

A WIN FOR THE SMOKER PARROT

Last July letters were sent by the Western Australian Aviculturists Society to the Shires of Broomehill, Gingin, Narrogin, Victoria Plains and Wickepin pointing out that the Smoker Parrot, while protected throughout the State by the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, was an agriculture protection board "declared species" (vermin) in those shires. This once prolific but now rare bird could therefore be reduced in numbers or kept under control (shot in other words) but not taken for aviculture.

It was pointed out to the Shires concerned that it was possibly only an oversight on their part that this situation persisted, as it was felt that the numbers were not now so great that the bird presented any threat to Agriculture. It is to the Shires' credit that each one agreed with the Society and consequently wrote to the Agriculture Protection Board asking that the position be rectified.

The Smoker has now been re-classified by the Agriculture Protection Board and if the numbers ever build up again, so much that it becomes a pest, it can be controlled. It is gratifying that the Shires have acceded to such a request from the aviculturists Society.



Regent or Smoker Parrot—(*Polytelis anthopeplis*)

Photo K. & B. Richards