

On February 7 Mr. Morrison will leave for Geraldton to participate in a further phase of the campaign to eliminate introduced rats (Rattus rattus) on Pigeon Island in the Wallabi Group of Houtman Abrolhos.

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Later this month Wildlife Research Officer T.L. Riggert will investigate reports of high mortality among waterfowl on lakes on the coastal plain north of Gingin. He will be accompanied by Technical Officer D. Wright.

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The Fauna Officer, Mr. H.B. Shugg, will represent the Department at a meeting and field inspection to be held at Williams on March 18. The meeting has been organised by Mr. W.A. Manning, M.L.A., in connection with a proposal to alienate land reserved for water supply purposes at Contine. Officers of the Country Water Supplies Branch of the Public Works Department will also attend.

#### MINISTER SEES FOR HIMSELF

The Minister for Fisheries and Fauna, Mr. MacKinnon, made an inspection by plane of close waters between Fremantle and the 30th parallel on Wednesday January 19. The Director and the Supervising Inspector accompanied him.

Up to 1,000 pots and a boat working pots were seen in closed waters.

The Minister expressed both disappointment and some little anger at these discoveries, particularly in view of the assurances previously received from various crayfishing organisations that conservation laws would be respected.

Follow-up action was taken by the p.v. 'Pelsart' and further spot air checks are planned.

#### PERSONAL PAR

Dr. G. van Tets, of the Division of Wildlife Research, C.S.I.R.O., will arrive on a short visit to the State on February 23. Dr. van Tets, who has been working on the problems of removing the threat that birdlife poses to jet aircraft at Australian airports, will survey the situation at Perth airport where banded plovers congregate, and at Jandakot airport where brush wallabies and grey kangaroos are threats to the safety of light aircraft during landing and take-off.