

CHRISTIAN NAMES AND SURNAMES

The Director, Fisheries Division, Department of Primary Industry, in a recent letter, pointed out the difficulties which his office was having in differentiating between the christian names and surnames of some licensees. He quoted, as an example, the following -

YKOV CVITAN
ZIVOIIN CUEIIC
ILORIONE AMATO

It is difficult, obviously, for recording officers in Head Office and Canberra to decide which names are which. In all cases such as this, licensing officers are directed to underline the surname. They must, of course, make a point of finding out from the licensee which is his christian name and which his surname.

BRITISH MUSEUM TO COLLECT IN AUSTRALIA

Five separate expeditions, each of six to nine months' duration, will be undertaken in Australia between September and November this year. They will be conducted by the British Museum (Natural History), which is aiming to improve its collection of Australian bird specimens. Information to this effect has been received from the Prime Minister's Department, Canberra, which has been approached by the Director of the British Museum, Dr T.C.S. Morrison-Scott. His Excellency the Governor General (Lord De L'Isle) is a member of the Standing Committee of the Trustees of the British Museum, and it is understood that the approach was made to the Australian Government through him.

The Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department advises that the greater part of the money for the expeditions has been provided by an Australian resident in England, Major H.W. Hall, O.B.E., M.C. Specifically, the aims of the expeditions will be -

1. To obtain specimens of birds (whole specimens, skins, skeletons, eggs, nests, parasites, and anything else of interest) for the study collection of the British Museum (Natural History) and various Australian museums.
2. To explore the principal vegetation associations, and in particular those parts of Australia the birds of which are least well known and which may have forms of special interest.

3. To investigate any aspect of bird biology which can reasonably be undertaken without prejudice to the main purpose of collecting specimens.
4. To make comparative studies of the birds, in their behaviour and ecology, with those of other avifaunal regions.

The proposed expeditions were considered at the last meeting of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee. Subsequently recommendations were made for the consideration of the Minister. In its consideration of the matter, the Committee felt it was constrained to keep in mind the conservational needs of the fauna of Western Australia, the requirements of Australian scientific workers, and, to a lesser degree, the demands of the Western Australian Museum. The comprehensive recommendations of the Committee were accepted by the Minister and subsequently conveyed to the Commonwealth authorities. In brief they were:-

1. The series of expeditions would be welcomed to Western Australia and afforded assistance and co-operation.
2. Restrictions applying to local scientific collectors would apply to all visiting collectors. So far as birds were concerned, these were -
 - (a) each collector should be separately licensed;
 - (b) no fauna should be collected on any sanctuary;
 - (c) all holotypes of species and syntypes of subspecies and duplicates (one pair in each case) of any rare species (other than the rare and vulnerable species which are not to be taken under any circumstances) shall be donated to the Western Australian Museum;
 - (d) no person should take or have in his possession, whether living or dead, or keep in captivity or confinement, any specimen of the following species which have been classed as rare and vulnerable -
 - (i) Short-necked Tortoise (Pseudemydura umbrina)
 - (ii) Noisy or Western Scrub-bird (Atrichornis clamosus)
 - (iii) Bristle-bird or Western Bristle-bird (Dasyornis brachypterus)
 - (iv) Rufous Bristle-bird (Dasyornis broadbenti)
 - (v) Ground Parrot (Pezoporus wallicus)
 - (vi) Western Whipbird (Psophodes nigrogularis)

- (e) in the case of the Black and White Wren (Malurus leucopterus) not more than one pair, a male and a female, may be taken;
 - (f) no fauna, whether dead or alive, may be taken out of the State except by the authority of a license;
 - (g) all collectors and members of the expedition shall comply with the provisions of the Fauna Protection Act and Regulations;
 - (h) returns setting out the number of each species taken, the place where they were taken and all other details required, shall be forwarded within one month of the time stipulated by the Chief Warden of Fauna.
3. To protect future scientific workers in Australia, all material collected shall be made available on loan to scientific workers in Australia, if so requested.

In making its recommendations, the Committee drew attention to the plight of Australian scientists who needed to refer to type specimens held by the British Museum (Natural History). Heretofore, it said, unless an Australian scientist could afford the journey to London, he could not obtain type or photographic material of Australian species held there, and was thus seriously handicapped. The Committee pointed out that on the other hand the Western Australian Museum was prepared to lend type material in its possession to other museums, and in fact frequently did so. It expressed the hope that the co-operation which the British Museum parties might expect in this State would lead to an alteration in the British Museum's policy regarding the loan of material, so that holotypes and other specimens of Australian animals already in its collections might be borrowed by Australian museums. The Committee stated that this policy had in the past been a source of much resentment among Australian scientific workers, who had found it exceedingly difficult to complete taxonomic revisions without the material they needed.