

# Junior Ranger Nature Notes



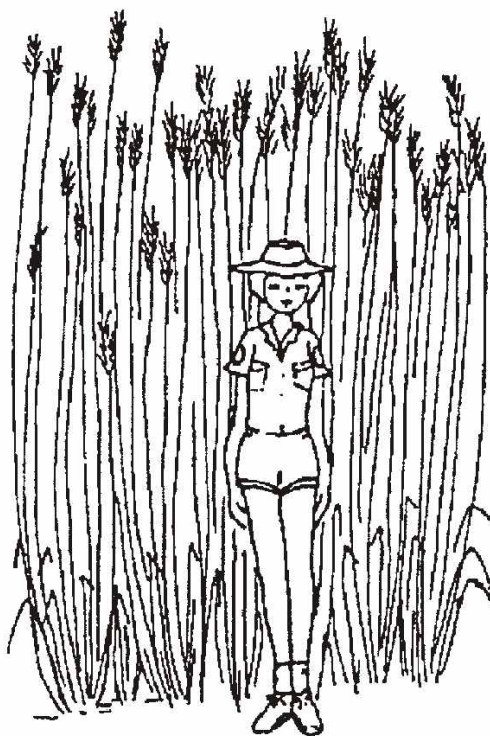
## LONG GRASS

During the wet season, tall stands of green grass grow in the tropical woodlands of Northern Australia.

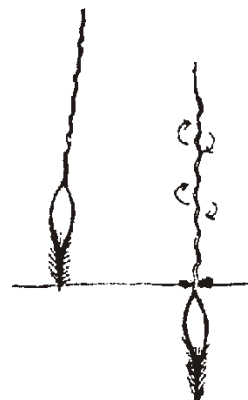


**Spear Grass** *Sorghum intrans* is one of the most common grasses that grows during the Wet.

If you collect some seeds you can see why it's called Spear Grass. One end of the seed is very sharp. Attached to the other end is a long stalk, called the awn. When the seeds are ripe they fall to the ground and stick in like tiny spears.



As the awn dries out, it twists like a corkscrew and pushes the seed further into the ground.



Decode the following words to find out how this helps the seed.

### CODE

1 = A	4 = D	7 = G	10 = J	13 = M	16 = P	19 = S	22 = V	25 = Y
2 = B	5 = E	8 = H	11 = K	14 = N	17 = Q	20 = T	23 = W	26 = Z
3 = C	6 = F	9 = I	12 = L	15 = O	18 = R	21 = U	24 = X	

2 21 18 9 5 4

2 5 14 5 1 20 8

20 8 5

19 21 18 6 1 3 5  
       ,

20 8 5

19 5 5 4 19

3 1 14

19 21 18 22 9 22 5

20 8 5

4 18 25

19 5 1 19 15 14

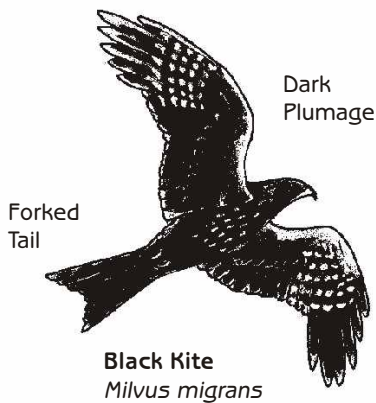
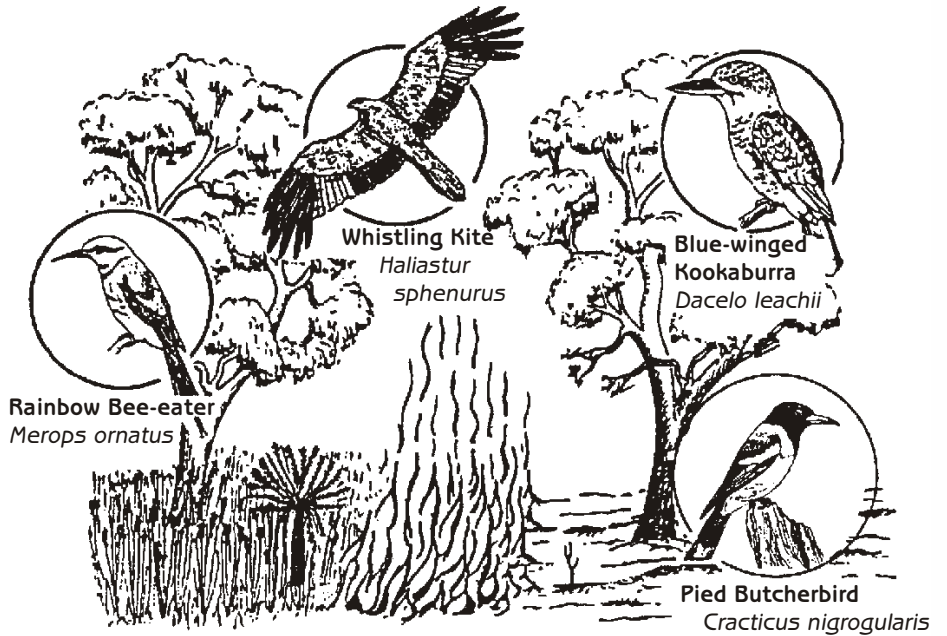
6 9 18 5 19  
     .

## FIRE BIRDS OF THE TOP END

The dry season fires that burn through the Spear Grass are a welcome sight to many Top End birds.

Before the fire, the Spear Grass provides lots of hiding places. Hawks swoop above the flames looking for a barbecued lunch. Bee-eaters catch insects escaping the fire.

Kookaburras and Butcherbirds move in for a meal after the flames have passed. Lizards and insects are easier to spot on the cleared ground.



**Black Kites** are the most common hawks seen around a fire. Use the number code to reveal details of their hunting habits.

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20 8 5 25

8 21 14 20

19 15

3 12 15 19 5

20 15

20 8 5

6 12 1 13 5 19

20 8 1 20

9 14 5 24 16 5 18 9 5 14 3 5 4

2 9 18 4 19

19 15 13 5 20 9 13 5 19

7 5 20

20 8 5 9 18

6 5 1 20 8 5 18 19

19 9 14 7 5 4