

the animal life may seem unimportant. And certainly the impoundment of water for the various defensible purposes of power, irrigation, flood control, or even municipal water supply, may mean the doom of many animal forms whose favourite habitat will be buried under water. Similar alternative situations could be multiplied almost without limit. A blunt query 'What do you want, payrolls or fish?' was reported a few years ago during a State campaign against industrial steam pollution. That is over-simplification at its worst, but the rejoinder might well be, 'What will it cost to have both?'"

Many books have been written and many more will be written to explain the values of wildlife to man. We have to realise that as long as each individual animal does not carry a price-tag indicating its particular value to mankind there will be those who think it is worthless! We may rest assured, however, that there is always some argument which can be used to convince even the most stubbornly ill-informed. We have to search continually for these arguments, and bring them with whatever force lies within our power. The Australian wildlife heritage is unique. It is 100% Australian; it does not belong to us individually, nor to the community which at this time inhabits Australia. Being irreplaceable is not ours to waste or liquidate. We hold it in trust for future generations of Australians - indeed for all the peoples of the world for all time.

#### FAUNA NOTES

Inspector E.I. Forster has reported an unusual sighting at Fremantle on April 30. It was of a kingfisher, which he saw sitting on the bow of a dinghy about 30 feet behind the p.v. "Misty Isle" in the Fremantle fishing boat harbour. Mr. Forster said that the plumage of this bird seemed more dull than usual. It

stayed on the dinghy for about 20 minutes, during which time Mr. Forster had it under observation through binoculars, but then it flew off east across the Bay.

The "Handbook of the Birds of Western Australia", referring to the Sacred Kingfisher (Halcyon sancta), states - "Though this species, one of the wood or forest kingfishers, is normally an insect-eater, the ancestral habit of aquatic feeding may be called forth when the appropriate stimulus is present".

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Feral domestic pigeons (Columba livia) have been more noticeable in the metropolitan area in recent months. On May 21, Fauna Warden S.W. Bowler observed two flocks of about 30 birds in all on the Swan River foreshore between the Canning and the Narrows Bridges. Although observations have been maintained along this stretch of foreshore for 13 months, this was the first time that feral pigeons have been seen there.

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Another unusual sighting was reported by Supervising Inspector J.E. Bramley. On May 12, in Fremantle Harbour proper, he saw a large hair seal.