. A. K. Melsom) has proceeded to Broome to act as Pearling Inspector during Mr. M. Goodlad's period of biennial leave.

#### DUCK BANDING

On January 6 Fauna Warden J. Traynor proceeded to Karrinyup Lake and commenced trapping at that locality. He estimated that there were about 1,000 birds on the Lake, comprising mainly black duck and coot with small numbers of grey teal and musk duck and a few white-eyed duck, blue-winged shovellers and others.

The results were not entirely satisfactory, due partly to the number of coot which ate the bait and appeared to keep ducks from entering the traps readily, and also to the receding water level which necessitated the traps being moved at least every day. Up to January 25, 207 black duck, one grey teal and 2 coot were banded. Traps were then lifted and brought to Queen's Gardens for another trial there. However, our large trap (7' x 6' x 3'6") disappeared completely during the night of the 27th. The C.I.B. were called in immediately but at the time of going to press the trap has not been recovered. Mr. Traynor has left for the Three Springs area following confirmed reports of good banding prospects there.

The presence of swamps in different centres, where, at this time of the year, such waters are usually dried up, is keeping the ducks scattered and making it difficult to band ducks in the hoped-for numbers. It is anticipated that, as the season

progresses and the small swamps dry up and the availability of natural feed decreases, the ducks will come into the larger lakes and be trapped more readily.

Since the previous figures were published, the following recoveries of bands have been reported -

No.	Date Ringed	Place where Ringed	Date Recovered	Place where Recovered	Distance Travelled
<u>Black Duck</u>					
2107	8.1.54	Karrinyup Lake	20.1.54	Bindoon (Brockman R)	40 miles
2208	19.1.54	do.	20.1.54	do.	do
2211	do.	do.	20.1.54	do.	do.
2135	24.1.54	do.	24.1.54	Moondine	30 miles
2128	9.1.54	do.	24.1.54	Bailup Farm on the Avon	32 miles
2264	22.1.54	do.	24.1.54	do.	do.