

Wildlife

Special supplement to Ringtail

December 1985



Fledgling quail in the care of a Service officer until it reaches a stage where release to the wild is possible.

The Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service recognizes that concerned members of the public desire to care for sick, injured and orphaned native fauna.

The Fauna Conservation Act Section 24 provides for this. Such people should contact the Service, preferably within 24 hours, to advise what animal they have.

Such compliance can benefit the 'foster parent' for a wildlife ranger can advise on particular care and feed requirements.

He will issue a free permit and may be able to advise of a helpful veterinary surgeon who could assist.

The animal under care is a wild creature and on its return to good health or reaching suitable age must be released to the wild.

Only in some cases such as a broken wing or leg will this not be possible.

Foster care can be frustrating and

Caring for the sick

difficult. The person must always have release in the back of the mind.

Joey kangaroos and possums should not become familiar with dogs and even vehicles as this could lead to their deaths.

Petting the animal could also lead it to lose its natural fear of the unknown and should be discouraged.

As the time of release into suitable habitat approaches, animals require 'educating' away from humans.

The release may be a sad occasion but also rewarding when it is seen rejoining members of its own kind in the wild.

Sanctuaries

Landholders may, by request to the Service, have all or part of their properties declared fauna sanctuaries under the Fauna Conservation Act.

The land must provide a significant wildlife habitat and is inspected by a Service officer for sanctuary status is granted.

While amendments to the Firearms Act have meant that fauna sanctuaries no longer provide any additional protection to native wildlife, they will provide the landholder the opportunity to demonstrate concern for conservation of flora and fauna.

Fauna sanctuary signs are provided on request.

Fauna refuges may similarly be declared.

Refuge status places more stringent controls over land management intended where the landholder wishes to protect wildlife habitat in perpetuity.

Those requesting such status must be prepared to develop a management plan that states which activities can be undertaken and other practices necessary to protect wildlife and habitat.

All wildlife needs our protection

Throughout the world, people are becoming more aware of the need to conserve our natural environment.

Man has made huge ecological changes throughout the world including Queensland and continues this at an ever-increasing rate.

As the fauna in various parts of the state move away or become rare as a consequence of tree removal and the development of agriculture and cities, there will be an increasing need for conservation and management of wild animal populations.

Queensland possesses Australia's greatest number and variety of faunal and floral treasures.

Key to survival

The conservation of this natural heritage may be achieved by the maintenance of habitat and control of man's harmful activities.

Habitat conservation is the key to the continued survival of species. This is being achieved partly by the setting aside of land for that purpose in the form of national parks, refuges and reserves.

The goal is to provide habitat of sufficient size and diversity to ensure the continued survival of all species.

Voluntary

Rural and urban nature conservation plays an important role in providing habitat outside wildlife reserves.

Rural Nature Conservation is a voluntary scheme to encourage conservation of fauna and flora on all rural lands.

Its aim is to integrate nature conservation with rural enterprise for the mutual benefit of the countryside and the community.

In essence, it is a self-help program with the Queensland

National Parks and Wildlife Service assisting landowners and managers to develop, and make available to others land management practices that promote wildlife values in conjunction with various wildlife pursuits.

The program includes research projects, field days, information displays and brochures.

The Fauna Conservation Act 1974-1985 control possible over-exploitation by man and aims to prevent future introductions of non-native species.

The Act also provides for the establishment of refuges, reserves and sanctuaries.

Modern view

The Act's regulations reflect the modern approach to wildlife conservation and permit an ever increasing demand by the public for satisfaction of their needs and for that of the wildlife populations.

Regulations operating from 1 January 1986 make provisions for the first time for taxidermists and herpetologists in Queensland.

The movement of birds by hobbyists and dealers is made easier.

Opportunity

The opportunity has been taken to remove practical problems which have arisen over the last 10 years in the management of the kangaroo industry and deer farming.

Administration of the Act and its regulations is the responsibility of the Wildlife Management and Rural Nature Conservation Branch of the Service.

This supplement includes details of some of the changes and outlines some of the branch's activities.

The Government Printing Office, Vulture Street, Woolloongabba, can provide copies of the Act and regulations.

