

It is with deep regret that we report the sudden death of newly appointed Technical Assistant S.R. Hogan as a result of a traffic accident. Our sympathies are extended to his family.

#### SURVEY ON THE PLAINS TURKEY OR BUSTARD

The Director of Fisheries and Fauna has received a letter from the Secretary of the Fisheries and Wildlife Department, Victoria, expressing gratitude for the large number of reports received from Western Australia.

Many reports are still coming in and when the final batch is forwarded to Victoria it is expected that a very high percentage return will have been achieved.

Congratulations to all those concerned.

#### RESEARCH OFFICER ADDRESSES THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATURALIST CLUB

At the April General Meeting of the Western Australian Naturalists Club, Fauna Research Officer Mr. T. Riggert gave senior club members a talk on "Wetlands of Western Australia".

During the course of his address Mr. Riggert dealt with swamps and reserves and fresh-water life. Mr. Riggert addressed the Club on a previous occasion, his subject then being "Antarctica", where he had served with a New Zealand party during his period as a biologist with the New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs.

#### SHORT-NECKED TORTOISE CAUSES RE-ROUTING OF CO-AXIAL CABLE.

Welcome news was received from the Post Master General's Department during April concerning the routing of the Perth-Carnarvon co-axial cable through the Short-Necked Tortoise Reserve at Bullsbrook.

The laying of the co-axial cable is a major undertaking which will service recent spectacular industrial development in the north west of our State. It was originally planned to route the cable through part of the habitat of the short-neck tortoise reserve. However, the P.M.G. has now decided after consultation with Fauna Officer H.B. Shugg and Dr. Main, of the University of Western Australia, to change the route to a situation close to the present boundary fence. This will mean that the habitat of the tortoise will not be disturbed in any way by the laying of the cable.

It is most gratifying to see this type of co-operation on the part of a Department responsible for such an expensive undertaking. It is another example of how industrial progress and conservation can, with mutual co-operation, develop side by side to service the needs of the whole community.