

AUSTRALIAN BUSTARDS

From reports which have been coming into the Department during the last 12 months, it would appear that the publicity and prohibition on the taking of Bustards (*Eupodotis australis*) is having an effect.

Groups from about 24 down to single animals have been reported from Derby south to Ravensthorpe.

However, strong evidence has been received that killing of the birds and cooking them in open bush pots is still happening on Cherrabun Station in the Derby area and also north-east of Laverton.

The Badgingarra/Dandaragan area has figured continually in sightings of the birds including small groups of juveniles. It is hoped that the area does not attract those city dwellers who like to head out to the fringe areas on weekends and shoot anything in sight, with their seldom used armoury—unless they do not mind a \$400 fine.