

imposed indicate that the Courts do not treat lightly offences against the law established to provide protection to our valuable and attractive fauna.

TORTOISE HUNT

One of the intriguing mysteries surrounding the Short-necked Tortoise has been its paradoxical survival in a limited area. In the opinion of Dr A.R. Main, Reader in Zoology at the University of Western Australia and a deputy member of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee, it is likely that the tortoise emerges from aestivation after the first heavy rains and peregrinates at random after the fashion of frogs. To test this supposition, Fauna Wardens S.W. Bowler and N.E. McLaughlan have spent many hours searching likely areas since the year's first rains fell at Easter. Although their searches have been unsuccessful to date, they will be continued sporadically at all hours in an effort to establish whether the species survives in any areas outside those which are being reserved.

Assistance in the conduct of the searches has been promised by the W.A. Naturalists' Club and any members of the staff who wish to participate should contact the Fauna Protection Officer. Volunteers need to be prepared to traverse densely vegetated swamps and burnt country.