Our offices

Wildlife officers may be found at:

Q.NPWS Head Office
5th floor MLC Centre
239 George Street, Brisbane
PO Box 190 North Quay,
Qld 4000
(07) 227 4846

Southern Regional Centre
55 Priors Pocket Road
Moggill, Brisbane
PO Box 42 Kenmore, Qld 4069
(07) 202 0232

Downs-South West Subregional Office
4 Alderley Street
PO Box 7054 Toowoomba Mail Centre, Qld 4352
(076) 35 0688

South West District Office
Park Street
PO Box 149 Charleville, Qld 4470
(074) 54 1255

Wide Bay-Burnett Subregional Office
cnr Wharf and Richmond Streets
PO Box 101 Maryborough,
Qld 4650
(071) 22 2455

Central Regional Centre
194 Quay Street
PO Box 1362 Rockhampton,
Qld 4700
(079) 27 6511

Central Highlands District Office
PO Box 906 Emerald, Qld 4720
(079) 82 2246

Mackay District Office
64 Victoria Street
PO Box 623 Mackay, Qld 4740
(979) 57 6292

Northern Regional Centre
Marlow Street Pallarenda
PO Box 5391 Townsville Mail Centre, Qld 4810
(077) 74 1411

Far Northern Regional Centre
Moffatt Street
PO Box 2066 Cairns, Qld 4870
(070) 53 4533

North West District Office
cnr Mary and Miles Streets
PO Box 2316 Mt Isa, Qld 4825
(077) 43 2528

Birds — Q & A

Aviculture — the keeping and breeding of birds in captivity — has been practised for centuries, and is recognized by the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service as a legitimate hobby and educational activity.

Queensland has 538 birds of the 735 species recorded in Australia.

The Fauna Conservation Regulations cover three broad activities associated with aviculture — the keeping, moving and dealing of birds.

Some of the most commonly asked questions regarding these are answered below.

For more detailed explanations, contact the nearest wildlife ranger and ask for the

explanatory notes Keeping of Birds and Dealing in Birds.

Copies of the Fauna Conservation Act and regulations with amendments can be obtained from the Government Printing Office, Vulture Street, Woolloongabba, Qld 4102 or 102 George Street, Brisbane.

Q. What birds can I keep without a permit?

A. Species of birds specified in the gazetted aviary bird list. There are either non-native birds or mutation forms of some native birds eg white quarrans, fawn zebra finches and cinnamon king quail. Non-native birds not listed as gazetted aviary birds require permits and licences as applicable to native birds.

Q. Can I keep any native birds without a permit?

A. Apart from gazetted aviary birds you may keep only between one and five birds of one of those species listed in the Fauna Conservation Regulations 1985

Third Schedule. This does not mean five birds of each species. Examples are sulphur crested cockatoos, galahs and quarrans. Subject to written approval, these birds may be sold provided that not more than five such birds are sold during any 12 months.

Q. Which birds can be brought into Queensland from other states?

A. With the exception of species prescribed as Prohibited Fauna eg red-whiskered bulbuls, most birds may be brought into the state provided a permit to import is obtained. However, as certain restrictions apply to some species, it is advisable to check with the nearest wildlife office before making arrangements to procure birds from another state. The holder of a permit to import is required to complete the Statement of Fauna Received on the reverse side of the original Import Permit, and return it to the nearest Wildlife Ranger within seven days of receipt of the birds. If no fauna is received, a

nil received statement is required.

Q. Do I need a permit to send birds out of Queensland?

A. A permit is required to cover the movement of all birds out of Queensland. Before a permit to export can be issued, a Permit to Import or documents stating such a permit is not required must be obtained from the relevant state wildlife authority. Addresses of these are available from Wildlife Rangers.

Q. Can I take my birds overseas?

A. The export of wildlife overseas is an Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service responsibility. Telephone Canberra (062) 46 6414.

Q. Can I take my birds home when I buy them?

A. From 1 January 1986, all persons holding a current Fauna Dealer's Licence (B or C) or a current Aviculturalist Licence may issue a new form of permit called a Movement Authority. When the birds are sold, the seller hands the buyer a completed Movement Authority and a Movement Advice form. The seller sends the top copy of the form to the Service. The buyer takes the other two copies home with the birds. The buyer then sends the original of the Advice form to the local Wildlife Ranger's office.

Q. Can I advertise?

A. The holder of a current Aviculturalist Licence may

advertise birds for sale as can, of course, the holder of Current Class B or C Fauna Dealer's Licence.

Q. Do I have to list mutations on permits?

A. Mutations of species specified in the Gazetted Aviary Bird List are not subject to permits. However, mutations of all other birds should be included on permits.

Q. Do I have to tell the Service when my bird numbers change (breeding, deaths etc)?


A. An Aviculturalist is required to maintain a full and accurate record of the numbers and species of birds in his possession. A Fauna Record Book is supplied by the Service free of charge for this purpose.

Q. Can I sell birds to someone who does not have an Aviculturalist Licence?

A. Yes, provided you complete a Movement Authority for the purchaser or obtain a Permit to Remove.

Q. What types of birds may be kept in aviaries? Are there any of those which are not authorized?

A. Private people are allowed to keep cockatoos, parrots, quail, pigeons, waterfowl and mound builders. Of these, the Service has restrictions on movement which prevents the keeping of 29 species which belong to these groups.



