

The representations made by the local authority are to be discussed at the next full meeting of the Committee and a decision conveyed to the Board in due course.

At Busselton, the Committee met the leader of a group of landholders (Mr. Gavin McGregor) who had petitioned the Minister for Lands that the Broadwater (which is an ephemeral lake surrounded by swampland to the west of Busselton) be declared a sanctuary for fauna. Mr. McGregor and his daughter showed the party over that part of his property which surrounds the Broadwater and explained his difficulties. That evening, at a public meeting called by the Busselton Road Board, the views of the landholders and of shooters and honorary wardens were expressed. The Director reminded the meeting that the true function of the Department was not to protect private property as such and that the opening of any areas to shooting did not authorise shooters to trespass. He thought from what the Committee had seen of the Broadwater members would agree that the reserved land in the centre was too small to keep as a sanctuary unless it were increased by surrounding landholders agreeing with the Minister to keep their land in its natural state in perpetuity. Complaints having been made of the use of spot-lights and the destruction of notices, the Director pointed out that policing the Act had its difficulties. The Department employed only two regular wardens and was compelled to rely very largely on honorary assistants. He said that notices were of limited use as they appeared to be ignored by the persons at whom they were specifically directed. Mr. Fraser advised the meeting that the Department would write to the Board and seek its considered opinion before making any firm recommendation to the Minister.

The return to Perth was interrupted for a brief call at the fauna farm of Mr. E.W. Ecclestone, of Boyanup. Mr. Ecclestone explained his plans to create a sanctuary north of his existing aviaries in a 100-acre paddock. He had already commenced the construction of a dam to provide water for the fauna he hoped the Department would permit him to hold. Mr. Ecclestone was advised that the matter would be considered at the next full meeting of the Committee and a decision conveyed to him regarding the future development of his farm.

FAUNA CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

In the October-November issue of this Bulletin, we published eleven of the resolutions adopted at the Interstate Fauna Authorities Conference held in Brisbane last September. The resolutions were considered by the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee at a number of meetings and, after careful deliberation, it recommended to the Minister that they be adopted. The Minister has now approved the Committee's recommendation.

For the information of the staff, those resolutions which most closely affect this State we set out below:-

- (a) That this Conference, having given consideration to the increasing use of pesticides for the control of pest fauna and weeds, and appreciating the need for adequate control, believes that little cognizance has been taken of their adverse effect on native fauna and recommends to the Governments of the respective States and Territories that, before undertaking poisoning on Crown lands, or on reserves, sanctuaries or other areas set aside for the conservation of native fauna, the opinion of the fauna conservation authority be obtained as to the possible effect of such poisoning on the native fauna occurring therein.
- (b) Conference is of the opinion that, in attempting to seek the solution of short-term fauna problems, the role of basic research in providing the solution to problems is frequently neglected. As one step towards achieving an acceptance of the need for basic research, the State fauna authorities should consider inviting co-operation from groups of interested persons and providing them with information which would foster their interest. This in turn could lead to a greater public awareness. One of the present difficulties in organising biological investigations is that of obtaining assistants with adequate biological training. Conference recommends that the respective State authorities give consideration to possible ways and means of meeting this problem.
- (c) Conference agrees to the necessity for uniformity of waterfowl banding records, and recommends that the respective State and Federal authorities carrying out banding should retain an additional record for delivery to a central depository when such has been established. For this purpose the Australian Waterfowl Advisory Committee should define the form of record to be kept.
- (d) Conference places on record its opposition to private zoos or collections of fauna, but in so doing accepts that such opposition may be qualified in those States which do not possess major zoological gardens. Conference excludes bona fide avicultural collections from the terms of this resolution.

- (c) Western Australia expressed concern at the possible spread of exotic aviary birds and instanced the case of the Java sparrow and the potential risk to the rice industry. Conference therefore recommends that each State and Territory and the C.S.I.R.O Wildlife Survey Section examine the exotic aviary bird position with a view to submitting to the conference secretariat lists of those species considered to present a potential threat to primary industry or native fauna, together with a statement as to the specific potential problem, and that this item be included in the next Conference agenda.

The Minister also accepted, in principle, the invitation extended by Tasmania that the ~~next~~ Conference, which incidentally will be known in future as the Australian Fauna Authorities Conference, be held in Hobart. The next meeting of the Australian Waterfowl Committee, on which the Research Officer, Mr. Bowen, is this State's representative, will be held in Sydney.