

TUNA AERIAL SURVEY

Survey VII was flown during the period June 9 to June 15.

Comments:

Water colour conditions were similar to those sighted in May but muddy conditions inshore were reduced. Close to the coast (about 15 miles) streaks and large patches of Trichodesmium were associated with faint current lines and in this region the water colour changed from light blue ("milky") to green. Good sightings of tuna were made in these areas.

Light winds allowed for favourable spotting conditions throughout most of the area surveyed. Light east to south-east winds prevailed close to the coast in the morning. The afternoons were calm.

As in previous surveys, most sightings were made in the areas north of Onslow and around Broome.

The size of the schools appeared to be smaller than those sighted during Survey VI, but the number of schools sighted increased by 322+.

The fish size structure of the schools was little changed from those sighted during Survey VI, i.e., smaller fish were sighted off Onslow and larger fish off Broome.

Opposite: Table I summarises the sightings of schools by size and area; Table II shows the analysis of the size composition of the schools sighted; Table III shows the number of bait school sightings.

BLACK SHOULDERED KITE AT PERTH DISTRICT OFFICE

Technical Assistant David Wright and Cadet Inspector Richard Silbert report having sighted two Black Shouldered Kites in a Poplar Tree at Perth District Office.

It seems that the birds were probably nesting in the vicinity. Black Shouldered Kites are rare visitors to the metropolitan area and this report was therefore received with much interest.