QUEENSLAND
NATIONAL PARKS
AND WILDLIFE
SERVICE

No
Form 29

Movement authority

Fauna Conservation Act 1974 - 1985
Fauna Conservation Regulations 1985 [Regulation 28(1)]

Disposal notice

| | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| Vendor | Name | |
| | Residential address | |
| | Location of fauna held (if same as residential address write "as above") | |
| Type of premises | Registered Fauna Dealer Class B <input type="checkbox"/> | Class C <input type="checkbox"/> Class G <input type="checkbox"/> |

Reptiles, crocs

Queensland has about 300 species of reptiles which play an important role in animal communities.

As predators and carrion eaters, they are an integral part of the ecosystem.

Reptiles also control insects and pests such as rats and mice.

Like other animals, each species of reptile is found usually only in a certain habitat.

Man's interference with this habitat is a major destructive agent of reptiles. They may also be destroyed by indiscriminate collecting and commercialization.

For these reasons, reptiles are fully protected in Queensland.

Any person wishing to keep reptiles for

any reason either as a pet or to study are subject to permit controls.

The following should be kept in mind by any would-be reptile keeper — Animals should be obtained from existing captive sources; No animal can be taken from the wild without a permit.

Where people are interested, it would be sensible to examine snakes from a respectful distance and not interfere unduly with their movements.

Contrary to popular belief, venomous snakes use their venom primarily for securing prey and for defence only as a last resort. In most cases, reptiles will avoid man.

Only if a venomous snake poses a threat to a human or a domestic animal should it be interfered with.

People experiencing problems with snakes in urban areas should contact their nearest Wildlife Ranger for advice.

People and our cold blooded friends should be able to live in harmony.

Reptiles include the estuarine and freshwater crocodiles found in northern and coastal waters. See the Service brochure.

Two crocodile farms have been established and currently are being closely monitored to ascertain the viability of such operations.

Service officers are researching the habits of crocodiles in the wild.

Wildlife Rangers are often involved in relocation of rogue or problem individual animals.

What you

Many urbanized parts of Queensland have high populations of native animals which may become pests at times.

These include possums, bandicoots, snakes, birds and flying foxes.

While the term 'pest' is used, a positive view should be taken of this interaction between man and animals.

Demand for personal attention by Wildlife Rangers far exceeds staff and time available.

However, they are willing to give advice into practical ways of solving a wildlife pest problem.

In some situations, traps may be available but often other techniques relating to behaviour may be introduced.

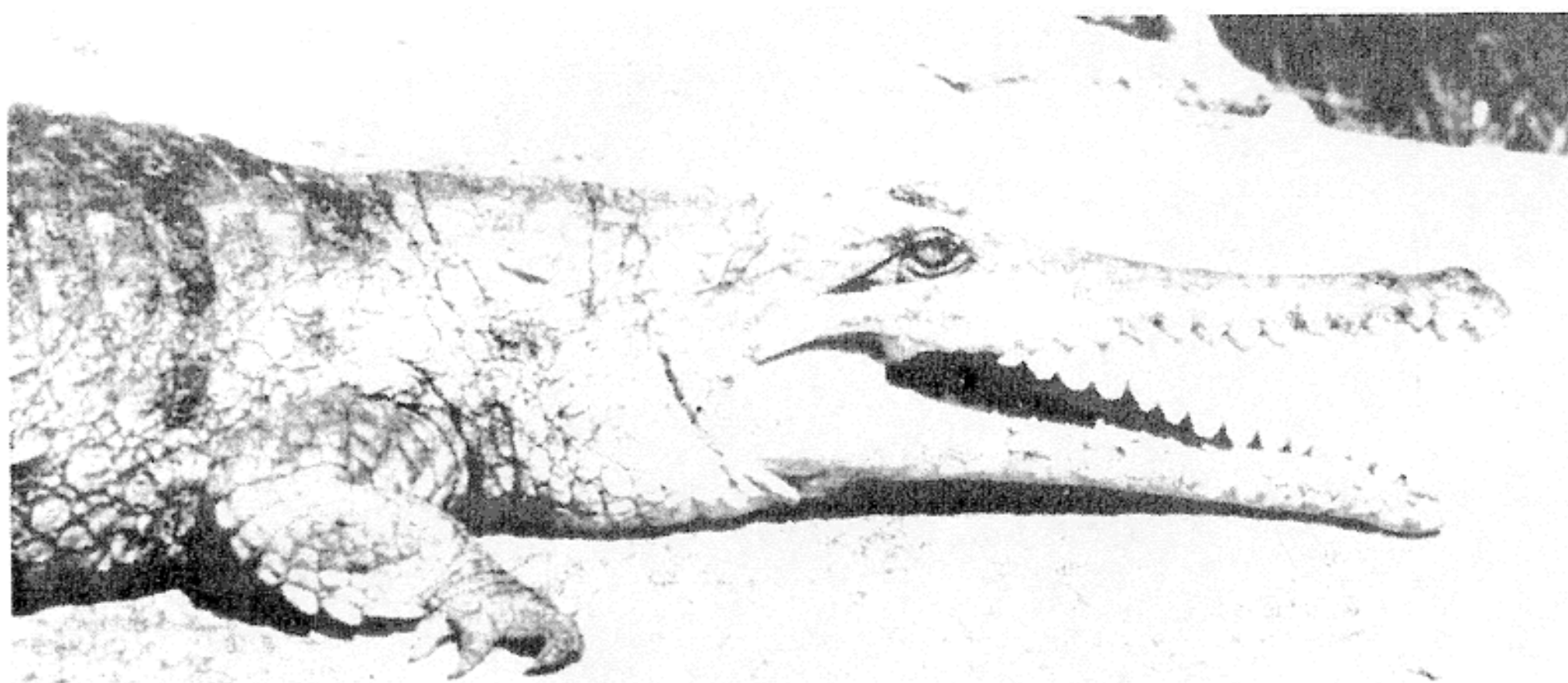
Some pest controllers are permitted to handle some problem fauna.

