

INTERSTATE FAUNA AUTHORITIES' VISIT

The biennial conference of Interstate Fauna Authorities was held in Perth from September 20 to 23. Delegates attended from all States and the Northern Territory for the first time in the history of the conference. This made possible a very full discussion on current problems related to the administration of fauna conservation laws.

Most of the delegates arrived on Friday evening, September 16. The following morning they were taken to view the Wild Life Show at the Perth Town Hall. The delegates were keenly interested in all aspects of the Show and congratulated the organisers and expressed a desire to see a similar show held in their own States.

Accompanied by the Chief Warden of Fauna, Mr. A.J. Fraser, the Supervising Inspector, Mr. J.E. Bramley, Senior Clerk H.B. Shugg and Fauna Warden G.C. Jeffery, the delegates were taken on a tour of our forest country during the weekend. Mr. A.J. Milesi, a member of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee and Fire Control Superintendent of the Forests Department, also accompanied the party and led them through the Dryandra Forest Reserve and introduced them to the resident forester in charge, Mr. J.H. Currie. The visitors were delighted to find that a numbat had been located previously by Mr. Currie's daughter, Jon, and its hiding place in a hollow log sealed up, pending their arrival. The log was opened and the numbat secured and photographed by the visitors. Mr. J.B. Higham, another member of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee, joined the party at Dryandra and accompanied them to Pemberton where they arrived the next morning, after having stayed the night at Narrogin. The party was met by Mr. A.R. Kelly, President of the Pemberton-Warren Trout Acclimatisation Society and other prominent Pemberton citizens, and taken on a drive through local national parks and for an inspection of the trout hatchery and environs.

The party returned to Perth via Bunbury on Monday and in the evening gathered at the Palace Hotel, where a dinner had been arranged in their honour by the Minister for Fisheries (Mr. Kelly). Mr. Kelly presided and officially welcomed the delegates to the State.

Included among the guests were :-

- Mr. A.D. Butcher, Director of Fisheries & Game,  
Melbourne;
- Dr. W.G. Bryden, member of the Fauna Protection Board  
of Tasmania;
- Mr. F.J. Griffiths, Chief Guardian of Fauna, Sydney;
- Sir Edward Hallstrom, member of the Fauna Protection  
Panel of New South Wales;
- Mr. F.W. Moorhouse, Director of Fisheries and Game,  
Adelaide;
- Mr. C. Roff, Fauna Officer, Department of Agriculture  
and Stock, Brisbane;
- Dr. E.P. Hodgkin, Department of Zoology, University  
of W.A.;
- Dr. G.M. Dunnet, Officer-in-Charge, Wildlife Survey  
Section, C.S.I.R.O., Perth;
- Dr. D.E. White, President, Royal Society of W.A.,  
Department of Chemistry, University of W.A.;
- Mr. A.R. Main, President, the Naturalists' Club of W.A.;
- Mr. H.E.B. Smith, Chairman, State Gardens Board;
- Mr. L. Glauert, Director of the West Australian Museum;
- Mr. A.C. Harris, Conservator of Forests;
- Mr. A.J. Milesi, Deputy Member, Fauna Protection  
Advisory Committee;
- Mr. V.N. Serventy, Education Department, Perth.

The conference proceedings were officially opened on Tuesday morning, at the board room of the Farmers' Union of W.A., by Mr. Kelly, who once more welcomed the delegates, particularly Mr. J.D. McConnell, representing the Northern Territory, who had arrived late the previous night.

The conference adjourned at midday and in the afternoon the delegates were taken to the South Perth Zoological Gardens and entertained at afternoon tea by the Chairman, Mr. H.E.B. Smith, and members of the Zoological Gardens Committee.

The conference discussions were resumed on Wednesday morning and adjourned to allow delegates to attend a reception by the Lord Mayor at the Perth City Council Chambers. In the afternoon the visitors were shown around the city and Kings Park and inspected the work being done on the quokka by the Zoology Department of the University of W.A.

On Thursday evening they attended a meeting of the W.A. Bird Group, held in the W.A. Museum. Mr. Butcher, Director of Fisheries & Game, Melbourne, gave a talk on fauna reserves and national parks in the United States, and showed a large number of kodachrome slides to illustrate some of the problems and the work being done on fauna conservation in that country.

Formal discussions of the conference were completed by midday on Friday, which allowed the visitors time to visit Yanchep Caves Reserve. They showed great interest in the koalas and indicated that the animals appeared to be at least as healthy as those in captivity in the Eastern States.

A symposium on fauna conservation was held in the Assembly Room of the Institute of Engineers, Gledden Buildings, Perth, in the evening. Four papers were read, the first by Mr. V.N. Serventy, representing the Royal Society and the W.A. Naturalists' Club, his subject being "Essential Requirements of a Conservation Programme". Mr. Serventy was followed by Mr. L. Glauert, Director of the West Australian Museum, who dealt with "Some Problems of Conservation". Mr. A.R. Main, Lecturer in Zoology at the University of W.A., spoke on the "Role of Pure Research as an Aid to Conservation" and showed how research work on the Rottneest quokka brought out facts which will be of benefit both in the control of pest marsupial fauna and in the conservation of rare species. Dr. G.M. Dunnet, of the Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., outlined techniques for the trapping and marking of fauna which provided considerable information on which to base ecological studies.

Those present, including the Eastern States delegates, joined in a general discussion which followed the reading of each paper.

Miss V.T. Hogan, of Head Office, and Mrs. M.E. Bell, seconded from the Town Planning Department, took verbatim notes on the conference discussions, from which a report will be prepared and published and copies made available for all those interested, including each staff member. Similar treatment will also be given the four papers presented at the symposium.

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The Superintendent desires to record his deep appreciation of the really first-class staff organisation which made this conference such a success. The organisation fell largely on the shoulders of Mr. H.B. Shugg, and he is to be highly commended on his efforts. To Messrs Bramley and Jeffery, and to Miss Hogan and Mrs. Bell, he extends his thanks for a really worthwhile job.