

principally the Shire of Gnowangerup, are anxious to have the reserve amended so that land can be alienated on either side of a proposed main road to connect Newdegate with Jerramongup which, it is said, would pass through the reserve. As the reserve has been declared to be of class "A", Parliamentary sanction will be necessary before alienation may be effected.

PRAWNING LICENSES

In the August and December, 1962, issues of this Bulletin, we referred to the limitation by the Minister for Fisheries of the number of fishing vessels which would be allowed to trawl for prawns in the waters of Shark Bay.

Following further representations the Minister has directed that, for a period of three years commencing with the approaching prawn season, no additional 'outside' licenses are to be issued in regard to trawling in the defined area. The defined areas are the waters of Shark Bay lying east of $112^{\circ}50'$ of east longitude and between parallels $24^{\circ}30'$ and 27° of south latitude. The Minister has advised that exceptions to this general rule may be made only for additional licenses for on behalf of the two local companies - the Nor'-West Whaling Company and Planet Fisheries Ltd. Even then, in the interest of the fisheries, such exceptions must be kept to a minimum.

GOLDFINCHES

The Chief Vermin Control Officer, Mr A.R. Tomlinson, has supplied some interesting details of observations of goldfinches made by officers of the Agriculture Protection Board. The sightings were made during searches following reports of the occurrence of house sparrows in the Fremantle district. Mr Tomlinson said that so many reports of sightings of sparrows in the metropolitan district proved on investigation to have been inspired by occurrences of goldfinches, that the Vermin Control Officer who operated in the metropolitan area was asked to report on the numbers he saw. During the period from November 1 to November 8 he recorded the following flock size frequencies:-

<u>Flock Size</u>	<u>Frequency of Flocks</u>
Between 5 and 10	3
11 - 20	29
21 - 30	17

<u>Flock Size</u>	<u>Frequency of Flocks</u>
31 - 40	10
41 - 50	3
Over 50	3

The largest recorded flock was sighted on April 25, 1962, when a hundred birds were seen in Cannington. Other districts where large flocks were reported included Fremantle (No. 8 wharf at Fremantle Harbour), Applecross and Karrakatta.

CO-OPERATION

From time to time all members of our staff find themselves in "sticky" situations. This applies particularly to our fauna wardens who are asked to perform an amazing variety of tasks and to turn their hands to many things. Called upon last month to take into custody a large male kangaroo for delivery to the Zoo, Fauna Warden S.W. Bowler and Cadet Research Officer J. Jacoby, found, like Mrs Beaton, that they had first to capture the kangaroo in a yard at Midland and then get it into a vehicle. This sounds relatively simple until one gives some thought to the spring-steel muscles of our large marsupials, the efficient ripping devices they have as claws and nails, and their sometime pugnacious, if not positively pugilistic attitude and stance.

Had they known it they might have drawn hope from Scott's couplet -

"In man's most dark extremity,
Oft succour dawns from Heaven"

but no one thought to read it to them just then. However, with well-girt loins, and armed with ropes and bags, they entered upon the curtilage of the home of Mrs Marshall in whose backyard the big buck was contained. Mrs Marshall was not at home. They were greeted instead by a raucous alarm clock of a galah which called warningly over and over again - "Mrs Marshall", "Mrs Marshall", "Mrs Marshall"! Feeling like small boys caught in the headmaster's study, nonetheless these brave hearts continued with their allotted task. They reversed their vehicle to the yard gate, opened it and the back of the vehicle and their hearts were heavy within them as they noted the size of the kangaroo and the small space through which it must be "persuaded" to enter the vehicle.