

WILD DUCKS

(a) Open Season in Outlying Areas :

After giving consideration to information made available from duck banding programmes throughout Australia, the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee recently recommended that an extended open season be proclaimed in the Kimberley, Eastern and North-West Land Divisions.

The recommendation, which has been accepted by the Minister, will mean that the season will open in these outback areas on the 22nd of this month, and will not close until 1962.

In making their recommendation, the Committee was mindful of the different breeding seasons of ducks, both geographically and between species. In the Kimberleys, on information received from a competent naturalist and Honorary Warden, Mr. P. Slater, all species except black duck and freckled duck nest during the "wet", i.e., from November to March. Black and freckled duck usually nest later on when the Kimberleys are comparatively dry. Banding programmes have shown that grey teal, the species most commonly shot in light rainfall areas, are opportune nesters and set about breeding wherever and whenever conditions are to their liking. It will be seen that to protect the different species during their breeding seasons would call for a number of close seasons and cause a good deal of confusion. In recent years the same open season has been declared throughout the State, but it is well known that in all outlying areas, where supervision is difficult, shooters take little notice of the close season. Banding results have shown that this has had a negligible effect on the total duck population, so that the prolonged open season will legalise the shooting habits of outback shooters and remove an unnecessary restriction.

(b) Duck Banding :

For the first three weeks in November, Technical Officer J. Traynor was engaged on duck banding

in the Dowerin district. Mr. Traynor advises that although there was a great number of birds about, they did not enter the traps readily. Before returning to Perth for medical attention, he was able to band a total of 183 birds, of which 166 were grey teal, the remainder being pink-eared, black, wood and mountain duck in about equal proportions.

#### MANDURAH FISHPOT

An unusual but most attractive competition has been designed by Mandurah business men to "sell" their town and district to the holidaymaking public. Named "The Mandurah Annual Fishpot", the competition will commence on December 13. It is already exciting considerable interest, and we are indebted to Assistant Inspector S. LaRoche for having supplied details of the scheme.

In the first place a committee was set up to find something that would boost the town - something that was simple, original and attractive, and in keeping with the character of Mandurah. Fishing and Mandurah being synonymous, the committee bent its thoughts on an angling competition and decided to wed it to the current jackpot craze. Thus the basis of the scheme was born. Business men rushed to support it and guaranteed a weekly prize of goods to the value of £50 which will "fishpot" if not won.

The whole scheme, and the rules, were kept simple. Briefly they are --

- (a) The competition is open to all comers and there is no entry fee or form.
- (b) The fish entered must be caught from waters within the boundaries of the Mandurah Road District by a handline or rod and line.
- (c) The fish must be taken to the recording office at No. 2 Pinjarra Road, Mandurah,