

BOOK REVIEW

NATURE WALKABOUT, by Vincent Serventy, published by A. H. and A. W. Reed Pty. Ltd., Artamon, N.S.W., 1967; 137 pp., 85 coloured photographs. Price \$4.50.

Many books have been written about the Australian outback, but there always seems room for one more, especially when the main theme is natural history with a strong conservation bias. This book is about the animal and plant life, the geological features and to a lesser extent the places and people encountered by the Serventy family on a six month, 15,000 mile tour from Perth to Sydney via Broome, Darwin, Alice Springs, Ayers Rock, Normanton, Cairns and the east coast. Although birds take up only a small part of the book, a work of this type emphasises the fact, of which some bird watchers seem almost to be unaware, that a country's wild life consists of much more than birds alone.

The book is far too short, and one finishes with the desire, on the one hand to go see for oneself, on the other to find out more about the wide variety of interesting items to which the author devotes but a paragraph or two.

In brief, a worthy addition to the non-technical books on Australian natural history.

B.G.