

to allow what promises to be an excellent breeding season to take its course.

The Department is anxious to secure completed scorecards from duck shooters and inspectors are requested to use their best endeavours to see that as many as possible are completed and forwarded.

BIRD BANDING

The C.S.I.R.O. Wildlife Survey Section in Canberra has organised an Australia-wide bird banding scheme based on centres at Canberra and Perth to study the habits and migrations of Australia's bird life. This is part of C.S.I.R.O.'s long-range programme for the study and assessment of Australia's wild-life, and is aimed to conserve those species which are beneficial to the nation's economy, and to restrict the depredations of those which are injurious to agriculture.

The Australian Bird Banding Scheme, as the C.S.I.R.O. activity is known, is quite separate from this Department's duck banding scheme, which has now been operating for almost three years. Our programme is being continued exactly as before and our bands, which are inscribed "Return to Fisheries Dept., Perth" should continue to be sent to this office. The C.S.I.R.O. bands are inscribed "Write Wildlife, C.S.I.R.O., Canberra, Australia", and anyone finding a dead bird with such a band should return the band with details of time and place of find. If a banded bird is captured alive, the band should not be removed, but details of band, bird and circumstances should be reported to the Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., P.O. Box 109, Canberra City, A.C.T., and the bird released.

The work of trapping and banding birds for the C.S.I.R.O. scheme is being done by interested persons approved by this Department and appointed by C.S.I.R.O. Under the Fauna Protection Act no person may mark fauna whatsoever in any manner except with the written authority of the Chief Warden of Fauna, and all C.S.I.R.O. operators in this State must first be approved by this Department. To date eleven

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persons have been so approved, but in each case their permit to mark fauna has stipulated that no wild duck or other game birds are to be marked in any manner in order to safeguard our own duck research programme.