Possums, bandicoots

Brushtail and sometimes ringtail possums like the shelter and warmth of house ceilings during the day and food supplies are often handy at night.

Traps may be used to relocate possums. Entrances should be blocked at night while possums are absent.

A 'nest' built high in a tree may be a suitable substitute.



Competition for water, pasture creates threat but . . .

Strict rules for roo shooting

Under provisions of the Fauna Conservation Act, all kangaroos in Queensland are classified as protected fauna.

Kangaroos however are a constant threat to farmers and graziers competing for scarce water and feeding on limited pastures.

Open season may be declared for the four main commercially utilized species, the red and grey kangaroos, the wallaroos, and the whiptail wallaby, plus a number of smaller species of wallabies which cause pest problems to landholders.

While these open seasons are generally declared for a full year, they may be closed early if conditions warrant.

The seasons apply to specific districts of the state (see map this page).

Open Season Fauna Permits are issued to licensed kangaroo shooters.

An applicant for these permits requires an endorsement from the landholder upon whose land the person wishes to shoot.

He must also provide a form of identification such as a

driver's licence number and certification as to his competence as a shooter is also required.

All police officers and many DPI and Lands Department offices are declared fauna officers in addition to Q.NPWS staff.

All kangaroos taken under an open season fauna permit must be tagged at the point of taking with a non-reusable plastic tag.

Tags are available on application only by mail from the Q.NPWS Head Office, Brisbane, and only over the counter at Charleville.

Offences under the Act include possession of untagged skins or carcasses, shooting on properties not endorsed on the permit, shooting without a permit, and using someone else's tags.

Movement of kangaroo carcasses and skins interstate requires a permit.

Shooting on roads or other Crown land is illegal.

Returns must be submitted to the Service detailing the properties shot, the kangaroos taken and tag numbers used.

Further supply of tags is

dependent on receipt of this information.

The tagged skins or carcasses may be sold only to A Class fauna dealers who are licensed to deal in skins only or carcasses and skins.

Their sites are located throughout the state and as a rule no more than two per town are issued. They are not less than 80km apart in remote areas.

This allows for coverage of most of the grazing and agricultural areas.

