

PERSONAL PARS

Dr. D.L. Serventy, Principal Research Officer in the Wildlife Survey Section of the C.S.I.R.O., stationed in Perth, returned to the State on June 29 aboard the s.s. Southern Cross from Cape Town. Dr. Serventy had been abroad for twelve months on study leave. He was stationed mostly in London, with an Australian colleague, Dr. A.J. Marshall, who is head of the Department of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy at St. Bartholomew's Medical College, Charterhouse Square. He also visited laboratories and field stations in other parts of England, Scotland and in Europe. He returned home through Africa and made extensive field trips in Tanganyika and Northern Rhodesia with officers of the Department of Agriculture and the Game and Tsetse Department. He also took the opportunity of visiting parts of South-West Africa where special platforms have been installed on the coast to harvest the guan, from the myriads of cormorants that feed in the nutrient-rich waters of the Benguela Current.

Dr. G.M. Dunnet, Research Officer of the Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., left Perth by air on June 28 on permanent transfer to Canberra. The quokka studies carried out at Rottnest under Dr. Dunnet's direction will be suspended and may be carried on only as a part-time project or, alternatively, may be taken over by the Zoology Department of the University of Western Australia. In Canberra Dr. Dunnet will, for the time being, continue his research into the ecology of the brush-tailed possum.

WHALING

In June two whaling companies commenced operations off the Western Australian coast. At Albany the Cheynes Beach Whaling Company took their first whale, a female 47'2" in length, on June 8, and the Nor'West Whaling Company, operating from Babbage Island, captured their first whale on June 12. It too was a female, measuring 43'6".

The Nor'West Company is operating four chasers and expects to take its hundredth whale early this month, operations, apparently, being quite satisfactory. The usual predominance of females in the early catch has again been experienced by both companies, particularly the northern one.

It is understood that the Commonwealth Government has granted the Nor'West Whaling Company approval to take 1,000 whales this season, being the combined totals of that of its old station at Pt. Cloates and that of the Carnarvon station, which the company acquired earlier this year from the Australian Whaling Commission. The quota for the Cheynes Beach Whaling Company remains at 120 as in previous years.