

too wet in the winter months, but might be used each summer when surrounding seasonal wet-lands dried up.

In co-operation with the Zoology Department and C.S.I.R.O., it is intended to carry out a minor trapping programme and night surveys in the summer months to establish concrete proof of the quokka's occurrence over the extended range, and possibly to attempt some population studies.

#### PRAWN NETTING TO CONTINUE IN THE SERPENTINE

A request by members of the Furnissdale-Barraghup Progress Association for the prohibition of prawn net fishing in the channel system between the lakes and the estuary of the Serpentine River has been refused by the Minister.

Members of a deputation which waited on Mr. Kelly alleged that although camping was prohibited in the area, many prawning parties congregated there and caused a nuisance to residents.

After careful consideration, however, the Minister decided that no action should be taken under the Fisheries Act. The 12' prawn net allowed in the Serpentine River was the type almost universally used in Western Australian estuarine and river waters, and could not be banned on conservation grounds. It was considered that the offended parties should avail themselves of their rights under other laws governing public behaviour.

#### DUCK BAND RECOVERIES

As the season in this State has closed, the number of bands coming in is extremely limited, as may be seen by the table overpage. The number of bands returned has now reached 297, of which 186 were from black ducks and 97 from grey teal. As 4319 ducks have been banded, the recovery rate is 6.88%.

Band No.	BANDING		RECOVERY		Distance Travelled
	Date	Place	Date	Place	
		<u>Grey Teal</u>			
4203	14/12/56	Flagstaff Lake, Woodanilling	16/3/57	Lake in Woodanilling District	-- miles
4216	12/1/57	Yathroo Stn. Dandaragan	3/8/57	20 miles north-west of Ayr, N. Queensland	2,150 "

The return of band no. 4216 was, however, of extreme interest, as its flight from Yathroo Station to Ayr is believed to be the longest duck movement yet recorded in Australia. This year has seen a number of outstanding recoveries, probably because banding is now carried out by three States - Western Australia, Victoria and Queensland - and by the C.S.I.R.O.'s Wildlife Survey Section in New South Wales and the Northern Territory.

Advice has been received from the latter of the recovery of two bands from grey teal banded near Darwin approximately in the same period. One was recovered 86 miles west of Meekatharra twelve days after banding, while the second was shot on the Queensland-South Australian border north of Cunamulla a few days later. Both were extremely fast flights for such distances.

It is of interest to note that another grey teal, banded at Mildura by the Victorian Department of Fisheries and Game, was recovered near Darwin in recent weeks.

From these and previous recoveries, it is apparent that grey teal are likely to migrate to practically any point in Australia. This highlights the need for the close integration of all banding programmes, a matter which has been listed for discussion at the forthcoming Interstate Conference.