

Fauna Warden N.E. McLaughlan, accompanied by Honorary Warden D.G. Bathgate, went to Walyormouring or Oak Park Lake in the Goomalling District. Mr. McLaughlan estimated that about 2,000 ducks were on the Lake as well as large aggregations of banded stilts and coot. As in all other areas (except the Stirling Estate), grey teal predominated. Mr. McLaughlan reported that a number of shooters had taken the bag limit by 7.30 a.m. He and Mr. Bathgate were able to sex and weigh 235 ducks, a really commendable effort on their part. 80% of the birds examined were grey teal and 11.5% were mountain duck. The percentage of black ducks was only 2.5.

The following comparison of the weights of grey teal has been prepared by the Research Officer :-

Year and Place	Males		Females	
	Juvenile	Mature	Juvenile	Mature
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
1957 (Gundaring)	16	17	14½	16½
1958 (Taarblin)	15½	18	14	16
1960 (Taarblin)	17	20	16	18
1960 (Oak Park)	16½	19	16	17

Mr. Bowen says it is obvious that there has been very little variation in the year-by-year weights of teal sampled in 1957, 1958 and 1960. It is of interest to note that the teal examined at Oak Park in 1960 were similar in weight to those at Taarblin.

IMPORTANT BAND RECOVERIES

The first record of a trans-Australia flight by a black duck was received recently. The bird concerned was banded in the Woodanilling district of Western Australia with band number 7437 on April 3, 1958. It was caught on November 14, 1960, in a wire trap on a house dam at Nyngynderry Station, Menindee, by Mr. D.H. Lennon. Menindee is on the Darling River in the Western Division of New South Wales. The banding and recovery points were 1,483 miles apart. While research work has established that black duck are far more sedentary than grey teal, this recovery demonstrates that under certain conditions "blackies" will also move over great distances. It will be remembered that some time ago a black duck banded in New Zealand was later recovered in Victoria.

A second important recovery has been received from Mr. C.L.E. Orton, of Moora. He forwarded to Dr. Serventy, of C.S.I.R.O., who sent it on to us, band number 1380, which was placed on a grey teal at Wardering Lake, Woodanilling, on February 14, 1953. The teal was shot by Mr. Orton on a swamp at Moora on opening day, December 18, 1960. The bird was then in its eighth year of banding, which is an interesting record of longevity.