

Nevertheless, on August 27 the Fauna Officer, Mr. H.B. Shugg, accompanied by Fauna Warden N.E. McLaughlan, and Dr. D.L. Serventy, of the Division of Wildlife Research, C.S.I.R.O. with his Technical Assistant, Mr. A.G. Matthews, went to Mandurah to inspect the rookery and to take photographs. The previously known southernmost nesting ground of the species is at Pelican Island, Shark Bay, which Warden McLaughlan states is similar to Creery Island in many respects. A second nesting site about 50 yards away was also seen, but this too had been deserted.

Unusually large numbers of pelicans were at the time still frequenting the Peel Inlet, and Dr. Serventy considers it possible that the birds might make a further attempt at nesting, either on Creery Island or elsewhere. To date, however, no further reports have come to hand.

As the birds were not previously recorded as having nested in this State south of Shark Bay, it was of particular interest to note an item published in the July, 1963, issue of the "Newsletter" published by the Nature Conservation Society of South Australia. The "Newsletter" said it was believed that pelicans had successfully reared young in that State last summer, the first time for an unknown number of years. This had followed the establishment of the breeding area as a sanctuary, to which all entry was prohibited except by permit.

FAUNA NOTES

The following notes were compiled from information given by Mr. W.G. Pearce, a pioneer settler of Woogenellup, about twelve miles east of Mount Barker. We think they are a valuable record of fauna occurrences in the earlier days of the State.

1. POSSUMS: Brush-tailed (Trichosurus vulpecula) and
Ring-tailed (Pseudocheirus occidentalis)

1902 Ringtails plentiful in the area 12 miles east of Mount Barker.

1903 Caught many possums for their skins, but only one ringtail. The ringtail was the last seen in the district. There was scarcely any agricultural development at that stage, and habitat destruction could not have been the cause of the disappearance of the possums.

1910 First close season for possums. Numbers low, but not trapped out. They later disappeared from the district for a few years, but were known to be thick north of the Stirling Ranges in 1914, although they were scarce on the Kalgan plains.

1928 Fair numbers back once more (no ringtails), but population lowered again following the incursion of foxes. No disease was seen. Mr. Pearce poisoned extensively for rabbits, using apples treated with "Grim", which was also responsible for killing a great number of possums. He said that he was most upset at the time to find possums poisoned, but it was the only effective method of controlling rabbits then known.

2. WOILIES: Kangaroo-Rats (*Bettongia penicillata*)

1902 These animals plentiful; their stick nests common in the bush.

1903/4 Disappeared. Cause unknown.

(About) Just before the arrival of foxes in numbers
1929 in the district, kangaroo-rats were again seen in small numbers, but disappeared again once the fox became well established.

3. DALGITES (*Macrotis lagotis*)

1902- Old burrows in the district, but no dalgites
1903 seen.

1909 A few sighted and remained until foxes came. Actually saw one dead dalgite which had been killed by foxes on his property and presumed that foxes were mainly responsible for their disappearance.

4. TAMMAR (*Protemnodon eugenii*)

Never many; now seem to have disappeared entirely from the district.

5. QUOKKA (*Setonix brachyurus*)

They might have occurred, but not sure of it.

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6. NUMBAT (Myrmecobius fasciatus)

Definitely were some in the earlier years,
but none seen for a long time.

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