

(1) Ten different species of prawns have been observed in the commercial catches. The bulk of the take comprised Penaeus indicus, P. merguensis (banana prawn, also taken by "Lancelin" in Exmouth Gulf), P. penicillatus, Metapenaeus monoceros and Parapeniopsis uncta.

(2) In the creeks the fishermen use beach seines and stake nets and in shallow coastal waters cast nets operated from a boat.

(3) Processing for export consists of removing the head and freezing the tails with shell on.

(4) The prawns are packed according to the number of headed prawns per lb. They start as small as 95-100 count per lb., and go up to 10-14 count per lb. The bulk of the export comprises three categories, viz. 30-35, 35-40 and 40-45 per lb.

(5) At the moment the alimentary canal is removed by hand. This is possible only if the prawns are be-headed soon after capture, in which case the canal is pulled out with the head.

(6) If the prawns are not cold, i.e., they have not been well iced before processing, freezing occupies up to 6 hours. If they have been chilled on ice freezing takes less time.

A further item of interest reported by Dr. Qureshi is the fact that a Karachi firm has commenced the canning of prawns. The product, he says, is very good, and exports have already been made to the United Kingdom. The prawns are packed in a salt solution in a 5-oz. (net weight) can.

#### DUCK BANDING

Due to the onset of winter rains with its consequent scattering of the wild duck population, and also to Mr. Traynor's being engaged on the Bremer Bay reserve survey, only 91 ducks were banded last month. These were all black duck banded at Queen's Gardens and Craig's Lake in the metropolitan area.

It is expected that very little further banding will be possible during the winter months and Mr. Traynor is engaged in completing new lightweight traps for use in the spring.

Recoveries • A further 9 bands were returned since the last issue of this Bulletin, 8 of them being black duck and one a grey teal.

The details are as follows -

Band No.	Date Banded	Place Where Banded	Date of Recovery	Place Where Recovered	Distance Travelled
<u>Black Duck</u>					
1530	4.3.53	Queen's Gardens	Sep. '54	Rocky Lake, County Peak	80 miles
3283	3.2.55	Cape Riche	28.4.56	Cape Riche	--
3730	29.2.56	Queen's Gardens	27.4.56	Marrinup	35 "
3306	4.2.55	Cape Riche	26.4.56	Lot 1022, on a swamp near Narrinup	61 "
3416	9.2.55	Cape Riche	10.5.56	Tudor Flats between Denmark & Albany	77 "
3414	8.2.55	Cape Riche	5.5.56	Cape Riche	--
3278	3.2.55	Cape Riche	6.5.56	Cape Riche	--
<u>Grey Teal</u>					
3809	23.3.56	Wardering Lake	28.4.56	Fitchets Swamp, 14 miles N. of Kojonup	10 "