

fishermen (mainly amateurs) potting in the area, even though the crayfish stocks were almost 100% undersize. It was also suspected that unauthorized persons were pulling the pots Dr. Chittleborough was using to catch juvenile fish for marking.

#### SOUTHERN INSPECTIONS BY FAUNA SUB-COMMITTEE

To acquaint themselves with local situations associated with requests to use some south-west lakes for water sports, and to investigate a report of the presence of the Noisy Scrub-bird in the Quarram area, a sub-committee of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee carried out a four-day visit of inspection from January 18 to 21.

The Director, Mr. Fraser, led the party which included Committee members A.J. Milesi, J.B. Higham, G.M. Storr and A.H. Robinson. Fauna Officer H.B. Shugg, Wildlife Research Officer T.L. Riggert and Secretary G.E. Dixon accompanied the committee.

The first inspection was at Lake Towerrinning, where an on-the-spot discussion was held with some members of the Shire of West Arthur and local Honorary Fauna Wardens R.J. Schinzig and W.H. Horley. The Committee has agreed to lease to the Shire a portion of the waters of the lake for the purpose of water ski-ing, boating and swimming. The Shire requested the Committee to increase the area originally offered. However, it is apparent that in the near future, action will be necessary to gain control of the overflow levee bank which is at present freehold property and part of an adjoining farm. Should the owner decide to plough and crop the bank, which is at present stabilized by the existing natural growth, overflow water could cut through the bank and allow the lake to drain away. Local flooding could also be the result.

Next morning, following a rendezvous with four members of the Tone River Progress Association - one of whom was Honorary Warden J. Connor - the sub-committee visited Lake Unicup. A discussion was held at the lake side. The Progress Association members were advised that no objection would be raised to their request that water ski-ing be permitted on the lake, that a boat launching ramp or apron be constructed, that they be permitted to clear reeds 200 yards on either side of the boat launching site - to provide a clear swimming area for children, that approval be given to the partial clearing and cleaning up of a

small area adjacent to the swimming site to cater for picnickers, and that authority be granted for the erection of shelters and sanitary conveniences. A short visit was made to Little Unicum Lake, which is situated approximately one mile north-west of Lake Unicum. Unlike Lake Unicum, Little Unicum is salt. However, the vast number of water fowl and wading birds on Little Unicum at the time certainly proves its worth as a fauna reserve. During the afternoon the sub-committee was shown around Byenup and Tordit-Gurruop Lagoons east of Lake Muir by local farmer and Honorary Warden Bessel Hanekamp.

Following an overnight stay at Walpole an investigation was made of the reported presence of the Noisy Scrub-bird in dense growth adjacent to a swamp along the Boat Harbour track, near Quarram. Although there was no sign of the bird, members of the committee were enthusiastic over the possibilities of its existence there. The habitat where the bird was reported is very similar to that at Two People Bay where the Noisy Scrub-bird was re-discovered two or three years ago. The party took the opportunity to go the extra two miles to visit Boat Harbour where a commercial salmon fishery exists. The sub-committee called on the Shire Clerk at Albany later in the day, and an informal meeting was held in the Council Chambers with three members of the Shire and the Shire Clerk. Several matters were discussed, including the Department's suggestion that a Folk Museum be built on the Fauna Reserve at Two People Bay as an added tourist attraction. The following day before returning to Perth, a visit was made to Two People Bay to acquaint those committee members who had not previously seen the Noisy Scrub-bird habitat, with the nature of its domicile, and also to inspect the damage caused by the recent fires at Two People Bay and on Mt. Gardner.