

inspection of the pools was made on February 4. Those taking part were Dr D.L. Serventy, representing the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee, Mr C.F.H. Jenkins, representing the Zoological Gardens Board, who donated the swans to the airport, and this Department's Fauna Protection Officer, Mr H.B. Shugg. They were met by the Airport Manager, Mr H.A. Lee, whose staff supplied details of the diet and handling of the birds and maintenance of the pools.

The swans were found to be in good condition; their waterproofing and plumage being excellent. Their diet, which was said to consist of bran, pollard, wheat, considerable quantities of watercress with some lettuce and silverbeet, was considered to be most adequate. The temperature of the water in the pools was taken and found to be up to 80° in the quadrangle pool and up to 84° in the large outside pool. The temperature was lower in the smaller pool as the water in it was changed more frequently. These temperatures were thought to compare favourably with natural waters. They were about the same as those found in farm dams by the Senior Research Officer during the trout research programme. The only recommendations made by the party was that the water in the small pool be changed twice a week during the height of summer and that cast feathers be removed during moulting periods. The airport manager agreed that this work would be carried out.

SPERM WHALE SURVEY

Aerial surveys of the continental shelf from Albany to Carnarvon will commence this month. Dr R.G. Chittleborough, Senior Research Officer, Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, C.S.I.R.O., will be in charge of the programme, which is expected to continue for two years at an estimated cost of nearly £50,000. The surveys, which are being financed jointly by the whaling companies and the Fisheries Development Trust Account, will allow the collection of data on the concentration of whales, their seasonal variations and migrations around the coast. It is hoped that this additional information on the sperm whale stocks will be of considerable benefit to the two Western Australian companies, the Cheynes Beach Whaling Company and the Nor'-West Whaling Company Ltd. In the early stages, the surveys will entail six days' flying a month but an evaluation will be made after a few months' work.