

The new regulations would enable a number of companies to proceed with plans for the development of charter services, for big game fishing tourism and for other purposes, Mr. Hutchinson concluded.

WILDLIFE SHOW 1967.

The annual Wildlife Show conducted by the Western Australian Naturalists' Club and the W.A. Gould League will take place at the Perth Town Hall from September 18 to 23 inclusive.

Once again the Department will participate with a display. The theme will be the "Wetlands of Western Australia" and will feature the Department's activities in waterfowl research and habitat preservation.

Two films will be screened in the theatrette at the Town Hall featuring waterfowl research work. One film is of the Department's research work at Rottneet Island and the other concerns the preserving of a particular waterfowl refuge in New Zealand.

Immediately following the Wildlife Show the display will be taken to Kalgoorlie where the Department will participate in the Australian Inland Mission's Wildflower and General Exhibition.

PALLINUP RIVER PATROL

Inspector D.P. Gordon reports from Albany that on a recent patrol to the Pallinup River he sighted approximately 1,000 Black Duck. There were also several hundred Grey Teal and approximately 20 pairs of Chestnut Teal with the Black Duck.

Other birds sighted included gulls, Crested Terns, Large Black Cormorants, Small Black Cormorants, Large Pied Cormorants, several large hawks and one Wedge-tailed Eagle.

Black Swans, Musk Ducks, Dab Chicks and large White Egrets were also observed. Inspector Gordon said there were many hundreds of coots and also two pairs of maned geese (or wood duck) and one pair of mountain duck.

OPEN SEASON FOR WILD DUCK

The Minister for Fisheries and Fauna announced recently that he had accepted in principle a recommendation from the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee that the next open season for wild duck should commence from a date much later in the season than previously.

Consequently, it was proposed that the season should open at 2.00 p.m. on Saturday, January 20, 1968, throughout the whole of the South-West and Eucla Land Divisions. The evening opening previously granted as a concession to dairy farmers in the south-west corner of the State, from Bunbury to Manjimup, would be abolished and the season would open in those areas at the same time as in the rest of the area concerned.

The Committee's reasons for recommending a delay in the opening were -

1. Duck populations are at an all time low.
2. The heavy rains this year suggest that breeding will probably be continued longer than usual.
3. In normal years the old opening time of the week-end before Christmas was -
 - (a) often far too early;
 - (b) sometimes a week or two early;
 - (c) infrequently just about right.
4. A later opening would increase the possibility of other water birds successfully raising their young before the season opened. According to information received in other years the young of some rarer birds, such as Spoonbills and Egrets, had been lost through disturbance suffered on opening day.

It was realised that the later opening time would not suit all parts of the State. The work of the Department's wetland research unit suggested, however, that duck populations were so reduced that strong measures were necessary to safeguard them.

The season would close at the usual time of 7.0'clock in the afternoon of April 30.