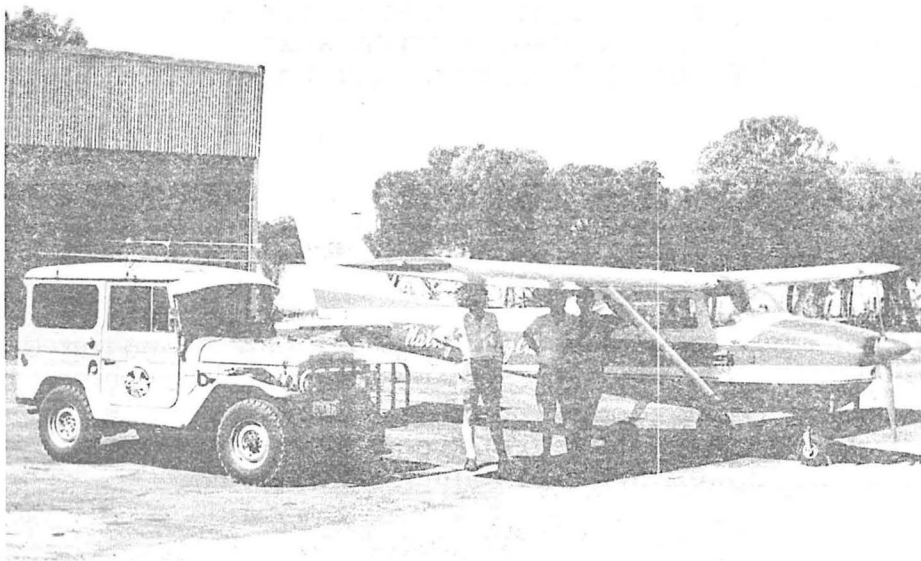


WARDENS CONDUCT AERIAL INSPECTION FOR DUCK TRAPS

Departmental wardens carried out an aerial inspection of Fauna Patrol Districts, Nos. 9 and 12, during January 1970. The purpose of the patrol was to locate illegal duck traps and to survey lakes, dams and waterfowl concentrations in these areas. Shires covered by the aerial inspection included Katanning, Broomehill, Tambellup, Cranbrook, Woodanilling, Wagin, Dumbleyung, Narrogin, Wickepin, Corrigin, Quairading, Beverley, Brookton, Pingelly and Cuballing.

Large concentrations of waterfowl were noted on most of the lakes that still contained water, although many of



Ready for take-off

L. to R. - Pilot-John Douglas, Warden A. Pearce, Warden K. Morrison on the Narrogin Airfield.

the lakes that would in normal years have water in them were dry or too salty for waterfowl. A number of duck traps were located and confiscated by a follow-up mobile patrol of the areas involved.

The aerial inspection proved to be very efficient in locating such illegal devices. It further provided a very quick and efficient appraisal of the waterfowl situation and of the conditions of the lakes and other suitable water-

fowl habitat in the areas inspected.

A situation report of some of the lakes inspected is as follows:

A. DISTRICT NO. 12

Lake Ewlymartup

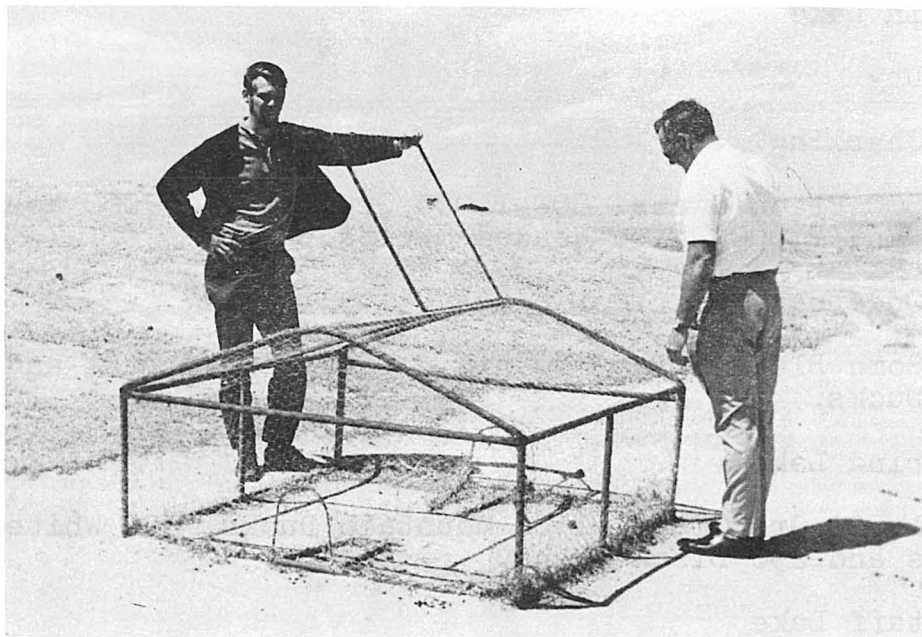
Water level fairly high with extremely large populations of Black Swans, White-headed Stilts, Grey Teal and Mountain Ducks. Very few Black Ducks.

