

Mr. B.H. Boyd will commence duty as Assistant Inspector at Head Office on October 4.

Inspector J.C. Thair will proceed to Shark Bay on October 21 to take over the district. Inspector R.J. Baird will return to Perth and, after annual leave, assume control of the p.v. "Garbo".

PERSONAL PARS

During the month Dr. G.M. Dunnett, Research Officer of the Wildlife Survey Section of the C.S.I.R.O., called on the Superintendent and discussed aspects of his proposed work at Rottnest Island. Dr. Dunnett will for the time being be engaged on a population study of quokkas.

INCREASED ALLOWANCE

Administrative Instruction No. 93 received from the Public Service Commissioner sets out the rates of allowances to apply as from September 1, 1954.

Travelling and related allowances have been increased by 3/-d per day from 28/-d. to 31/-d.

The allowance for meals when overnight travel is not necessary has been increased from 6/-d to 7/6d.

The subsistence allowance for seagoing inspectors has not been altered as this allowance is not included in the general agreement between the Commissioner and the Civil Service Association. It is understood that a separate submission is being considered by the Commissioner.

DUCK BANDING

Technical Officer J. Traynor last month spent 12 days in districts as far north as Eradu, but

was unable to locate a suitable banding station. Twenty-five ducks were trapped and banded at Glengarry on the Greenough River and one bird which had previously been banded at Moora entered the trap. Enquiries and observations made in the Three Springs and Winchester areas led to the opinion that the poor winter had resulted in the early drying out of the smaller lakes and swamps. Mr. Traynor found that there were any number of birds on Yarra Yarra Lake, but owing to its extent trapping was impossible there.

Other inquiries indicated that ducks are still well scattered in the south and are not in any numbers at the Cape Riche, Wardering or Karrinyup banding stations. An encouraging report mentioned large numbers of duck at Lake Jasper south of Nannup, and observations by the Fauna Warden (Mr. F.A.L. Connell) during his wheatbelt inspections confirmed reports that Lake Mears (about 17 miles south of Quairading) should be successful as a banding station.