

BOOK REVIEW

AUSTRALIAN BIRDS IN COLOR by Keith Hindwood. Published by A. H. & A. W. Reed, Sydney-Wellington-Auckland, 1966. 112 pp., 52 color plates. Price \$3.25.

This book contains 52 full page color plates from transparencies by eleven of Australia's best bird photographers. The photography and reproduction are first class. The species are dealt with in checklist order and are a fairly representative selection of Australian bird-life, although several major groups are entirely missing. Each plate is accompanied by a page of text which gives in a most interesting manner quite a lot of information about the species, and often of related species, e.g. historical, range, habitat, nesting, habits, etc., and with the short (4 page) introduction would give the newcomer to the subject a good, if brief, introduction to Australian ornithology.

The author diverges from the official R.A.O.U. Checklist in a few scientific names and some vernacular names differ from those generally in use. Some of these latter may be appropriate but the use of Buff-breasted Whistler instead of Red-lored Whistler (the latter name aptly describing the main distinguishing feature from the rather similar Gilbert Whistler) surely cannot be an improvement. (The R.A.O.U. Checklist name, Red-throated Whistler is just as inappropriate).

The book, although small, must be considered as one of the better-class publications on Australian birds.

Also in the series are *Birds of New Zealand* by Gordon Williams and *Reptiles of Australia in Colour* by Harold Cogger. If these are of the same standard as the book under review, the three would make a good set in anybody's library.

B.G.