

Referring to the earlier opening, the Minister said that the season would open a week earlier this year to allow the game to be prepared in time for use on Christmas Day. If the opening of the season were delayed until the week-end before Christmas, as was normal, there would be insufficient time for shooters to visit their favoured sites and to return home to participate in family festivities.

The Minister also pointed out that Cape Barren Geese were not included in the open season for wild ducks. He appealed to visitors to Esperance not to interfere with the geese or any other fauna on the islands of the Recherche Archipelago, which were a sanctuary for all wild-life. Mr Hutchinson also called for full co-operation from all shooters in policing game conservation measures. He asked them to acknowledge the concession extended to them this year by respecting the opening dates and times.

Mr Hutchinson concluded by drawing attention to the following restrictions which were designed, he said, to conserve duck stocks -

- * the use of traps is entirely prohibited throughout the State;
- * spotlights are an illegal device;
- * sale of wild ducks is forbidden;
- * no person shall keep wild ducks in captivity.

UNUSUAL FAUNA OBSERVATIONS

Through lack of space we omitted from the last issue of this Bulletin a report received from Assistant Inspector E.H. Barker on the sighting of a Red-tailed Tropic Bird (or Bosun Bird) near Lancelin on September 12, 1961. Mr Barker, who was accompanied by Assistant Inspector N.K. Henry at the time, saw the bird flying around Edward Island, a fauna sanctuary just south of Lancelin. They were told by Mr R. Brown, a crayfisherman, that he had seen the Bosun Bird on several occasions during the previous six weeks.

This species is rare. A small nesting colony has been reported at different times on Pelsart Island in the Southern Group of Houtman Abrolhos, and a lone bird has nested twice

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at Rottnest in recent years but has not hatched any young. The only recorded nesting of the species on the mainland was of a single bird at Busselton in 1939.