

Wild dogs and Dingoes—The total was 10,260, of which 251 were destroyed in the agricultural areas.

I am indebted to the Chief Warden of Fauna (Mr. A. J. Fraser) for the numbers of birds exported from Western Australia in 1953 and 1954. As usual the tropical finches make up the bulk of exported birds. The numbers of only the chief species for 1954 are quoted here, the corresponding figures for 1953 being placed in parentheses—Gouldian Finch, 2,910 (9,343); Long-tailed Finch, 606 (1,888); Star Finch, 542 (429); Yellow-tailed Finch, 336 (194); Masked Finch, 108 (1,143); Painted Finch, 108 (114); Pictorella Finch, 108 (114). A copy of the complete list has been sent to the Committee on Conservation.

G. M. STORR

Branch Secretary

Night-Heron's Feeding Habits.—Owing to its nocturnal habits, the Night-Heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*) is seldom seen feeding, but it might well be assumed that it does so in like manner to other herons, that is, standing or wading in shallow water. On a recent dull afternoon, at least twenty Night-Herons were feeding in a flooded red gum forest at Tocumwal, New South Wales. The water was about three feet deep and the area was studded with stumps protruding from the water for two or three feet. On each stump stood a Night-Heron, from which vantage point it would follow with interest the movements of the numerous tadpoles. The bird, with neck and bill fully extended, would lean further forward as its prey approached and then suddenly spring feet first into the water, simultaneously taking the tadpole in the bill. It would then regain its perch by flying direct from the water. On occasions where sufficient support could not be obtained from submerged weed, this was not possible, and resort was made to hectic wing flapping along the surface and even more hectic scrambling up the stump, often with considerable difficulty.

As the lower stumps became tenanted, latecomers took up position on branches six feet or more high, from which height they too dropped into the water after prey. Others clung tenaciously to the vertical bases of trees in a manner akin to that of the Yellow Robin (*Eopsaltria australis*).

White-faced Herons (*Notophoxyx novæ-hollandiæ*), egrets and ibis were feeding in the shallows at the edge of the flood, but no Night-Heron was seen to avail itself of this seemingly easier method of feeding.—JOHN N. HOBBS, Finley, N.S.W., 17/11/55.