

SHORT-NECKED TORTOISE

The 1970 Annual Report of the Zoological Gardens Board of W.A. contained the following report of successful breeding of the Short-necked Tortoise:—

For the third time, the Short-necked Tortoises have bred, but for the first time, two clutches have hatched, indicating that two females bred. The broods consisted of four and three and both surfaced after very heavy falls of autumn rain, the first on 24-29 April and the second brood on 9-11 May.

Hatchling Short-necked Tortoises climb like tree-frogs and before discovery, one of the brood of three had climbed from the pool of the adults into that occupied by yearling Western Long-necked Tortoises where its mutilated remains were found next day. The six survivors are doing well on a diet of water-fleas.