

## FIRETAILS AGAIN

In response to the article on Red-eared Firetail finches in S.W.A.N.S. Volume 9 Number 1, a farmer from the south coast near Denmark wrote to the Department describing those beautiful birds on his property. He stated that there are literally hundreds of them on the property and said that many feed and nest around his house.

A major portion of the gentleman's property has been retained in its natural state, therefore encouraging the birds to remain in the area, and he says that the sight of all the birds during the breeding season is one to behold.

Other reports from around the south west of the State show that Red-eared Firetails can be found in small pockets of suitable habitat along the South coast. The species is, however, now rare through most of its range along the west coast.

It would be nice to report areas where the birds can be readily observed, but such information would have illegal trappers swarming into the areas, and this would not help in the conservation of such a rare species. Unfortunately the activities of illegal trappers will always restrict worthwhile reporting of important sightings. People declaring such information to the Department will always have their observations etc. treated in the strictest confidence.