

expected to assist to some degree the problems of fauna wardens in policing illegal kangaroo shooting. The Bill seeks to strengthen the control over spotlight shooting on roads throughout the State by amendment to the Firearms and Guns Act. On the other hand, the result might be that shooters will be forced to operate deeper in forest country where illegal hunting will be more difficult to intercept.

Crayboat Disabled:

Sea and air searches were organised when the l.f.b. "Shirley", a 21-foot vessel operated by J. McDougall, of Geraldton, was reported to be overdue. Returning from the Wallabi Group, the boat developed engine trouble about 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 18. Mr McDougall dropped anchor but was not found until Monday afternoon when an R.A.A.F. Dakota sighted the disabled craft and radioed her position to the fishing boats "Emmalou" and "Atlantic Ocean". The "Shirley" was towed back to port that night by the "Emmalou".

Control of River Craft:

Amendments to the Marine Act contained in a Bill introduced into the Legislative Assembly recently, propose that all craft using the Swan River will be liable to registration fees and have their movements controlled. The amendments also provide power to confer a private right to a particular area of the river for mooring. It is not expected that government craft will be affected.

Natural History Expeditions; Report on Night Parrot:

Considerable publicity has been given in the press in recent weeks to three inland natural history expeditions. The first is being led by honorary warden and well-known naturalist, schoolteacher and Museum associate, Mr W.H. Butler, the second by Perth Technical College lecturer, Mr J.R. Ford, and the third by Museum preparator Mr E. Car.

Mr Butler's expedition to the country south of the Warburton Range has been in progress for some time. He is accompanied by Mr A. George, of the Botany Branch of the Department of Agriculture, and a press reporter.

Mr Ford, who is also an honorary warden and secretary of the Western Australian branch of the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union, is being accompanied by fellow lecturer Mr G. Leahy and another honorary warden,

(177)

Mr H. Atkinson, of Bibra Lake. They will visit the sand dune country at the southern end of the Canning stock route. A press report of their projected trip and hopes of finding certain rare fauna and of re-discovering the night parrot, induced a report from Messrs Deane and Robin Davies, of Doolgunna Station, via Meekatharra, that they had made about 12 sightings of what they believed must have been this rare bird in spinifex country near their two properties. Unsighted in Western Australia for about 80 years, the night parrot is so named because it is believed to fly only at night.

The third party, led by Mr Car, will comprise a large party of members of the W.A. Naturalists' Club. They went to the Carnarvon district principally to collect marine specimens and blind fish and blind shrimps from inland caves for the 1962 Wildlife Show.