

itself, the offspring spending their early lives in the safe and sheltered river waters. He estimated that there are about 15 species of whaler shark common to Western Australian waters, some growing up to 12 feet in length.

This report is indeed interesting, when it might be remembered that another authority on sharks, the late David G. Stead, who studied sharks and their habits for 50 years, attributed the major shark attacks on human beings in Australian waters to the whaler sharks and not to grey nurse or tiger sharks as is sometimes reported.

#### POSSUMS IN THE GERALDTON DISTRICT

Inspector A.V. Green, lately of Geraldton, has passed on a report he has had from an employee of the Main Roads Department on the occurrence of fair numbers of Brush-tailed Possums (Trichosurus vulpecula) along the Greenough River just above the Geraldton highway bridge. Mr. Green was also told that there were a few along the Bowes River on the road into Horrocks Beach. About six months ago, when a tree was bulldozed, a possum had been found in it with a young one clinging to it.

In recent years possums appear to have increased from the near-extinction of the early fifties, but very few reports are received of their occurrence north of Bullsbrook.

#### BLACK SWANS AND DUCKS PLENTIFUL AT ONSLOW

Mr. P. Ahmat, the Fisheries Inspector at Onslow, reported recently that after the passing of cyclone "Katie" at the end of March, he had observed a large number of black swans and several thousand ducks, mostly teal, on a swamp flat approximately 20 miles out from Onslow on the main north road. He also observed a large number of ducks on the Ashburton River.

Mr. Ahmat commented that he had never seen such a large number of swans in the area before, and duck had not been so plentiful, to his knowledge, for at least 30 years.