

ADDITIONAL PROTECTION FOR RARE FAUNA

Thirty-four mammals and three reptiles have been declared "rare and likely to become extinct" and anyone interfering in any way with any of these animals is now liable to a penalty of \$1,000.

Similar protection has already been given to 16 species of bird and these have been detailed in SWANS Vol. 3, No. 1; Vol. 3, No. 2 and Vol. 4, No. 1.

The 53 species of fauna now afforded this protection provide an authoritative statement of where the major problems of wildlife conservation lie so far as Western Australia is concerned.

The most recent list contains species which fall into five categories.

1. Species which are probably already extinct in Western Australia, e.g. Nos. 10, 11, 13, 15, 28 and 29.

2. Species which have always been rare, e.g., Nos. 1, 7 and 35.

3. Species which were once widespread but whose range has been reduced drastically since European settlement, e.g., Nos. 2, 6, 8, 9, 12 and 14.

4. Species which have been collected very rarely. In fact some of these species may be common but accurate information is lacking. On the other hand some may be extinct, e.g., Nos. 16-27 and 30-33.

5. Species which are still relatively common but which are subject to hunting pressures which may cause them to become very rare, e.g., Nos. 34, 36 and 37.

MAMMALS

1. **Barrow Island Euro** *Macropus robustus isabellinus*. This subspecies is found only on Barrow Island. Research there by the Department has shown that numbers are quite low and a close watch is being kept on the species.

2. **Crescent Nail-tailed Wallaby** *Onychogalea lunata*. Once found throughout the south west, east of the Darling Range. Shortridge between 1904 and 1907 collected it near Pingelly and Wagin. Now extinct in the south west but apparently still found in low numbers in the arid interior. The last specimen collected was a dead animal found near Warburton Mission by W. H. Butler in 1964.

3. **Spectacled Hare Wallaby** *Lagorchestes conspicillatus*. Once found throughout the Pilbara and southern Kimberley in spinifex country. Its range is now much reduced but it still occurs on Barrow Island and in pockets on the mainland. Also occurs in the Northern Territory. Extinct on Hermite Island in the Monte Bellos.

4. **Western Hare Wallaby** *Lagorchestes hirsutus*. Was fairly plentiful in the south west and centre of Western Australia until the turn of the century. In the south west last collected near Kojonup in 1896, and the last specimens on the mainland were collected near the Canning Stock Route in 1931.

Still occurs on Bernier and Dorre Islands in Shark Bay.



Western Hare Wallaby (*Lagorchestes hirsutus*)

5. **Banded Hare Wallaby** *Lagostrophus fasciatus*. First described by William Dampier in 1699 on Dirk Hartog Island. It was once fairly widespread through the southern half of the State, still being plentiful near Pingelly and Wagin in 1904-06 but disappearing shortly afterwards. Now restricted to Bernier and Dorre Islands in Shark Bay.



Juvenile Banded Hare Wallaby (*Lagostrophus fasciatus*)

6. **Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby** *Petrogale penicillata*. Although previously occurring in a number of suitable areas in the south west it is now known only from a few areas in the Quairading-Kellerberrin-Bruce Rock area. Also occurs on islands in the Recherche Archipelago, in Kalbarri National Park, in the Hamersley Ranges and the Kimberley. Also on Barrow Island and Depuch Island.

7. **Rothschild's Rock Wallaby** *Petrogale rothschildi*. Known only from the Western Hamersley Ranges and three islands in the Dampier Archipelago.

8. **Woolie** *Bettongia penicillata*. Once occurred over much of southern Australia but now known from only four localities in the south west, near Brookton, near Pingelly, at Dryandra and east of Manjimup.

9. **Boodie** *Bettongia lesueur*. Was quite common in the south west up to the 1930's but now believed to be extinct on the mainland. Occurs only on Bernier, Dorre and Barrow Islands and a small unnamed island south of Barrow.

