

Survey Section of C.S.I.R.O. and the Zoology Department of the University have also used the centre as headquarters for ecological studies on the Rottneest quokka. (Incidentally the recent disastrous fire did not harm the buildings but it has caused a break in the quokka research. The work done to date will have to be written up and then a fresh start made).

The station has also been used for instructing zoology students in such field work as trapping, marking and releasing animals and in statistical methods of sampling from small numbers.

On the resignation early this year of the Minister (Mr. Kelly) as a member of the committee (representing the Rottneest Island Board of Control) the Board has appointed Mr. T. Sten, Superintendent of Teacher Training, Department of Education, and Principal of the Teachers College, Claremont, as a member. In addition to Mr. Sten the members are -

Mr. A.J. Fraser (Chairman), Dr. K. Sheard (C.S.I.R.O.) and Professor H. Waring (University of W.A.). Mr. B.K. Bowen, of the Fisheries Department, is the Secretary.

VACANCY FOR TAXIDERMIST

The Acting Director of the Perth Museum, Mr. A.M. Douglas, has advised that a vacancy exists on the staff for a cadet taxidermist. A salary will be paid according to the age, ability and qualifications of the successful applicant and general Public Service conditions of employment will apply. The successful applicant will receive proper training and there will be opportunities for advancement. Any person interested should apply in writing direct to the Acting Director of the Museum, Beaufort Street, Perth.

DUCK BANDING

As reported in the last issue of this Bulletin, advice had been received that a number of ducks were being held by a co-operator at Cape Riche.

Technical Officer J. Traynor left Perth on February 1, arriving at Cape Riche in the evening of February 2, and trapping operations were commenced the next day. The co-operator, Mr. D. Moir, had 85 ducks (mainly black duck and grey teal) already penned and these birds and a further 118 were banded before the rains set in and the birds dispersed. The birds banded at this station brings the total of all species banded to 2389 plus a further 36 birds - mainly coot - which have been marked with returned duck bands.

After leaving Cape Riche on February 14, Mr. Traynor paid a visit to the Pallinup Estuary which he found to be deserted and with no signs of fish movement. A few ducks and an estimated two to three thousand black swans were on the water. This was the largest number of swans Mr. Traynor had ever seen congregated in any one place. As may be surmised, the heavy and widespread rains have caused an immediate dispersal of the ducks throughout the southern half of the State. Compared with a few weeks ago, the metropolitan swamps and lakes are practically deserted, and the same is reported to apply throughout many of the country districts. Reports have come to hand, however, of aggregations of ducks in the Beverley - Brookton areas, and Mr. Traynor will make an inspection there early this month.

Recoveries.

Until the rains came, and the birds scattered, bands were coming in steadily. Some further long flights were recorded, the most noteworthy being that of two ducks which were shot 30 miles north of Coolgardie. One of these had been banded at Dawson's Lake, south of Dumbleyung, and the other on Wardering Lake in the Woodanilling Road District. Reports from shooters (on any aspects of duck distribution and behaviour) will be particularly welcome between now and the close of the season.

The following table sets out the bands returned since the previous list was published :-

Band No.	Date Banded	Place Where Banded	Date of Recovery	Place Where Recovered	Distance Travelled
<u>Black Duck</u>					
2270	23/1/54	Lake Karringup	26/1/55	Moore River, 80 miles from Perth	60 miles
2588	24/3/54	Queen's Gardens	not known	caught in clay hole in Belle- vue	10 "
<u>Grey Teal</u>					
3148	9/12/54	Meckering	8/2/55	North Meckering	nil "
3152	do.	do.	14/2/55	do.	nil "
1367	13/2/53	Wardering Lake	22/1/55	30 miles nth of Coolgardie	315 "
2059	19/12/53	Dawson's Lake, Dumbleyung	22/1/55	do.	280 "
3091	28/11/54	Lake Mears	22/1/55	Toolibin Lake	50 "
2790	20/5/54	Cape Riche	5/2/55	Willy's Lake	220 "
3060	24/11/54	Lake Mears	8/2/55	On Avon River near Bridge, 14 mls east of Brookton	7 "
3157	14/1/55	Taarblin Lake	22/1/55	Taarblin Lake	nil "
<u>Mountain Duck</u>					
2958	26/10/54	Cockleshell Gully	25/1/55	Poverty Point, Mandurah	175 "
2025	15/12/53	Dawson's Lake, Dumbleyung	26/1/55	"Chillinup", south of Borden	85 "

