

To buy the land we need money. I beg you, when the appeal is launched, to make your contribution to the conservation and protection of this remarkable animal and tell others about it. This is the first appeal of its kind in this State so keep up your reputation and when the campaign commences - give!"

WILD DUCKS ON THE GOLDFIELDS

Mr N.C. Nelson, of 14 Melba Street, Kalgoorlie, the President of the Eastern Goldfields Gun Club and an honorary warden of fauna, has forwarded a particularly interesting note on the occurrence of ducks in the Kalgoorlie district.

In his letter, which was received on July 3, Mr Nelson said that good bags were secured at Coonana, situated 106 miles from Kalgoorlie on the Trans-Australia Railway Line. This area, he said, had not been shot to the best of his knowledge for at least twenty years, but bags of 146, 151 and 80 ducks were taken during three visits of parties of up to 10 shooters. At the end of January, when the first visit was made, there were about 800 ducks on the swamp (known as Coonana Cane Grass) and of these, at least 200 were the rare Speckled or Monkey Duck. This was the first time, Mr Nelson said, that he had seen this species around Kalgoorlie in such large numbers. It was certainly the first time, according to departmental records, that so large a concentration has been reported anywhere. Other shooters reported them in smaller quantities at Rowles Lagoon, north-west of Kalgoorlie and at Lake Emu, north-east of Kalgoorlie.

After giving a most informative report on the lakes of the Goldfields districts which still held water, Mr Nelson concluded by saying that the size of the Coonana Canegrass Swamp was about half a mile long by a quarter of a mile wide. During the visits there, the number of ducks on the swamp varied from 800 to 2,000 or 3,000. The freckled duck, which Mr Nelson thought had bred at the swamp the previous year, was then the most prominent, but they appeared to have left the district at the time of his writing.