

The crustacean, about 7 inches long was a Mantis-Shrimp, sometimes referred to as a "prawn-killer". It has been forwarded to the Museum for positive identification.

Mantis-Shrimps are a downwardly-flattened group of crustaceans characterised in having a superb pair of toothed raptorial claws which function like the closing blades of a clasp-knife. These claws closely resemble the front legs of the praying mantis, an insect; they are very efficient in holding the small fishes and other animals on which the Mantis-Shrimp feeds, and are to be avoided when handling the live animal. In past, all advantage seems to be with the Mantis-Shrimp when it is being handled, if the spiny forelimbs are avoided, the very strong spines at the outer edge of the tail may be used rather painfully as the creature levers itself clear of restraint.

The common Queensland Mantis-Shrimp (Squilla granti, Stephenson) usually measures about 3 inches in length. Other and longer Mantis-Shrimps taken in trawls include Squilla interrupta (Kemp) which is about 7 inches in length, and the remarkably large Squilla raphides (Fabricius) which measures about 10 inches in length.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING MAGPIES

One of the most frequent birds to be in the news must surely be the magpie. Nearly every day some member of the public reports a bird "making a nuisance of itself".

It has been policy by this Department that no such magpie is to be destroyed, unless it is actually attacking, or you are reasonably sure that it is the bird that has attacked, children under the age of 12. Adults, even the gentle sex, should be able to defend themselves. The fact that a bird attacks an adult, including a fauna warden, is no justification for destroying the bird unless some really special circumstances apply.

This instruction must be adhered to, and all officers should make the public aware that these birds are protected and they are not to be molested.