

2. For those reasons applications by groups of fishermen elsewhere for concessional treatment have had to be rejected.
3. We are dealing with one species of crayfish and one composite fishery. Variations occur in the actual time of spawning, but over the whole area it is merely a matter of days: hence, what holds good for Fremantle, for example, also holds good for Bunbury.
4. In other sections of the crayfishery, virtually all mature females are either carrying "the tar spot", i.e. they have been fertilized or else are bearing eggs externally from August onwards. The same conditions, on the Bunbury men's own admissions, apply south of the 33rd parallel.

#### FAUNA NOTES

##### Red-capped Dotterels breed in July.

We apologise to Inspector A.V. Green, of Geraldton, for not recording previously a most interesting report he forwarded on observations on July 5, - of adults and young of Red-capped Dotterels (Charadrius alexandrinus) near the Geraldton office. In his report, which was inadvertently filed away, Mr. Green pointed out that the breeding period for this species is recorded in Cayley's "What Bird is That" as being from August to December. It should be remembered, however, that that work refers, principally, to Eastern States species and does not always include Western Australian variations. Mr. Green first saw the birds when they were crossing the road and heading towards the beach. There were two adults with two very young birds still covered with down. When approached the female resorted to the "broken wing display" while the chicks squatted on the ground. Mr. Green said that, except for their colouring, they looked very much like crouching frogs.

There are differences of opinion between many ornithologists and animal behaviourists, whether conscious or unconscious responses trigger "injury feigning" behaviour of some birds. Some see it as deliberate protective behaviour which has definite survival value, while others give the bird less credit and interpret it as a result of psychological conflict which actuates a form of catalepsy. Whatever the actuating mechanism, many species of birds feign injury or illness when their young are approached, but it is particularly common amongst the ground nesting species, of which the red-capped dotterel is one.