

6. NUMBAT (Myrmecobius fasciatus)

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

* * *

In his diary for the week ending August 3, Assistant Inspector D.H. Smith, of Albany, reported having observed 3 Black Swans in Princess Royal Harbour. This was the first sighting, he said, of swans in the harbour since the winter migration.

YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS

In his diary for the week ending August 3, Inspector A.T. Pearce of the p.v. "Dampier" reported having observed 4 flocks of between 25 and 30 Yellow-nosed Albatrosses en route to Wallabi Islands.

CORAL CRAY STANDS ALOOF

In the July, 1963, issue of this Bulletin we published a gloomy forecast by Dr. R.W. George, Curator of Invertebrates at the Western Australian Museum, concerning the prospects of a crayfishery in our northern waters. Dr. George had recently returned from Aden where he had inspected a similar fishery and considered that there was very little prospect of developing a worthwhile fishery here.

His forecast has been supported by the results of experimental fishing tests carried out in the Onslow-Cossack region by a research unit headed by the Senior Research Officer, Mr. Bowen. Mr. Bowen reported that very few painted crayfishes were found. This was due to some extent to the murkiness and churned-up nature of the water, and to the failure of the crayfish to be attracted into any of the pots which were being used. In addition to the conventional beehive pot, Aden-type pots and Canadian lobster traps were set.

The Aden pot is heart shaped with a side entrance. It is used with success in the East Aden Protectorate to catch the coral crayfish (Panulirus homarus). This species exists in small numbers in the area tested and is known locally as the Onslow crayfish. The Canadian lobster trap, or as it is often called "the bedroom and parlour trap", is rectangular in shape and divided into two compartments. It has two side entrances both leading into the one compartment.