

AUSTRALIAN WATERFOWL COMMITTEE

Advice has been received from the Secretary, Australian Waterfowl Advisory Committee, that a meeting of the committee will be held in Sydney from January 16-18. This State's representative will be Mr H.B. Shugg, Fauna Protection Officer and Secretary, Fauna Protection Advisory Committee. Mr Shugg, who attended the committee's last meeting in Brisbane as an observer, was recently appointed as Western Australia's delegate, vice Mr B.K. Bowen. As reported elsewhere, Mr Bowen is now carrying out his crayfish research programme on a full-time basis.

The theme of the 1962 meeting will be "Planning for Waterfowl Conservation". It is being designed to set out the technical and other requirements for setting up or expanding a State programme for the conservation of wild ducks. As such, it should be of particular benefit to this State, for although we have had a waterfowl research programme "on the books", as it were, for nearly a decade, staff and finance limitations have constricted activities, particularly in recent years, to the adventitious banding of wild ducks. We now need to take a long look at what research is essential and what staff and equipment will be required to carry out an effective programme.

At the same time, the Waterfowl Committee will discuss other matters of practical importance to all States, principally in relation to measures of interstate co-operation in the fields of both research and conservation. Banding carried out in the past by the States and the Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O. has already established that Australia's duck population must be considered on an overall basis as well as from the differing points of view of the respective States. While Western Australia may be considered to be fortunate in that we have virtually no interstate border controversies, there is no disputing that grey teal range over the whole continent and our open season does commence months before other States think it wise to allow shooters to operate in their duck grounds.

It is expected that all States, the Northern Territory and the Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., will be represented.