

LFW NEWS

AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR WILDLIFE - MERREDIN

IN mid September at Booran, 11 km east of Merredin, Geoff Burrow did some fauna trapping with LFW. Geoff, together with Arthur Adamson and Buddy Kent, put in 30 pitfall traps and 50 Elliott traps on the Adamson property and in a nearby bushland. Various people helped check the traps twice daily for seven days.

We trapped pygmy possums, dunnarts and Mitchell's hopping mice, as well as a gecko, skinks and different frogs. It was wonderful to see these animals close up! Together with other observations - including scats, tracks and bird calls - we recorded 5 native mammals and 4 introduced ones; 28 bird species; three reptiles; two frogs and many different invertebrates.

It was most surprising to find that we had so many pygmy possums throughout the bushland despite the fact that many foxes and cats were present. Hopefully a baiting programme can be organised in the near future.

At first we were still experiencing early morning frosts and even thick fog some mornings, but by the Monday the weather had changed to hot and many small ants started to invade the traps. We therefore decided to discontinue and remove the traps.

Heather Adamson.

▼ A wheatbelt stone gecko.



A pygmy possum.



▲ Kastle Adamson checks a pit trap on a misty morning.

