

EXCITEMENT OVER DUNNART

A Dunnart found at Kalbarri by Mr Don Bellairs and subsequently handed to National Park Ranger, Mr Cyril Cockman has caused excitement among research officers.

The Dunnart was kept by Mr Cockman who fed it on insects. However, he was unable to keep up with the animal's insatiable demands and released it in the capture area. Fortunately a series of photographs were taken and these have been closely examined by departmental research staff and Museum staff.

It is thought that the specimen may have been the uncommon White-tailed Dunnart (*Sminthopsis granulipes*). The basis for this is that the colour closely matches that of specimens at the W.A. Museum. White-tailed Dunnarts are much lighter in colour than the common Fat-tailed Dunnart (*Sminthopsis crassicaudata*). In addition, Mr Cockman says that the tail was about $2\frac{1}{2}$ 3 in. long which is considerably longer than *S. crassicaudata*.

On a purely subjective basis the photographs do not look like any *S. crassicaudata* that any of the scientific officers have ever handled. The head seems very long but this could be the angle at which the photograph was taken. *Sminthopsis granulipes* has a very long skull.

In "Native Mammals of Australia" Ride says: "The White-tailed Dunnart was collected first by G. Masters in the collection that he made between 1868 and 1869 at 'King George's Sound and Salt River'. Between 1925 and 1965 nine specimens have been collected . . . at various localities in the drier inland periphery of the south-west of Western Australia".



White-tailed Dunnart (*Sminthopsis granulipes*)

Mr. Cockman has promised to try and capture another specimen so that a positive identification can be made. If he is successful and this specimen is found to be the White-tailed Dunnart it would seem that the specimen is well out of its previously known range, being further north and closer to the coast than any other specimen ever recorded.

Notification of this capture was in Mr Cockman's quarterly report as an Honorary Warden; this shows the importance of these reports.

APPOINTMENTS

HONORARY WARDENS

Mr Joseph Tindall STEWART of Uganda Road, Lake Gngangara.

Mr Albert John CARLISLE of Cocklebidy Motel, Cocklebidy.

Mr Ernest Anthony GIBELLINI of "Vampos", Palgarup, via Manjimup.

Mr Lieth Donald BLAIR of 16 Roberts Road, Attadale.

Mr Peter St. B. CONNOR of 117 Winthrop Avenue, Crawley.

Mr Leslie THOMPSON of 34 Stirling Highway, Nedlands.

Mr David Eric HUTCHISON of 7 Fern Street, Swanbourne.

Mr Brian John HUTCHESON of 11 Birchwood Avenue, Woodlands.

Mr Sean John ROBERTS of Lot 3, 125 Rosanna Drive, Dianella.

Mr Norman Douglas McPHERSON of 141 Croyden Road, Roleystone.

Mr Michael Allister CAMPBELL of 10 Robinson Street, Port Hedland.

Mr Gerald CARTY of 42 Gratwick Street, Port Hedland.

Mr Bevan Edward DOWINTON of Lot 1945 Corbett Place, South Hedland.

Mr Kevin John DUFFY of 24a Gratwick Street, Port Hedland.

Mr John Robert FORD of 64 Sutherland Street, Port Hedland.

Mr Lance HAMMOND of 6 Pilkington Street, Port Hedland.

Mr Colin Ross MANSOM of 3 Grant Place, Port Hedland.

Mr Denis Claude DRAGE of 28 Albany Highway, Mt. Barker.

Mr Sydney Hugh STEWART of Roe Location 411, Pingaring.

Mr Anthony Andrew TOMAZIN of 36 Banks Avenue, Hillary Beach.

Mr David Richard GALVIN of 19 Moore Street, Port Hedland.

WARDENS

Mr William Kenneth YOUNGSON (gazetted 19/1/73)

Mr Floyd Allen RIFFEY (gazetted 19/1/73)