

on July 8, was found to contain twin calves. This was the first record the Company had of twins occurring in whales and it is believed that the phenomenon of twins in humpbacks is rare. One of the whales caught towards the end of July was among the largest ever taken by this Company. It was a female over 45' in length, but unusually big in the body and the Company expected it to yield about 80 barrels of oil.

Assistant Inspector R. McKay, reporting from the Nor-West Whaling Company's Carnarvon Station, advised that up to July 31, 464 whales had been taken by that Company's chasers. As the first whale was only taken on June 12, the total was very satisfactory. Mr. McKay referred to the increased efficiency in handling the whales due to better techniques and equipment which had reduced the average flensing time of each whale from 30 minutes in June, to 24 minutes in July. The Company, he wrote, was carrying out experiments in the extraction of protein meal from the whale blood which was normally wasted. The Manager of the Station expected that techniques would be developed which would be incorporated as part of the usual procedure next year. Mr. McKay added that, while the small whales were in good condition, the majority of the large whales taken was on the thin side with poorer blubber and dry meat. Reports from the chasers indicated that a large number of smaller whales were moving up the coast, but only a few large size whales were accompanying them.

The suggestion had been made, Mr. McKay said, that the larger whales were moving farther out to sea each year, and this year they were all having to be towed long distances to the Station.

OPEN SEASON FOR FINCHES

At its last meeting, the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee recommended that the usual open season for finches, from September 1 to December 31, should be proclaimed again this year. It is expected that the Committee's recommendations will be accepted.

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Although unseasonal and heavy rains have been experienced this year in the Kimberley's normally "dry" season, which will undoubtedly delay nesting, it was considered that if the open season were also delayed, it would encourage the trapping and transport of birds during the hot weather and thus increase the mortality rate.