
BOOK REVIEWS

AUSTRALIAN FLYCATCHERS AND THEIR ALLIES, by Brigadier Hugh R. Officer, illustrated by Peter Slater, maps by Alex Stirling, published by The Bird Observers Club, Melbourne, 1969, 111 pp., 12 colour plates. Price \$5.00.

'The Brig's' second book in this series is compiled in the same style as his *Australian Honeyeaters*, and like that book gives the type of information that the average field observer wishes to know—description, field identification, distribution, habits and voice, nesting habits, and general notes. All Australian members of the families Muscicapidae, Pachycephalidae and Falcunculidae are included, the nomenclature following the *Official Checklist of the Birds of Australia*, 1926. Peter Slater's illustrations are, on the whole, very good, and certainly depict what is intended, how the birds look in the field.

Two useful improvements are a page of brief identification notes opposite each plate, and a distribution map. Some of the latter are unfortunately quite inaccurate as far as South Australia is concerned (e.g. Restless Flycatcher, Jacky Winter, Scarlet and Red-capped Robins, Gilbert Whistler, Crested Bellbird, Eastern Shrike-Tit and perhaps others). If distribution maps are to be included in future books in this series it would be advisable to seek information from authorities in each State beforehand.

Notwithstanding, this is a very fine book and one looks forward to the day when all Australian birds are covered by books of this quality. The Bird Observers Club's next publication, *Field Guide to the Australian Warblers*, by A. R. McGill is awaited with interest.

B.G.