

they be in the Kimberley, North-West, Great Southern or other divisions of the State.

NORTHERN WHEAT-BELT PATROL

From June 1 to June 29 inclusive, Fauna Warden S.W. Bowler carried out a routine patrol through the northern wheat-belt from Toodyay eastwards to Mukinbudin. Covering 1,124 miles, Mr Bowler inspected 44 reserves all of which but one are sanctuaries. He called at police stations and on local authorities and also visited most honorary wardens, many of whom expressed their pleasure at this renewal of contact with the Department. Of the 61 species of birds recorded by Mr Bowler on the trip, perhaps the most noteworthy were two flocks of Major Mitchell Parrots, one of over 100 and one of approximately 60. Both were in the Mukinbudin Shire. Only common mammals were recorded, including red and grey kangaroos, but Mr R.G. Polkinghorn, of Welbungin, reported having observed a brush-tailed possum in a sanctuary near his home. Although this species is regarded as the only marsupial which can be described as having a fairly general continental distribution, very few reports of its occurrence in inland areas are received nowadays. It is presumed that the clearing of wooded areas for agriculture has been the principal reason for its disappearance from the wheat-belt.