Lake Coyrecup

Water level extremely low. About 500 Mountain Ducks, 400 Grey Teal and 600 White-headed Stilts were sighted. Several Yellow Spoonbills and White Egrets were also noted.

Kwobrup Swamps

Between 150 and 200 Mountain Ducks, 250 Grey Teal and a few Black Ducks.



One of the duck traps located during the patrol

On Lake 11778, just south-east of Wansborough, several thousand Mountain Ducks, several thousand Black Swans and about one thousand Grey Teal were sighted.

Lake Tom South

Extremely large populations of Black Swans, Mountain Ducks and Grey Teal, with large numbers of Coots, White-headed Stilts and Dotterels.

A number of dams in District No. 12 had large populations of Maned Geese present. All other lakes not mentioned above were either dry, too salty for waterfowl, or had only a few birds present on them. Very few Black Ducks were observed throughout this district.

B. DISTRICT NO. 9

Martinup Lake

Water level getting very low. 600 Black Swans, 2,000 Grey Teal, 400 Mountain Ducks, 3 Pelicans, and some White-faced Herons, with a large population of White-headed Stilts.

Munapin Lake

Dry

Lake Charling

500 Black Swans, 800-1,000 Grey Teal, 1,000 Mountain Ducks and 2,000 White-headed Stilts.

Lake Queereannup

Some Black Swans, Mountain Ducks, Grey Teal and White-eyed Ducks.

Wardering Lake

1,800 Grey Teal, 1500 Mountain Ducks, 300 White-headed Stilts and 250 Black Swans.

Flagstaff Lake

Too low and salty - no waterfowl present.

Norring Lake

2,000 - 3,000 Grey Teal, 1,000 - 2,000 Mountain Ducks,

800 Black Swans and numerous White-headed Stilts.

Little Norring Lake

1,200 Mountain Ducks, 1,000 Grey Teal and 500 Black Swans.

Lake Quarbing

Dry

Porkeyerring Lake

Water level very low with about 700 Grey Teal, 350 Mountain Ducks and 150 Black Swans present.

Salt Lake 2089

Dry

Mundualmurrin Lake

Dry

Wagin Lake

Nearly dry with 300 Grey Teal, 100 Mountain Ducks and 600-1,000 Black Swans present.

Little Dornducking Lake

Dry

Dornducking Lake

Dry

Gundaring Lake

Water level very low - too salty for waterfowl.

Lake Dumbleyung

4,000 Grey Teal, 2,000 Black Swans, 2,000 White-headed Stilts, 200 Blue-winged Shovellers and 1,500-2,000 Mountain Ducks.

Toolabin Lake

Nearly dry - with a small colony of White Egrets present (approximately 20 birds).

Lake Mears

100 Mountain Ducks, 500 Grey Teal, a few Black Ducks, 300 White-headed Stilts and some Dotterels.

Completely dry were: Yenyenning Flats, Channel Lakes, Arthur River Flats, White Lake, Nomans Lake, Bokan Lake, Billy Lake, Ibis Lake, Taarblin Lake and Mudhut Lake.

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PERU SAVES ANCHOVIES FOR BIRDS

A dramatic example of the damages that may be done to an important marine resource by uncontrolled tampering with regional ecology has been afforded by the catastrophic decline in the Peruvian guano industry. Guano, prized for its nitrate content, is the accumulated manure of millions of sea birds. Peru's vast white deposits were once among the world's finest, and an important source of wealth. But uncontrolled fishing for anchovies, the bird's major food, has reduced stocks of the fish so much that mass starvation of the seabirds has occurred. The Peruvian Sea Institute reports that of the former bird population of 36 million, only 3 million remain. The government has hence banned fishing during certain periods of the year and on weekends, and set an upper limit of 8 metric tons per season on the catch of anchovies.

(Sea Secrets
Vol. 13, No. 10)

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Staff Notes

Fauna Cadet Warden D.J. Mell is at present assisting District Warden K.D. Morrison at Pingelly.

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Congratulations are extended to Mr. R.G. Emery, the District Inspector at Bunbury, on the reclassification of his position to Inspection, Grade 1, G-II-2, as from February 1, 1970.