

OPEN SEASON FOR WILD DUCKS

The Minister (Mr. Kelly) has announced that the open season for wild ducks will this year commence as follows -

- (a) at 6 p.m. on the evening of Friday, December 21, in the Augusta-Margaret River, Balingup, Bridgetown, Bunbury, Busselton, Capel, Collie Coalfields, Dardanup, Greenbushes, Harvey, Manjimup, Nannup, and Preston Road Districts;
- (b) at 5 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, December 22, in all the rest of the State.

The open season would not apply, he said, 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 Lakes Leschenaultia, Yealering and Seppings, 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 the Vasse, King and Kalgan Rivers and all land within twenty chains of their shores.
- (f) The whole of the waters of Vasse and Wonnerup Estuaries and all land within twenty chains of their shores.
- (g) All the waters of the Leschenault Inlet extending southwards from a line drawn from Waterloo Head (Belvedere) on the West foreshore to a point South-East on the opposite foreshore.

- (h) All that portion of the Capel River between the Capel and Stirling Bridges and all land within twenty chains of the river bank.
- (i) The whole of the waters of Oyster Harbour and Princess Royal Harbour and all land within a radius of twenty chains of their shores.
- (j) The whole of the area of the Yanchep Caves Reserve.
- (k) The whole of the Harvey Catchment area.
- (l) The whole of the area within a radius of two miles of the Post Office at Mandurah.
- (m) The whole of the areas within a radius of two miles of the Post Office at Boyup Brook.
- (n) The whole of the area within a radius of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Post Office at Balingup.
- (o) All that portion of the Avon River in the Toodyay District, between the northern boundary of Avon Location 3 and a point opposite road number 2069, and all the land within twenty chains of the river banks.
- (p) 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.
- (q) 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 land within twenty chains of the river banks.
- (r) All State Forests, Timber Reserves, town reservoirs and other areas where shooting is prohibited under the provisions of any other Act, Regulation or By-Law.

The Minister specially mentioned the chain of freshwater lakes in the vicinity of Wanneroo. These, he said, were absolute sanctuaries if they lay within a 20-mile radius of the Perth G.P.O. Shooters in this locality should make quite sure that they do not make a mistake.

"We have followed the pattern set in previous years of opening the season a day earlier when Christmas Day falls on a Monday or a Tuesday, to give the shooters a clear week-end in which to get their ducks for Christmas Day", Mr. Kelly continued. "Next year, when Christmas Day will fall on a Wednesday, the opening will revert to the Saturday and Sunday unless a late breeding season occurs", he added.

"I must impress on shooters the importance of co-operating in the Department's research programme", Mr. Kelly said. "The programme is aimed at protecting the future of the sport and is of vital interest to all duckshooters. Scorecards will be distributed in February next and sportsmen are requested to keep a tally of the ducks they shoot, the localities where they are obtained and how their bags compare with other years. Particular care should be taken to ensure that all bands recovered are returned to the Fisheries Department with details of the date and place of recovery."

Mr. Kelly also said that he agreed with the recommendation of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee to open all the duck shooting preserves this year for the duration of the season. These preserves are Mullet Lake at Esperance, Rowle's Lagoon (north-west of Kalgoorlie), Whitewater and Nonalling Lakes (north of Yealering), Toolibin and Gundaring Lakes in the Narrogin and Wagin districts, and Lake Mears in the Brookton district.

"Finally," Mr. Kelly concluded, "shooters must play the game and abide by the restrictions if duck shooting is to continue as a sport in this State. Immature ducks and parent birds with young should not be molested if the traditional pre-Christmas shoot is to be permitted in future years. It should be clearly understood that the bag limit is 15 ducks a day and the use of spotlights, traps and beaters is completely prohibited, nor does the open season give shooters any right of entry on private property or to shoot on or over roads or privately owned land."