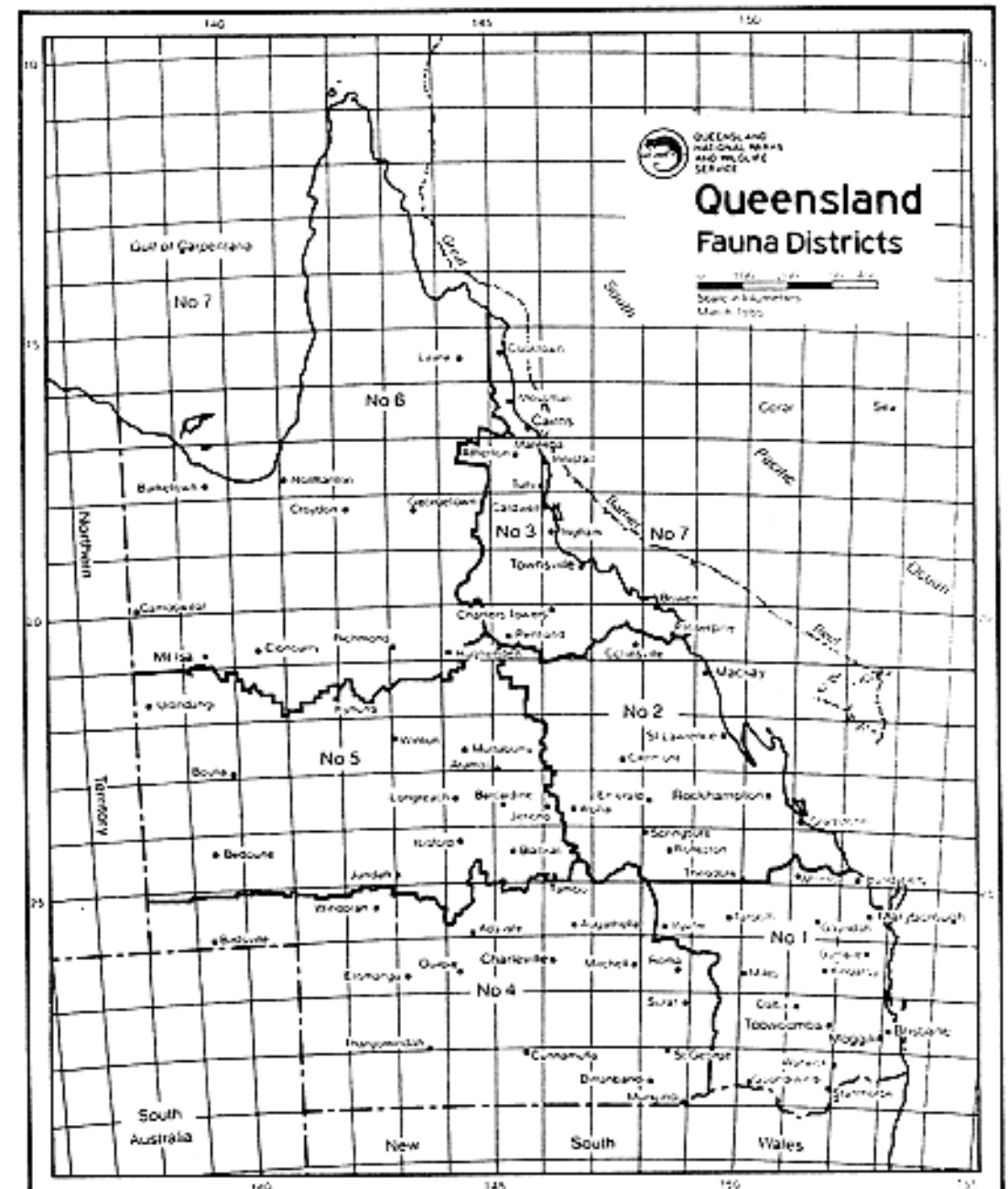
Similarly, dealers are required to supply information to the Service in the form of returns which show the sex and weight of each consignment of each species of kangaroo and in the case of skin shooters the size of the skins.

Such information is used by Service staff in determining methods of kangaroo management.

Computers are used for these calculations.

Apart from Wildlife Rangers, the Police Fauna Protection Squad which is attached to Q.NPWS assists in regulation of the industry.

The Commonwealth Government through its export powers is involved in kangaroo management.



An annual kangaroo management plan is prepared by Q.NPWS and forwarded to Canberra.

This plan outlines the mechanism of kangaroo management for the state and is accompanied by a quota application.

The low level of Commonwealth quotas over the past two years has had a considerable effect on the recent kangaroo debate.

A wide range of topics covering the Service's management of kangaroos over a quarter of a century is examined in the new book

The Kangaroo Keepers (University of Queensland Press).

Editor Dr Hugh Lavery brings together research, biological and popular aspects, relevant pictures, and a series of kangaroo drawings.

(Copies of the book and the drawings in poster form are available from major Service offices).

Critics have acclaimed the book for its factual approach, particularly to kangaroo industry problems, and state it should be required reading for all involved and those just interested in kangaroos.

do about pest fauna

Bandicoots in mid-winter damage lawns in their natural foraging for worms. They are inconsistent in damage and prove difficult to trap. The only real prevention is to build a temporary or permanent fence around the lawn.

High bandicoot problems indicate removal of their natural predators — snakes.

Snakes

Snakes are prevalent in the warmer months. A number of species are harmless. Try to establish which

species are common to an area but treat the unknown with respect.

Wildlife Rangers can give advice. Collection of an individual is difficult for in most cases a snake disappears before even a local expert can be called.

Nesting birds

Nesting season is often a troublesome time caused by birds such as magpies, plovers, butcherbirds and peewees.

Seek a Wildlife Ranger's advice about any particular aggressive bird but often the problem is short lived.

The release of cockatoos in urban areas can cause a problem which is difficult to solve.

The urban dweller often has cause to blame flying foxes for damage, to backyard fruit. The problem is much greater for orchardists. Harvesting fruit before it is fully ripe is one preventive measure.

Bad-tasting chemicals, nets, aluminium foil and other techniques have been tried.

In all cases of pest fauna, finding the cause is half way to finding a solution.

Magpie

The call of the Australian magpie brings pleasure to many people in urban and rural areas of Queensland.

