

This survey completes the winter period of work in the north-west area. It is hoped during 1955-1956 to cover the summer period.

The following is a list of the fish taken by trolling -

Mackerel Tuna	- <u>Euthynnus alletteratus</u>
Northern Bluefin Tuna	- <u>Kishinoella tonggol</u>
Striped Tuna	- <u>Katsuwonus pelamis</u>
Leaping Bonito	- <u>Cybiosaida elegans</u>
Large Scale Tunny	- <u>Grammatorycnus bicarinatus</u>
Sampson Fish	- <u>Seriola hippos</u>
Kingfish (sea)	- <u>Sciaena antarctica antarctica</u>
Slimy Cod	- <u>Epinephelus taurina</u>
Spanish Mackerel (narrow-barred)	- <u>Cybiu commerson</u>
Japanese Spotted Mackerel	- <u>Cybiu queenslandicum</u>
Grey Mackerel	- <u>Indocybiu semifasciatum</u>
Wahoo	- <u>Aconthocybiu solandri</u>
Whitefish	- <u>Scomberoides sanctipetri</u>
Diamond Trevally	- <u>Alectus indica</u>
Turru	- <u>Turru emburyi</u>
Sea Pike	- <u>Sphyraena akerstromi</u>
Coral Cod	- <u>Epinephelus undulatostratus</u>

MAGPIES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

October of every year brings to light the fiercely protective instinct of our magpies. Usually the firm favourites of all sections of the community, in this month many of these birds become hated and as feared as any of Hitler's Stukas. They have a propensity for picking just the instant when one is off guard for swooping in on their "run".

This year they seem to have been more purposeful in their attacks, and we have received a greater number of complaints than ever before. Probably the publicity given to the subject by the press following an eye injury being inflicted on one unfortunate lad was the cause of the unprecedented number of calls for our assistance.

Over the years the Department has assumed responsibility for attending to reports of vicious birds received in the metropolitan area. While magpies are protected it is considered only reasonable that the welfare of the public should be our first concern, and each report is thoroughly investigated before any attempt is made to dispose of a bird. If it can be shown that a particular bird is dangerous and has actually caused an injury, or is like to do so, it is destroyed. Many of the complaints received on investigation were found to be unwarranted and no action was taken as a result.

There is no doubt that a large percentage of the attacking birds had become vicious because of the attentions they received from boys armed with shanghais and air rifles, and also from those misguided lads who attempt to rob nests. Unfortunately the magpies do not restrict their attacks to such guilty parties. Little children particularly were attacked, and many parents spoke with understandable alarm of the hysterical fear, shock and nightmares suffered by 2 and 3 year olds as a result. No reasonable person could uphold protection of a bird in such circumstances, no matter what had caused the bird's ill-humour.

This should bring home to those not previously concerned the need to respect the protection afforded our wildlife, or the consequences which have to be borne. This lesson will be stressed in protection publicity disseminated by this Department to school papers and other media. Parents should also be convinced that it's part of their responsibility to teach their children to refrain from robbing nests and otherwise pestering bird life.