

SWEDES VISIT W.A.

In February, the Swedish Minister for the Environment, Mr Ingemund Bengtsson, visited Australia for the Environment '73 Conference in Sydney.

There is no doubt that Sweden is a world leader in the field of environmental protection and Mr Bengtsson was Chairman of last year's United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (U.N.C.H.E.).

Fortunately, the Swedish party found time to visit Western Australia, and this provided the opportunity for our Minister for Environmental Protection, Mr Ron Davies, to meet Mr Bengtsson and discuss matters of common interest.

The Swedish party were entertained on board the Fremantle Port Authority vessel *Challenger* and shown the Cockburn Sound complex. The Department of Fisheries and Fauna was represented by Dr D. A. Hancock, Chief Research Officer.

Members of the Swedish Minister's party shown in the photograph below are (from right to left):

Mr Per Anger, Swedish Ambassador.

Mr Valfrid Paulsson, Head of the National Environment Protection Board.

Mr Ivan Eckersten, Secretary, Department of Environment and Agriculture.

Mr Ingemund Bengtsson, Minister for the Environment.

Mr Ingar Widen, Head of the National Board of Agriculture.

Mr Lennart Hannerz, Head of Research, National Environment Protection Board.



ASHY-GREY MOUSE AT LAKE GRACE

In February this year Technical Officer Ken Youngson and Honorary Warden K. Morris trapped an Ashy-Grey Mouse (*Pseudomys albocinereus*) between Lake Grace North and Lake Grace South.

The capture is significant because all recent specimens have been trapped on coastal heath and sandplain, and the present range in Western Australia was thought to be



Ashy-Grey Mouse (*Pseudomys albocinereus*)

restricted to Bernier and Dorre Islands, in Shark Bay, and the coastal areas of the South West. The inland limits were defined in 1906 by Shortridge who captured several specimens from the Beverley and Brookton areas. None have been seen or captured so far inland since that time, and it was generally thought that alteration to the inland habitat had reduced their range to the coastal areas.

The specimen captured affirms that the Ashy-Grey Mouse is still present in inland areas, although in limited numbers. No specimen has ever before been captured so far inland.

Possibly the isolated population between the two lakes has remained because of the protection from fire afforded by the lakes themselves on the eastern and western boundaries and by farming properties to the north and south. In addition there are no access roads to the area and the habitat closely resembles the coastal heath and dune country where these animals are normally found.

The Ashy-Grey Mouse is slightly larger than a house mouse and has a velvety smokey-grey coat with a pale undersurface. The feet and tail are pink and the eyes large and black. The tail is about 3 in. long and lightly haired.