Under natural conditions, magpies form various kinds of groups working their way up a social hierarchy before a pair claim a breeding territory.

Breeding occurs from July to December. Over four to six weeks of this period, an individual magpie may become aggressive to one or more humans. This is believed to be part of its natural territorial defence.

It may make an unusual warning call before making a series of

swoops often accompanied by bill clicking.

Wearing a broad brimmed hat, carrying an umbrella or stick and walking confidently in a group are ways suggested of avoiding physical injury.

If a particular bird is causing a severe problem, a Permit to Take may be issued by the Service to enable certain feathers to be removed from one wing.

This does not permanently affect the bird but it is no longer an effective swooper. The feathers soon grow back.

Details are given in the Q.NPWS wildlife information brochure on the magpie.



Permits to destroy

Section 25 of the Fauna Conservation Act allows for the destruction of fauna under certain circumstances.

A person who is experiencing crop or property damage from fauna may make application to have the situation considered by a Wildlife Ranger.

Following an inspection, the officer may issue a permit to take a specific number of fauna. The permit is free. A number of conditions and restrictions apply.

No commercial use may be made of fauna taken under this permit. In the past, the major species involved have been cockatoos, ducks and wallabies.

A number of methods are available for reducing crop damage. These methods vary depending upon the type of crop, size and species involved.

Tremendous advances have been made in electric fencing and considerable research has been done with decoy crops, bad tasting chemicals, light and sound deterrents eg bird fright cartridges.

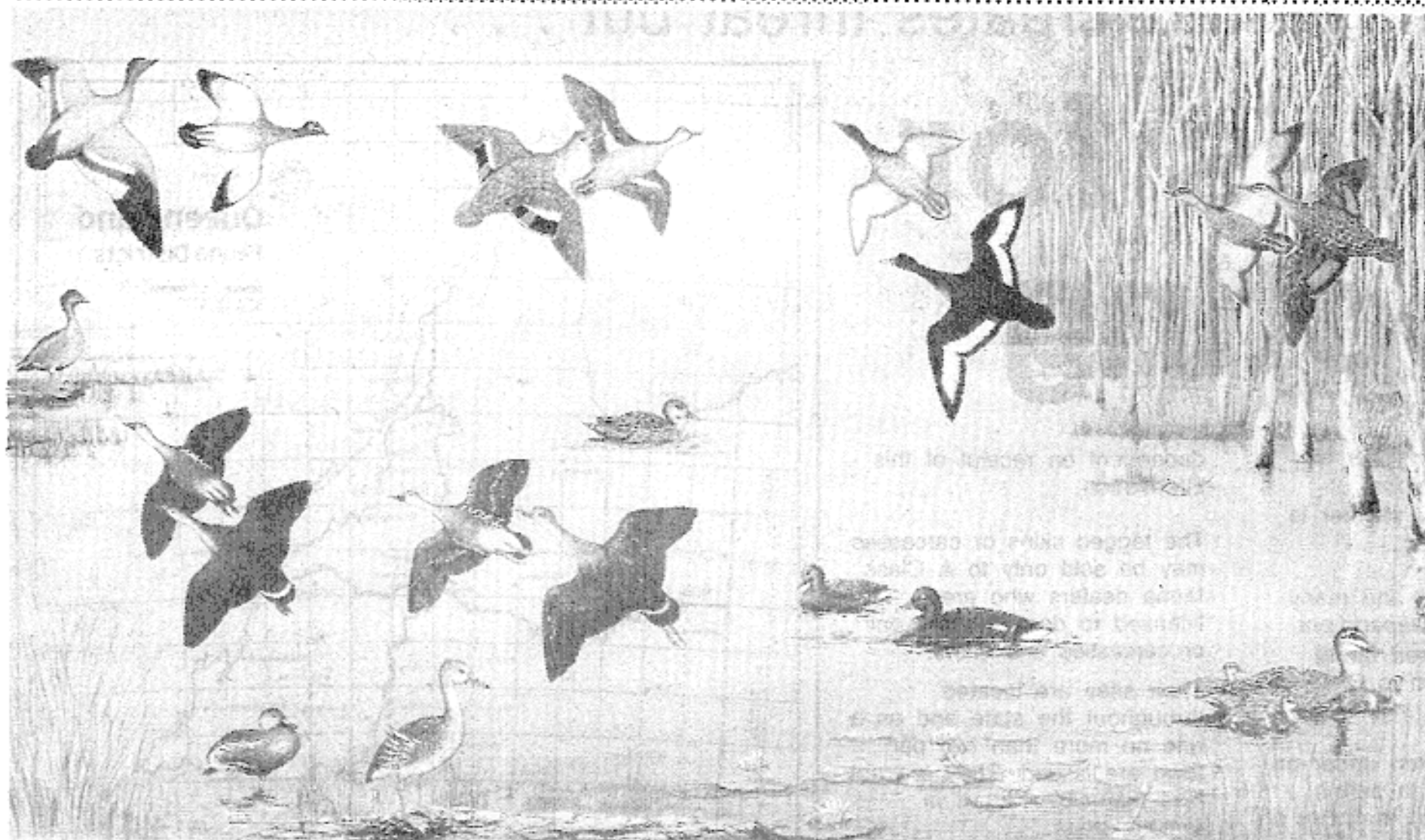
Some misinformed members of the public have criticised the issue of Section 25 permits not knowing the circumstances and the restrictive conditions which apply.

