

WATERFOWL OBSERVATIONS!

The Department's Supervising Inspector, Mr. J.E. Bramley in the company of Inspector D.H. Smith rowed from Willies Lake to Fulton's Lake passing through the Spectacle Lakes and Hell's Gates on November 29, 1967.

Over 100 adult Black Ducks were counted from Willies Lake to Stake Hill Bridge, a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. From there to Little Spectacle Lake 140 ducks were counted. These consisted of Grey Teal, Black Duck, Musk Duck, and two other species which could not be identified. In Little Spectacle Lake there were too many ducks to count, including clutches at almost the flying stage.

Mr. Bramley said that when they passed from Little Spectacle Lake to Big Spectacle Lake, he saw a pair of Little Grebes flying very high, something he had not witnessed before in daylight.

At the end where Big Spectacle Lake enters Hell's Gates there were hundreds of ducks, and never before had he seen so many on this lake. These consisted mainly of Mountain Duck and Black Duck. There were also some Teal and 28 Maned Geese. On passing through Hell's Gates, - a channel approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long and about 30 yards wide - several flocks of Black Duck were put up. The amazing thing was how tame these ducks were. On several occasions Black Duck landed in the channel and did not fly as the two officers rowed past. On one occasion the ends of the oars were not more than six feet from the ducks.

The whole of Fulton's Lake, which is a fairly large lake, was covered from bank to bank with birds, mainly Mountain Duck, Grey Teal, Black and Musk Duck and Maned Goose. It was the biggest concentration of ducks Mr. Bramley had ever seen in this district.

Mr. Bramley said that the concentration of ducks in this lake could have been brought about by the fencing and clearing of large tracks of land along the west side of the lake. Warning signs prohibiting shooting on this property were to be seen at intervals along the fences. The waters of the lakes and rivers as far down as Stake Hill Bridge are fresh.