

OPEN SEASON FOR WILD DUCKS

The Minister administering the Fauna Protection Act (Mr. Kelly) announced yesterday that the open season for wild ducks will commence as follows :-

- (a) at 6 p.m. on the evening of Saturday December 17, in the Harvey, Bunbury, Capel, Dardanup, Collie, Preston, Busselton, Augusta-Margaret River, Nannup, Balingup, Greenbushes, Bridgetown and Manjimup Road Districts;
- (b) at 5 a.m. on the morning of Sunday December 18, in all the rest of the State.

The open season would not apply in any of the following areas which have been set aside as sanctuaries :-

- (a) The whole of the area within a radius of twenty miles of the General Post Office, Perth.
- (b) All municipalities and townsites in the South-West Land Division.
- (c) The whole of the Rockingham Road District.
- (d) The whole of the waters of Lake Leschenaultia, Yealering and Soppings, and Bambun, Wagin, Nambung, Mungala, Nannerup and Wardering Lakes, and all land within twenty chains of their shores.
- (e) The whole of the waters of Leschenault, Wonnerup and Vasse Estuaries and all land within twenty chains of their shores.
- (f) The whole of the waters of the Vasse, King and Kalgan Rivers, and all land within twenty chains of their shores.
- (g) All that portion of the Capel River between the Capel and Stirling Bridges and all land within twenty chains of the river bank.
- (h) The whole of the waters of Oyster Harbour and Princess Royal Harbour and all land within a radius of twenty chains of their shores.

- (i) The whole of the area of the Yanchep Caves Reserve.
- (j) The whole of the Harvey Catchment area.
- (k) The whole of the area within a radius of two miles of the Post Office at Mandurah.
- (l) The whole of the area within a radius of two miles of the Post Office at Boyup Brook.
- (m) All that portion of the Avon River from Dumbarton Bridge to the Railway Bridge, north of Toodyay and all land within twenty chains of the river banks.
- (n) All that portion of the Serpentine River from Road 8629 at the southern end of Goegrup (Willies) Lake to Peel Inlet near the Old Mill and all that land within twenty chains of the river banks.
- (o) All State Forests and Timber Reserves.

Mr. Kelly said that very serious consideration had been given to a suggestion received from a number of quarters that the opening should be delayed to protect the immature birds which would still be about on opening day. However, it was decided that the amount of water available would tend to keep the ducks scattered and would provide sufficient cover for the young birds.

Mr. Kelly also said that the bag limit will remain at 15 ducks per day, and pointed out that it is illegal for any person to use traps or decoy-traps for the capture of wild ducks. The use of spotlights and beaters as shooting aids is also prohibited.

Shooters' scorecards will again be issued and the co-operation of the shooting public in keeping a record of the ducks they shoot is earnestly requested. All persons are also requested to ensure that any bands recovered from ducks are sent in immediately to the Department with the details of the taking, that is the species, date and place of recovery and any other information, such as the condition of the bird.