Landholders should be able to recognize crop damage in the early stages and seek advice from Wildlife Rangers.

Certain deterrent methods work best if introduced quickly.

A number of problems recur regularly and landholders can plan and manage their production to decrease the effects.

A permit holder is requested to complete a report advising the Service of the results and outcome.



Artist's depiction of the species of wild duck which may be shot during open seasons from the Service's colour brochure Waterfowl hunting guide.

Permits to take may be issued

'Fauna' is defined by the Fauna Conservation Act as meaning a mammal or bird.

The term includes also any other animal or group of animals wild by nature declared by Order in Council to be fauna.

Declarations have been made to cover crocodiles, tortoises, lizards and snakes, two butterflies and a group of frogs.

All fauna is protected. However, the Act provides that permits to take (collect) from the wild may be issued.

An application for such a permit is considered in the circumstances of the particular case.

An example would be the collection of snakes for venom milking by a responsible group.

Conditions are strict with limits on numbers, time and places.

A return is required, reports requested and specimens must be lodged with the Queensland Museum.

Further permits are required should a collector wish to operate on a national park or within a marine park.

Permits are required for bird and bat banding. Only persons or those groups with official recognition will be considered.

Nine species of fauna are permanently protected. These are Bennett's tree kangaroo, echidna, koala, platypus, Queensland hairy-nosed wombat, Queensland rat kangaroo, yellow-footed rock wallaby, golden-winged parrot and paradise parrot.

Ministerial permission is required for such animals and birds to be kept.

(The Service also has authority over zoos.)

Other fauna permitted to be kept are mentioned elsewhere in this supplement and detailed in regulations.

Permits are not normally issued for private individuals to keep native mammals such as kangaroos, possums and gliders.

The reason for this is that these animals are wild by nature and are best living free.

The only exception to this is for sick and injured fauna as outlined in this supplement.

Several species may be targets

The age old activity of hunting has progressed from a means of securing food and clothing to modern day recreation.

Today, when we speak about hunting, the emphasis is on game animals. The only such animals apart from wild ducks are introduced fauna.

The commercial harvesting of kangaroos should not be confused with recreational hunting.

The following species — hare, rabbit, dingo, fox, feral cat, feral pig, feral goat and water buffalo — are non-protected fauna which are suitable for hunting.

In all cases, the property owner's permission must be obtained before shooting, and provisions of the Animals Protection Act and the Firearms and Offensive Weapons Act apply.

Spotlights may be used for hunting of only a limited number of species — hare, rabbit, fox, dingo, feral cat, feral pig and feral goat.

An open season on certain species may be gazetted where the Governor in Council is satisfied that a particular species of protected fauna is present in a district in numbers in excess of sufficient numbers to ensure its satisfactory survival.

The length of the season and any particular conditions which apply are specified eg. districts. (A fauna districts map is included in this supplement).

An open season on ducks is often declared for 12 or 13 weeks: June-August in southern Queensland, July-September in the north.

Six species are specified and a bag limit of 12 ducks in any 24 hours generally applies.

Poor weather conditions which affect breeding may cause the postponement or abandonment of a season.

Each shooter must obtain a permit.

A special Waterfowl hunting guide has been produced by the Service as a convenient field guide to the correct identification of the six species. Copies are available from wildlife offices.

At season's end, each shooter is required to make a return to the Service listing the number, the species and the places where the birds were shot.

The form allows the shooter to comment on any aspect of the season eg. waterfowl habitat. Such returns are considered vital by the Service for nature conservation management.

Stubble and brown quail may be shot during an open season in southern Queensland, generally from late May to August. Conditions similar to duck seasons apply.

Deer were introduced into Queensland

up to a century ago and are declared protected fauna.

Limited hunting of three species, red, fallow and chital, is possible but not under an open season permit.

Only where a property owner can certify that deer are competing with stock for winter pasture or causing other crop damage is a culling permit issued.

A limited number of these Section 25 permits are granted annually as the deer species have restricted ranges and are limited in numbers.

Two tags are issued to each property owner granted a permit or his authorized agent upon the payment of a \$60 tag fee.