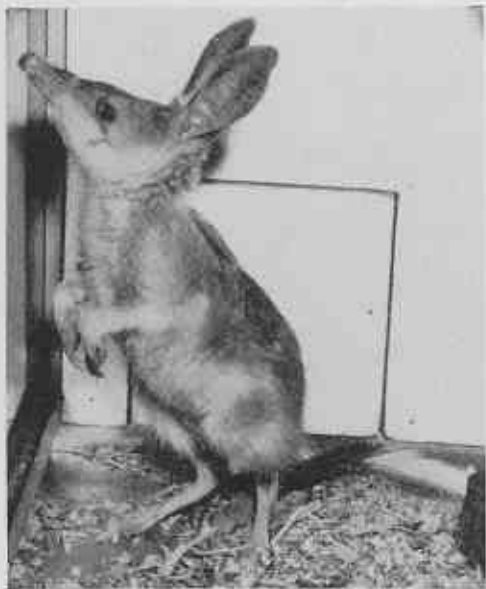
10. **Broad-faced Potoroo** *Potorous platyops*. This species was first collected in 1842-3 near Albany and Goomalling. It was last collected in 1875. It is probably extinct.

11. **Gilbert's Potoroo** *Potorous tridactylus gilberti*. This animal was collected along the south coast during the last century but has not been seen since. Another sub-species still occurs in the eastern states.

12. **Little Barred Bandicoot (Marl)** *Perameles bougainville*. Originally occurred in the south west and as far north as Shark Bay and Onslow. It still occurred in the south west in 1905 but is now presumed to be extinct on the mainland. Only occurs on Bernier and Dorre Islands in Shark Bay.

13. **Pig-footed Bandicoot** *Chaeropus ecaudatus*. This animal is probably extinct, and only one specimen has ever been collected in Western Australia (In 1843, near Northam).

14. **Dalgyte** (Rabbit-eared Bandicoot) *Macrotis lagotis*. Formerly very common in the agricultural areas of the south west but disappearing from there in the 1930's. Now known from a few scattered localities in the north and centre.



Dalgyte (*Macrotis lagotis*)

15. **Rusty Numbat** *Myrmecobius fasciatus rufus*. This subspecies formerly occurred in Central Australia and has been recorded only once in Western Australia. This was in the Warburton Ranges in 1950. The Numbat *Myrmecobius f. fasciatus* is still quite plentiful in Wandoo forests in the southwest.

16. **Dibbler** *Antechinus apicalis*. Originally collected in the last century at widely separate localities in the south west. Three specimens were captured at Cheynes Beach in 1967. Not collected since.



Dibbler (*Antechinus apicalis*)

17. **Little Red Antechinus** *Antechinus rosamondae*. Occurs in the Pilbara in spinifex country. Very rarely collected.

18. **Long-tailed Dunnart** *Sminthopsis longicaudata*. This species has only been collected four times, three being in the Pilbara.

19. **White-tailed Dunnart** *Sminthopsis granulipes*. Occurs in the drier parts of the south west. Very rarely collected.

20. **Troughton's Dunnart** *Sminthopsis murina ooldea*. Known only from a restricted area of the Nullarbor Plain.

21. **Narrow-nosed Planigale** *Planigale tenuirostris*. In Western Australia collected only at Abydos Station in the Pilbara. Occurs rarely in the east.

22. **Kimberley Planigale** *Planigale subtilissima*. Known from a few specimens taken in the Kimberley. Recently collected during the "Ord Noah" rescue operations.

23. **Rock-haunting Ringtail** *Petropseudes dahli*. Only two specimens known from Western Australia, these being collected in the King Leopold Ranges in 1965. A few specimens have been collected in the Northern Territory.

24. **Scaly-tailed Possum** *Wyulda squamicaudata*. Known only from the Kimberley where it has been rarely collected, but in scattered localities from Broome to Kalumburu and Turkey Creek.

25. **Big-eared Hopping Mouse** *Notomys megalotis*. One specimen was collected near New Norcia in 1843. It has not been seen since.

26. **Long-tailed Hopping Mouse** *Notomys longicaudatus*. Also collected at New Norcia in 1843 and has not been seen since in Western Australia. Collected in central Australia around the turn of the century.

27. **Dusky Hopping Mouse** *Notomys fuscus*. Rarely collected in Western Australia. Known only from the Nullarbor Plain area.

28. **Stick-nest Rat** *Leporillus conditor*. Possibly occurred in Western Australia as old nests have been found at various localities. Collected on the eastern Nullarbor Plain in the 1920's. Now known only on Franklin Island in the Nuyts Archipelago, South Australia.

29. **White-tipped Stick-nest Rat** *Leporillus apicalis*. Originally known from the arid interior and from the Murray and Darling Rivers in the east. This animal is probably extinct and it is not known for sure whether it ever occurred in Western Australia.

30. **Western Mouse** *Pseudomys occidentalis*. This mouse was first collected in 1930 near Tambellup. Up until recently only two other specimens had been collected but in the last two years it has been found on a number of wildlife sanctuaries in the south eastern wheatbelt.

