

Report of Tammar north of Geraldton.

While assiduously following a possible breach of the Fauna Protection Act last August, Inspector A.V. Green received a report on the occurrence of small wallabies at Balline Station, north of Port Gregory. The report was followed up by Fauna Warden S.W. Bowler, who with Inspector Green and Assistant Inspector L.R. Frizzell, searched the Balline Station area and also a property known as "The Swamps", about 7 miles east of Port Gregory. Although no tammar was sighted by the searchers, the skin of a wallaby that had been shot by Mr. Taylor was inspected and later forwarded to the Western Australian Museum. It appeared to be from a tammar. A further search of the area will be made as it is important to establish whether there is a mainland distribution of the species to complement that on East and West Wallabi Islands in Houtman Abrolhos. The existence of a number of species on the Abrolhos, well north of their mainland range, was long considered to be an indication that at the time the islands were separated from the mainland, many south-western species occurred far north of their present distribution. It was considered that their range had shrunk on the mainland through the gradual desiccation of our northern and inland areas and that their survival on the Abrolhos was due to its insular climate. However, discoveries in recent years that some of the species still occurred on the mainland north of their previously known distribution boundaries, have cast more than a shadow of doubt on the theory. Paradoxically, there is understood to be some latterday evidence in the distribution of reptiles that supports the old theory.