

BOOK REVIEWS

BIRD AND ANIMAL CALLS OF AUSTRALIA, by Harold J. Pollock, published by Jacaranda Press, 1968, 24 pp. plus a 7", 45 r.p.m., EP recording. Price \$2.95.

Side one of the recording gives the calls of 16 species of birds, side two of five species of animal. The book gives a few paragraphs of information about each species and six pages of coloured photographs (26 in all). The final two pages are on 'How I record Animal Calls.'

Personally I found both recording and book interesting and pleasing and well worth the money. However, I was interested in an expert's views, and asked Harold Crouch for his opinions which I have summarized below:—

"The technical quality of the recordings is very good, but the calls appear crowded together, and in the five second interval between calls a staccato voice announces the next species (in contrast with the L.P. by Frank Cusak and Redvers Eddy, which made listening a pleasure by combining a short, well spoken commentary with the song of the bird).

"The illustrations, although in colour are small, and not very interesting when compared with such books as Hindwood's *Australian Birds in Colour*.

"Pollock's commentary on the technical aspects of recording would best have been omitted, as the information is both confusing and discouraging to the would-be enthusiast who is interested in the voices of the bush, rather than the scientific analysis of bird calls.

"A skilful and patient operator can get better results with a \$100.00 recorder, than an inexperienced operator can get with a machine costing ten times as much."

Nevertheless, considering the price, I still consider it good value for \$2.95.

B.G.