31. **Shark Bay Mouse** *Pseudomys praeconis*. First collected on Peron Peninsula, Shark Bay in 1858 but since it has only been found on Bernier Island.

32. **Gould's Native Mouse** *Pseudomys gouldii*. In Western Australia this mouse has only been collected at Rawlinna.

33. **Shortridge's Native Mouse** *Pseudomys shortridgei*. Known from the south west (e.g., east of Pingelly and near Hyden) but has not been collected for some time. Still occurs in Victoria.

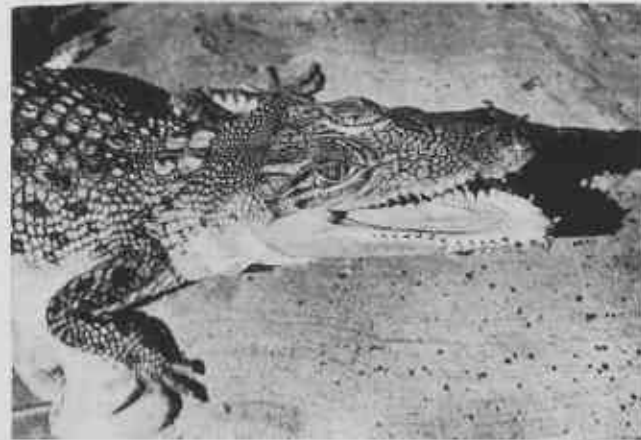
34. **Dugong** *Dugong dugon*. In Western Australian waters occurs from Geraldton northwards. It is still fairly common in Shark Bay, near Dampier Archipelago and in the Kimberley, but is very susceptible to hunting by man.



Dugong (*Dugong dugon*)

REPTILES

35. **Western Swamp (Shortnecked) Tortoise** *Pseudemys umbrina*. This species is now almost totally restricted to two small wildlife sanctuaries in the Upper Swan-Bullsbrook area. Studies have shown that there are probably less than 100 remaining and that numbers are declining due to poor winters.



Salt-water Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*)

36. **Salt-water Crocodile** *Crocodylus porosus*. Once plentiful along the Kimberley coastline but now quite rare due to hunting pressure.

37. **Fresh-water Crocodile** *Crocodylus johnstoni*. Still found in reasonable numbers in some river systems in the Kimberley but numbers have been reduced by poaching.

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX OF BIRDS

The aim of the National Photographic Index of Australian Birds is to establish a comprehensive reference collection of 5,000 colour photographs recording all of Australia's 700 plus species and their plumage variations, together with illustrations of their behaviour. By this means, the Index hopes to contribute to the knowledge of, and interest in Australian birds and their preservation.

The Bank of New South Wales is now sponsoring a Grants Scheme in support of the Index. This support is to the extent of \$5,000 per year for four years. The prime object of this scheme is to obtain photographs of species not yet represented in the Index—especially those which are rare. Grants are made to assist the photographers with field expenses, film and equipment. Applications are considered by an Advisory Panel comprising Dr. D. L. Serventy, Mr. E. L. Carthew, Mr. H. D. Millen, Mr. E. C. Slater and Mr. R. W. Turner.

Grants totalling \$2,920 in cash and provision of Kodak film and processing worth over \$1,000 plus substantial loans of cameras and equipment were awarded to 23 recipients following recommendations of the Advisory Panel at its meeting on 6th April, 1973. Applications far exceeded the money allocated for the year and every effort was made to distribute the grants as fairly as possible, with paramount consideration given to potential benefit to the Index.

A Selection Panel examines all photographs submitted for inclusion in the Index. On the 2-5 April, 1973, this panel comprising Mr. H. J. de S. Disney, Mr. A. Robinson, Mr. E. C. Slater, Mr. A. G. Gray, Mr. H. D. Millen, Mr. K. Muller and Mrs. Judy Clarke, considered a total of 2,408 transparencies received from 102 photographers. Of these, 567 were accepted for the Index and 243 for the transparencies section. A total of 60 new species were added to the Index with a further 34 new species included in the transparencies section. This gives a grand total of 7,633 photographs submitted for consideration, of which 471 have been accepted for the transparencies section and 1,985 for the Index itself. A total of 538 species is now represented in the Index.

All enquiries concerning the Index should be directed to—

The Executive Officer,
National Photographic Index of Australian Birds,
c/o The Australian Museum,
6-8 College Street,
SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000.