

NOTED CONSERVATIONIST TO VISIT W.A.

Professor Ian McTaggart Cowan, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of British Columbia, Canada, is to visit Australia for a period of six months, commencing in December 1969. It has been suggested that Professor Cowan might undertake a review of the various research and management programmes on waterbirds in the various Australian states during his visit, and that he prepare a report that could be submitted to the Australian Committee on Waterbirds.

The various State Fauna Authorities at the 1968 Australian Fauna Authorities Conference stated their willingness to assist Professor Cowan during his visit. Our Department has offered every assistance to Professor Cowan in his survey as it is of the opinion that Western Australia would profit considerably from his expertise.

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BROLGA

Mr. G. Hanley, the Department's Warden stationed at Wyndham, recorded sighting approximately 300 Brolga in one group. The birds were feeding in harvested cotton fields near Kununurra. Observation indicated that they were feeding on either insects or seeds. Mr. Hanley made the sighting during the later half of July, 1969.

The Brolga (Grus rubicunda), also known as the Native Companion, is a bird of the Kimberley Division but has now penetrated into the North-West. Only recently Mr. L.R. Moss of Carnarvon, sighted two near the Minilya River.

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