

Mr. Holt spoke to the group on recent advances in the field of exploited fish population dynamics. While in Perth he also gave a talk to a meeting of the Western Australian branch of the Australian Marine Sciences Association, entitled "The International Biological Programme".

Having a fishery scientist of Mr. Holt's calibre with us even if it was for just two days, was a most refreshing experience. We are most grateful that he was able to include Western Australia in his itinerary, and also to Dr. Kesteven for making his visit possible.

PUBLIC SERVICE PROVIDENT FUND

The Public Service Commissioner has advised that a review of the use made of the Public Service Provident Fund by new appointees in recent years has determined that the continued operation of the Fund is no longer necessary.

The Fund will be closed to new subscribers as from April 1, 1964. From that date new eligible employees may contribute to the Superannuation Provident Account. However, officers who are subscribing to the Fund may continue to do so, or alternatively transfer the balance of their account and their subscriptions to the Superannuation Provident Account.

FAUNA NOTES

Long Association of Two Grey Teal

The recent return by a hunter of two duck bands proved to be of more than usual interest.

Numbered 4194 and 4197, the bands had been placed on two grey teal at Gundaring Lake, 8 miles east of Wagin, on December 9, 1956, by Inspector J. Traynor. The birds were shot a little over 7 years later by Mr. R. Olden, of Boulder. He wrote that they were taken on the same day (January 11, 1964) at the same place (5 miles out of Boulder) which was about 290 miles from their banding site.

Although there are other records of apparent long-term associations, it is generally held that most ducks in the wild pair only for one season. Some waterfowl -

swans, geese and shelducks - and hawks and owls, are believed to mate for life, but most ducks are believed to be polygamous. Unfortunately, we do not know the sex of the two teal so we cannot assume that they were a true pair. We cannot be certain that the two teal associated continually in the interval between banding and recovery, but, in view of the nomadic habits of the species, it certainly appears probable.

Recovery of Duck Banded in New Zealand

An interesting report appeared in the June, 1963, edition of the Bird Bander, the journal of the Bird Banders Association of Australia, concerning the recovery of banded ducks far from their original place of banding.

A Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos), with band number NZ17-12678 attached, was shot on March 8, 1963, at Narring Narrows, near Murray Mouth, South Australia. This duck had been banded 2 years previously by the Wildlife Research Section, Department of Internal Affairs, Wellington, at Lake Tuakitoto, 40 miles West of Dunedin, in the South Island of New Zealand. It was shot 2,400 miles from where it was banded and was only the third New Zealand duck to be recovered in Australia. The other two were Black Duck (A. superciliosa). One of these was banded at Wairu Lagoon, near Elenheim, South Island, on February 16, 1952, and was shot at Menindee, New South Wales, on December 28, 1957. The other was banded at Lake Whangapi, 60 miles south of Auckland (North Island), on March 8, 1957, and was shot at Newcastle, New South Wales, on January 26, 1960.

One duck banded in Australia has been recovered in New Zealand. This was a Grey Teal (A. gibberifrons) which was banded at Lara, near Geelong, Victoria, by the Victorian Fish and Wildlife Department. It was shot at Te Kauwhata, 60 miles south of Auckland.

Local Sightings

Fleet Maintenance Officer A.J. Bateman reports two interesting observations during the month. The first was the sighting of a lone gannet on March 7 near Rottneest. Mr. Bateman thinks the bird was an old one, for it was almost black. A week later he sighted the

same bird near the North Mole, Fremantle. Gannets are of some interest to fisheries biologists. They are considered to be useful indicators of the presence of schools of surface fish.

Mr. Bateman's second report was of the occurrence on March 16 of a flock of white cockatoos at the foot of Petra Street, East Fremantle. He said that about 15 to 20 were seen on a dead gum tree near the East Fremantle Yacht Club. They were being harassed by a number of magpies. A flock of Long-Billed Corellas has been reported off and on for a considerable number of years in the Claremont-Cottesloe district. It is thought that this may be the same group. Mr. Bateman was not close enough to see whether they were the long- or short-billed variety.

Wood-duck on Taylor's Inlet

Inspector B.A. Carmichael last month reported having seen about 400 ducks, predominately black duck and teal, and also 30-odd wood duck (maned geese) on Taylor's Inlet, Nannerup. He said it was the first time he had seen wood-duck in that area.

Reports indicate that there are more of this species about in the southern part of the State than in past years. However, they have not previously been reported as occurring so close to the sea.

Death of Wood Duck

A report received by the Agriculture Protection Board from the Plantagenet Shire Council last month pointed out that a number of wood duck (maned geese) had been found dead in the vicinity of the Kalgan River at Woogenellup.

It was thought by the Shire that the birds had succumbed to 1080 rabbit poison. In fact, a poisoning programme involving the distribution of poisoned grain had been carried out in the district. It was feared that poisoned birds might be shot and human beings affected by the poison after eating the flesh.

The Shire Council has been advised that there was no direct proof that the birds had been killed by 1080. At this time of the year, when dams are drying up, botulism is always a possibility. The birds in question had been found dead near dams, hence botulism as the cause of death could not be ruled out. Indeed it was more than likely. Rabbit poisoning has been carried out for some time in areas where maned geese have been present, but no previous deaths have been reported.

Endeavours are being made to obtain a freshly poisoned bird to establish whether it was killed by poison or not.

CONVICTIONS

JANUARY - MARCH, 1964

| Date | Defendant | Court | Charge | Result |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|---------------------|--|
| <u>FISHERIES ACT</u> | | | | |
| 10.3.64 | Collins, Ronald W. | Albany | Netting) | <u>Fined</u> £10. 0.0. |
| 10.3.64 | Ridley, Ronald | " | Close | Nets con- fiscated but defendants to be given opportunity to repurchase. £10. 0.0. |
| 10.3.64 | Hardie, Walter M. | " | Waters | |
| 10.3.64 | North, Frederick | " | " | |
| 20.1.64 | Ricciardi, Natole | Fremantle | U/S | 58.15.0. |
| 20.1.64 | Ricciardi, Guiseppe | " | Crayfish | 30. 0.0. |
| 20.1.64 | Scaffidi, Guiseppe | " | " | 13. 0.0. |
| 6.10.63 | Rotondella, Guiseppe | " | Brushed Spawners | 25. 0.0. and license sus- pended for 3 months. |
| 6.10.63 | Rotondella, Guiseppe | " | U/S Crayfish | 36.17.6. |
| 6.10.63 | Rotondella, Guiseppe | " | " | 10. 0.0. |
| 3.2.64 | Greco, Guiseppe | " | " | 11.17.6. |
| 3.2.64 | Percich, Ivan | " | " | 11. 0.0. |
| 3.2.64 | Zitko, Andy | " | " | 15.17.6. |
| 3.2.64 | Lever, Robert S. | " | " | 12.15.0. |