

Serventy and Whittell in their hand book "Birds of Western Australia" record the Crested Grebe being confined to the South - West corner of the State, from Gingin to Bremer Bay. It is definitely an uncommon species, but individuals appear from time to time on reservoirs and larger bodies of water, including brackish estuaries.



CO-OPERATION IN FIRE CONTROL

Two welcome developments in fire control on fauna reserves have recently transpired.

The first results from an approach made to Fauna Warden A.T. Pearce at Albany.

The captain of the Albany Bushfire Brigade has suggested that the Department join that Brigade on the same footing as other property owners. This should result in all parties in the brigade developing a better understanding of wildlife conservation problems and better protection of the Noisy Scrub-bird reserve should follow. Actual co-operation in control work may also be possible for it is suggested that, by becoming a member of the local brigade, the Department will be able to call upon local equipment and manpower in emergencies.

A discussion had with some officers of the Bushfire's Board indicates that better co-operation between owners and conservationists will follow as it is believed that any friction that may have arisen in the past is due, principally, to each party's misunderstanding of the other's requirements in various situations.

District Fauna Wardens should acquaint themselves with the important reserves in their districts and discuss fire control in relation to them with the local authority and with the brigade captain as well as adjoining property owners.

Forests Department Assists :

The second development is the result of negotiations between our Department and the Forests Department. As a result of the good offers of Mr. A.J. Milesi, Fire Control Superintendent of the Forests Department, who is also a member of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee, an offer has been made to assist in the training of one or more of our officers in the interpretation of research findings resulting from studies of fire behaviour and

burning conditions.

Arrangements were made for Fauna Warden T. Evans to attend specially designed control programmes to test the findings of scientific research into the interpretation and forecasting of fire conditions and the characteristics of different fuel beds under normal field conditions.

Fauna Warden Evans will spend a week or two with officers of the Forests Department, to get practical, first-hand knowledge of the accumulation and interpretation of data and the application of control tables to the field situation. Particular attention will be paid to the role of scrub in the fuel bed and the evaluation of the fire characteristics of various plant forms.