

*AUSTRALIAN BUSH BIRDS IN COLOUR.* Irene and Michael Morcombe; published by A. H. and A. W. Reed, Sydney, 1974; 108 pages, 48 coloured plates. Price \$4.95.

As the title suggests this is essentially a book of coloured photographs, although the accompanying text does go a good deal further than most other publications aimed at the picture book market.

The coloured plates are generally of excellent quality and the standard of photography leaves little to be desired. There are a few exceptions however, for instance the rather poor photograph of a Galah on p. 35; but, as anyone who has tried bird photography will know, such a fine collection of photographs takes years to assemble even if most are of birds at the nest.

The notes on photographic technique, p. 13, are not so helpful as the publisher's comments on the inside front cover would have you believe. They contain nothing new for the experienced bird photographer and little to enlighten the beginner. A brief note alongside each plate, giving a few details such as the speed and aperture, the type of camera and film, and whether a telephoto lens or hide was used, would have served a more useful purpose.

Some of the black and white line drawings, such as the Southern Yellow Robin on p. 46, are really quite valueless. An obvious error concerning the Black-fronted Dotterel, which the author says in one paragraph is never found on ocean beaches and in another is a terrestrial bird which runs rapidly along beaches, casts a shadow over the otherwise plausible text.

Not a book for the serious ornithologist but one which, hopefully, will encourage interest amongst the unconverted.

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