

THE MERRETI-CHOWILLA BIRD SANCTUARY

An area of 30 square miles, to be known as the Merreti-Chowilla Bird Sanctuary, has been proclaimed under the *Animals and Birds Protection Act*, 1919-1958 (G.G., December 8, 1960). It will be a closed area to birds generally. A variety of habitats are included—saltbush and bluebush plain, creeks and watercourses, and two large lakes (Merreti and Clover), which are favorite breeding haunts for many of the larger species of waterbirds. One of our members, Mr. D. B. Mack, has compiled a list of 124 species for the Lake Merreti area, which is about 12 miles north of Renmark.

The Sanctuary, which has been made possible by the co-operation of the lease-holders of Calperum Station Pty. Ltd. and Robertson Chowilla Ltd., extends from the Wentworth-Renmark road to the north bank of the River Murray and Ral Ral Creek; its longitudinal boundaries are less readily defined.

The Director of Fisheries and Game (Mr. A. C. Bogg), who describes the Sanctuary as unique in Australia, points out that shooting and trapping of birds is now totally banned in this area.

The reservation by the Government of this large tract of country marks the successful conclusion of a long campaign by Renmark citizens and various interested bodies, including this Association, for its preservation as a bird sanctuary.

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ADDITIONAL WILD LIFE RESERVES

The following have been proclaimed to be under the control of the Commissioners of the National Park and Wild Life Reserves:—Section 93 and 98, Hundred of Woolumbool (G.G., October 13, 1960); Section 355 and 356, Hundred of Waitpinga (G.G., July 21, 1960).

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A NEW NATIONAL PARK

It has been announced that the Government has purchased land, comprising about 1,150 acres, for a new National Park 25 miles north of Adelaide and 8 miles from the new town of Elizabeth, in the district known as Humbug Scrub. The area is typical bushland and good bird country.