

EXCURSION

UPPER GINGIN BROOK

On 22 August 1971 the Western Australian Naturalists' Club held an excursion to the upper Gingin Brook, under the leadership of Messrs. Ian Edgar and A. S. George. The object of the visit was to inspect that part of the Brook where Mr. George had found outliers of a southern flora, as well as a puzzling occurrence of tree ferns. We drove along the road northwards from the town and then across paddocks to the margin of the Brook, to the east. All the land in the environs had been cleared long ago, leaving a narrow fringe of dense vegetation along the Brook, including Flooded Gums and Paperbarks (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*)—some of the latter of an immense size. Further upstream we found that a firebreak had been bulldozed and the "trash" pushed alongside the verge vegetation. This had been fired during the preceding summer.

The botanical results of the excursion are included in the article by Mr. George on p. 49 of this issue. The present report is restricted to the Birds, Reptiles and Amphibia which were noted.

BIRDS

The observers (John Dell, Ian Edgar and D. L. Serventy) recorded 38 species of birds. Details:

Hoary-headed Grebe (*Podiceps poliocephalus*), three on pools in Gingin townsite; Straw-necked Ibis (*Threskiornis spinicollis*), two parties of about seven birds in marshy paddocks at Gingin townsite; Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*), several pairs and a party of six disturbed along the Brook; Whistling Kite (*Haliastur sphenurus*), two birds over Gingin and another two over the Brook; Collared Sparrow-Hawk (*Accipiter cirrocephalus*), a calling bird flew over the party of observers; Little Eagle (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*), two giving aerial display and calling; Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*); Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*), one flushed from brookside trees; Galah (*Cacatua roseicapilla*), two birds seen; King Parrot (*Purpureicephalus spurius*), feeding in Marri near the source of the Brook; Twenty-eight Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius*), several observed in forest; Golden Bronze Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*), two birds calling persistently along the Brook; Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*), several calling in distance; Tree-Martin (*Petrochelidon nigricans*), about fifteen birds flying south; Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*), two in paddock with sheep; Splendid Wren (*Malurus splendens*), two parties along the Brook; Red-winged Wren (*Malurus elegans*), about three birds in dense vegetation along Brook. Male in nuptial plumage; Western Warbler (*Gerygone fusca*), several birds calling in Marri trees in paddocks; Weebill (*Smicrornis brevirostris*); Broad-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza apicalis*), two birds in *Melaleuca* along Brook; Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*A. chrysorrhoa*), several parties scattered through the paddocks. One party with fledged young, another with young in nest; Spotted Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis maculatus*), a few birds along the Brook; Scarlet Robin (*Petroica multicolor*), a pair along the edge of the forest; Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*), several birds noted; Rufous Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*), one bird along the Brook; Western Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla rufiventris*), a bird calling in Jarrah forest; Mistletoe-bird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*), a single bird calling over paddocks; Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*), calling prominently along Brook; Red-tipped Pardalote (*P. substriatus*), a few calling in forest; Silvereye (*Zosterops gouldi*), several along Brook and in forest; Brown Honeyeater (*Lichmera indistincta*), several calling along Brook; New Holland Honeyeater (*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*), a few along Brook; Red Wattle-bird (*Anthochaera carunculata*), several calling in forest; Yellow-throated Miner (*Manorina flavigula*); Magpie-Lark (*Gralina cyanoleuca*), several calling across paddocks; Magpie (*Gymnorhina dorsalis*), several parties in paddocks; Grey Butcher-bird (*Cracticus torquatus*); Raven (*Corvus coronoides*), several in paddocks with sheep and a few along the Brook.

OTHER FAUNA

Snakes

Carpet Snake (*Morelia variegata*), one seen in the ruins of an abandoned timber mill at the head of the brook.

Gwardar (*Demansia nuchalis*), a specimen about 70 cm. long was caught.

Lizards

Cryptoblepharus plagiocephalus several seen on tree trunks and on fallen limbs.

Menetia greyii (*Ablepharus greyii*) several in paddocks.

Trachysaurus rugosus three specimens seen crawling about.

Frogs

Three species of adult frogs were identified in Gingin Brook: *Crinia insignifera*, *C. georgiana* and *Hyla adelaidensis*.

—JOHN DELL

CORRECTION

Kendrick, Sedgwick and Smith (1971, *The Western Australian Naturalist*, 12 (1): 9) describe a shell of *Rhytida* (*Strangesta*) *georgiana* as having 2.7 whorls. This should be corrected to 3.7 whorls.



Dell, John. 1972. "Excursion Upper Bgigin Brook." *The Western Australian Naturalist* 12(3), 71–72.

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