

Black Duck: These are said to be plentiful in the Murchison area and better seasons have been reported from Busselton, Katanning, Murray and Albany districts. Within each district, however, reports do differ and generally there appears to be a scattering of these birds. At Lake Gundaring on the opening day of the duck shooting season, black ducks comprised only about 1% of the total ducks taken.

Grey Teal: These were reported as plentiful during the breeding season in outlying areas such as Yilgarn and Dalwallinu, but as the water there dries up they are of course moving to their usual habitat. They are reported to be plentiful at present in the Murchison, Three Springs and Busselton districts and commencing to arrive in the Murray district in increasing numbers. Many reports speak of a decline in numbers generally for which the advent and increase of the fox receives the main blame.

Quail: These are said to be abundant at Esperance and Narrogin. They were present during the harvest time in Dalwallinu and Yilgarn districts and have been reported in fair numbers from quite a few areas.

Brush Wallabies: There has been some increase reported from forest reserves, etc., and there is an indication that protection is arresting their decline.

A number of reports from the Katanning area mention tamar and a colony of quokka was reported from the Drakesbrook district. In one reserve in the Mount Marshall area some dunnarts, spiny ant-eaters, numbats, possums, native cats and gnows are said to be present.

THE RELUCTANT SEAL

by G. C. Jeffery

The gay holiday spirit of the Esperance Anglers was changed to one of deep concern shortly after the New Year.

A small seal took up residence in the Esperance Bay and quite a few kindly souls took it upon themselves to feed it unwanted fish. This agreed with the seal immensely, but, being of a

ravenous nature, he soon discovered that his diet could be increased with fresher and more succulent varieties by taking them from the anglers' lines.

The poor seal was then not appreciated and a deep plot was hatched by several of the keen anglers. After enticing the seal on to the foreshore they literally bagged **it** and in the wheat bag it remained until transported to the Eleven-Mile Beach by car. Feeling that a good job had been done the keen anglers returned to their jetty angling after releasing the seal.

There were some very red faces around the dinner table that night as it appears that the seal, disliking the environs of the Eleven-Mile Beach, put his best fins forward and was duly waiting with a kind smile on his face to welcome the keen anglers on their arrival at the jetty. The seal was still there at the time of my departure.