

pacific gulls, ospreys and one large sea eagle. Mr. Henry also made the interesting comment that he observed three seals, two females and a large male, which he thought were fur seals.

We would appreciate reports of any further observations of seals made in the Abrolhos as we would not expect fur seals to be that far north.

Sea-going staff are requested to check again the article and diagrams published in the January, 1961, issue of this Bulletin which set out means of distinguishing between hair and fur seals.

#### IMPORT OF FAUNA

The Minister for Fisheries has approved a recommendation by the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee that, as a general rule, authority to import shall not be issued in the case of:-

- (a) amphibian, reptilian or mammalian fauna, and
- (b) avian fauna, other than pheasants, peacocks, parrots and canaries, except when it is shown that such imports are for approved scientific or zoological purposes. Other exceptions to the general rule may be made under certain circumstances, provided the concurrence of the Chief Vermin Control Officer is also obtained.

The reason for the imposition of the general ban is to prevent, as far as possible, the acclimatisation of any further species of exotic fauna in this State. In reaching its recommendation, which was subsequently accepted, the Committee was mindful of the disastrous effect of such acclimatised animals as rabbits, foxes, donkeys, camels, goldfinches and house mice, to name but a few.

In recent months permission to import freshwater tortoises for the pet trade has been refused, while the Chief Quarantine Officer (Animals), acting under the authority of Commonwealth legislation, has refused permission for certain reptiles to be brought into the State. The introduction of exotic animals from outside Australia is, of course, already prevented under existing Commonwealth laws, but those laws do not obtain in respect of interstate movements. Many exotic birds are held in aviaries in the Eastern States; their introduction into this State for avicultural purposes will generally be prohibited, although exceptions might be allowed, as previously stated, if agreement is reached between this Department the Agriculture Protection Board (which administers the Vermin Act) and representatives of aviculturists.