

of the W.A. State Committee of C.S.I.R.O. for the past 10 years, notified the Organisation's Executive when re-appointments were being considered earlier in the year that in consideration of his many other commitments he was unable to accept membership for a further term.

#### FAUNA PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The bi-monthly meeting of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee was held at Head Office on April 13. Items of particular note in a long agenda were conservation of rare fauna (i.e., the Short-necked Tortoise and the Noisy Scrub-bird), conservation of fauna on Houtman Abrolhos, an application to have the Oobagooma Pastoral leases, West Kimberley, made a sanctuary for fauna by agreement, and conditions to be imposed in respect of forthcoming collecting expeditions being organized by the British Museum (Natural History). A separate note on the latter appears elsewhere in this issue.

From May 9 to 11, the Director, as Chairman, will lead the Committee on visits to a number of centres in the South-West. He will be accompanied by the Committee's Secretary, Mr H.B. Shugg, and by members Dr D.L. Serventy, Principal Research Officer, Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O.; Mr A.J. Milesi, Fire Control Superintendent, Forests Department; and Mr A.H. Robinson, of Coolup.

With Mr H.O. Webster, who rediscovered the Noisy Scrub-bird, they will visit the area which it has been suggested should be reserved to protect this and other rare species, including the Western and Rufous Bristle-birds, the Western Whipbird and certain small marsupials. At Wagin, the Committee will meet representatives of the Shire Council in an on-the-spot discussion on the future use of Wagin Lake. The Council wishes to establish a rubbish disposal site at the Lake, which has been reserved for the preservation of native game for almost forty years. Later the Committee will inspect a number of sections of the Dryandra State Forest in respect of which applications for alienation have been received. The Committee's interest, of course, will be the value of the areas concerned to fauna conservation. They will be piloted by the Forests Department's officer in charge, Mr J.H. Currie, who has invaluable personal knowledge of the area. It is said to be one of the last strongholds of a number of species of rare fauna, including that attractive little marsupial, the Numbat, or Banded Antecater.

The Committee will return to Perth on the evening of May 11.