

a specially-equipped ship and personnel for that purpose. He added that to encourage further development and consolidation of the crayfishery, a vessel and crew had been made available for continuous crayfish research. Concluding his remarks, Mr Hutchinson said that to provide for the better protection of our fisheries, funds would also be found for the progressive replacement of older units of the Department's fleet of patrol craft.

The Exposition and Festival, which was the first of its kind attempted in this State, lasted for eight days and covered all shades of marine activity in Western Australian waters. Although it struck unfavourable weather, the exhibits were all under canvas or the open, attendances were most encouraging and over £3,000 is said to have been raised for Legacy. It concluded, on October 22, with the annual Blessing of the Fleet ceremony and an evening fireworks display.

#### ROOS IN THE NEWS!

Some idea of the importance which the native fauna could play in the State if it were fully exploited can be judged by production figures quoted in a recent press report. Citing the quantities handled in one district alone, the report said that in two years 112,419 kangaroos had passed through freezers operated in Leonora by a pet-food processing company.

The payout to professional shooters who secured this "kill" was said to be £46,783, an average of 48/- a carcass. Freight paid to the W.A.G.R. totalling something like £13,000, the equivalent of about 5/6 a carcass. The report concluded with a statement that although 1,000 kangaroos were being shot each week, they still represented a big pest menace to worried pastoralists. On the figures given, the prime value (to shooters) of the industry in the district is of the order of £125,000 a year.

#### FROM CRAWLEY TO SIBERIA!

One of our many trans-equatorial visitors, a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, has won a place in history. It was the first locally-banded bird to be recorded overseas. Marked at Pelican Point, Crawley, on January 5, it was caught in Siberia on May 28 at a point just north of the Arctic Circle and east of the River Lena. A rough estimate of the distance travelled by this little wanderer is 6,000 miles as the crow is said to fly. We don't know whether the sandpiper flies the same way!

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is one of the more common migratory waders which visit our State every year. It weighs only 2 or 3 ounces and is slightly bigger than a willy-wagtail.

(155)

This particular bird was banded by Miss Lexie Nicholls, a member of Dr Serventy's staff in the Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., who was only recently notified of the band's recovery.