

HYDROGRAPHIC DATA ACQUISITION BUOY

Mr. Ian G. Nicholls in his latest situation report on the Data Acquisition Buoy project says that the temperature sensors are on their way from Cronulla. The depth sensors are working in the laboratory and the salinity sensor is due for completion later this year.

Some problems have arisen over where the prototype telemetry section will be built. This may now be built here in Western Australia. The design and specifications have been finalised. Work is proceeding on the programme using a small computer at the Computing Centre. Preliminary testings can begin when the first of the temperature sensors arrive.

The project once completed, will have involved the development of a sonic buoy to collect marine data. A series of such sonic buoys would permit synoptic presentation of hydrological data in a selected area. The suggestion for the development of such a sonic buoy arose from studies in Shark Bay, where geologists studying sedimentation and fisheries scientists studying prawns and whiting require information on water circulation and of the ecological significance of the salinity gradient.

When the Western Fisheries Research committee recommended that a buoy of this nature be developed for this purpose, the Committee emphasized that this equipment could well be used widely in other bays and gulfs in conjunction with surveys of fishing potential.

BRITISH EXPEDITION TO COLLECT BIRDS
IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Department has issued a scientific license to members of the 5th Harold Hall Expedition of the British Museum (Natural History). This is the last in a series of expeditions to Australia. Under the terms of the license, the expedition is authorised to take protected fauna for bonafide research and other scientific purposes but not for aviculture or sale. The expedition, led by Major B.D. McDonald Booth, will work in the northern areas of Western Australia and the Northern Territory, these being areas not covered by previous expeditions. Other members of the party are Messrs. D. Freeman, H. Butler, C. Frith, R. Whistler and A. Hillier. Permission has also been granted, by the Minister for Native Welfare, to enter and remain on the Kimberley, the Kalumburu and the Forest River Native Reserves.

This permit was granted on the condition that the expedition has neither contact nor dealings with aborigines unless specifically authorised, nor to interfere in any way with aboriginal art, or artifacts, sacred areas or water resources, nor take any photographs of aborigines or anything to do with aborigines.

Assurance has been given by the leader of the expedition that it will confine activities to the collection of ornithological specimens in accordance with the conditions of the license issued by this Department. In the conditions applicable to the scientific license the Department has ensured that only limited collecting of specimens take place. Species listed as rare and endangered are excluded from material that may be collected. Under the license no fauna is permitted to be taken from any sanctuary nor is fauna to be exported, without the specific written approval of the Chief Warden of Fauna. Members of the expedition must also comply in all respects with the provisions of the Fauna Protection Act and Regulations.