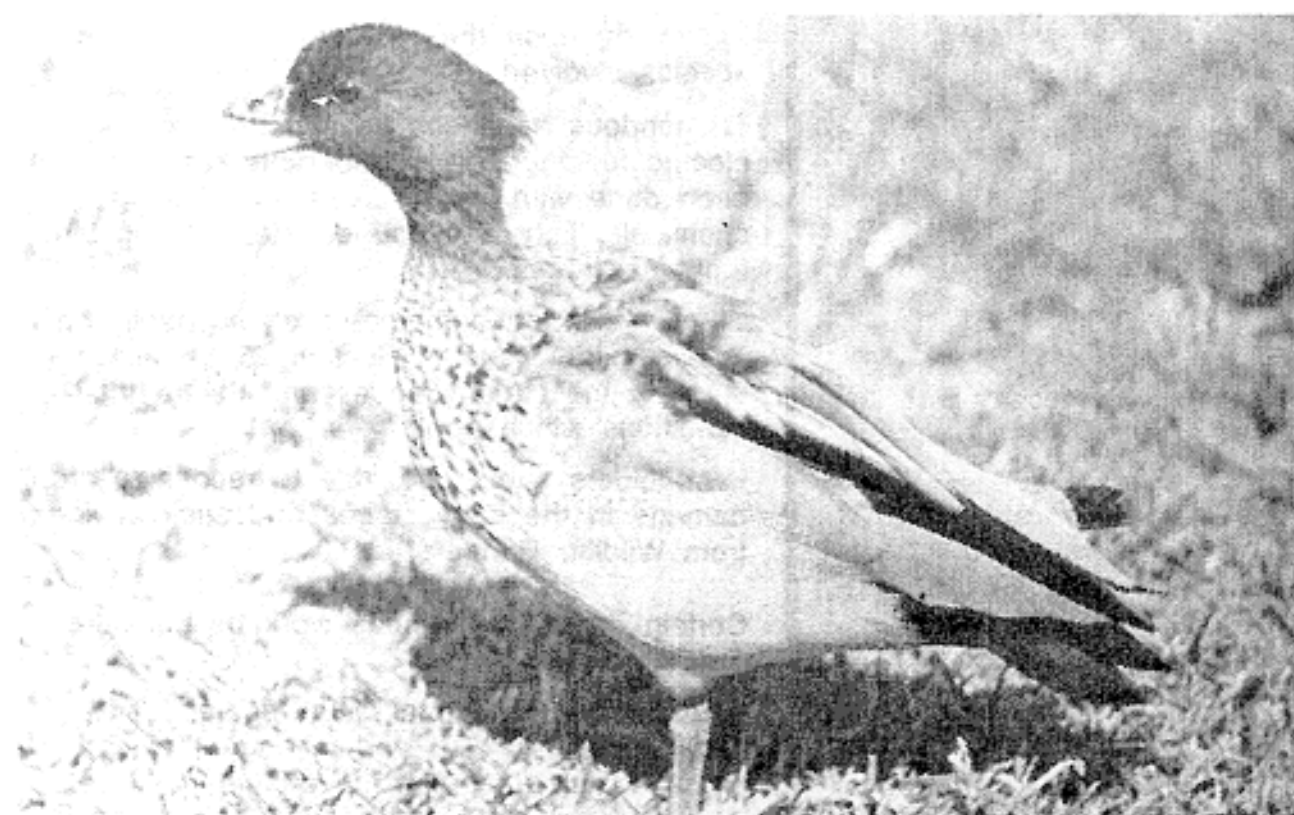
Only tagged deer can be legally moved from the property where taken.

Hunting of any animals in Queensland can be conducted only on private land and then only with the owner's permission.

A direct and sensible approach to a property owner often results in access to the property.

Hunting is forbidden within national parks, State forests, environmental parks, other Crown lands and those private properties declared as fauna sanctuaries or fauna refuges.

Any intending hunters as a matter of course should contact their nearest wildlife ranger before going shooting.



Common wood duck, one of the species on which an open season is declared for hunting purposes. This duck causes significant pasture damage affecting property owners at certain times.

Deer changes

Four species of deer occur in the wild in Queensland.

For the purposes of establishing deer farming, deer have been collected from the wild over the last 10 years.

On 1 October 1985, deer farming in Queensland became the responsibility of the Primary Industries Department following declaration of the Deer Farming Act 1985.

However, the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service remains responsible for all deer outside farms.

Persons wishing to take deer from the wild for farming must first obtain from the Service a permit which details the

methods and procedures which must be followed.

Wildlife rangers can provide further information.

From 1 January 1986, Q.NPWS may issue a Section 53A permit to allow deer taken from the wild for established herds to be made 'farm deer'.

'Farm deer' are deer to which DPI prescribed earmarks have been applied.

Farm deer are not fauna as described in the Fauna Conservation Act, and the Act's provisions no longer apply.

Questions about deer farming should be directed to DPI offices.