

## FAUNA PROTECTION ACT.

Frequently enquiries are received from students undertaking studies concerning fauna, and from the general public in relation to the application of the Fauna Protection Act. The following has been prepared as a general guide and should be used by officers when answering enquiries.

Under Section 14 of this State's Fauna Protection Act 1950-54 all fauna is protected until declared otherwise. By fauna is meant all the vertebrate animals that occur in this State, either naturally or as a result of migration or from introduction by man, and which are wild by nature. These include mammals, birds and reptiles - in fact, all animals with backbones except fishes.

When speaking of "protected" fauna we mean that it is protected from being taken by any means, that it is prohibited to kill or capture, to poison or hunt, to disturb or injure any fauna not declared to be protected. Only a few species have been declared to be not protected (eg., saltwater crocodile) so the great majority of them are protected.

### What Protection Means.

Protected fauna may not lawfully be taken by any person, anywhere or at any time, unless by the authority of a license which he holds under section 17 of the Fauna Protection Act. Fauna on private property is protected too because the Act declares that all fauna is the property of the Crown until lawfully taken.

### Fauna in Captivity and for Study.

No fauna, with the exception of up to nine unprotected birds, may lawfully be kept in captivity by any private individual except under license.

While unprotected fauna may be taken without a license, it may be kept in captivity only by licensed persons, or in an official school holding area. Unprotected fauna and frogs may be used for dissection and study in official school courses.

Protected fauna may be taken only under license and the license may set down conditions under which the fauna may be kept.

If a protected bird or other animal is rescued from

a hostile situation, it may be taken to a school or elsewhere for identification but it must be released as soon as possible in a favourable situation. Protected fauna (except specimens found dead) must not be taken for dissection purposes except under a special license.