

## BOOK REVIEWS (Continued)

1978 while he was painting the originals from which the present illustrations were taken and note that the complete series has been bought by the National Bank as a permanent collection.

The book is of "coffee table" proportions and therefore too large for use in the field. Ideally it could be left by a large picture window to help in the recognition of and speculation upon the habits of garden birds.

The introduction gives hints on how to attract birds into the garden by planting native and exotic shrubs, both for food, shelter and breeding as well as instruction on techniques used in bird watching, the recording of birds' habits and calls, all useful information for the novice. The ornithological books, clubs and locally accessible areas for bird watching listed on page 186 could act as further incentives to the extension of the reader's knowledge and is considered an excellent inclusion in a book of this type.

The main presentation is in standard format with the descriptive text opposite the appropriate illustration thus avoiding the annoying situation found in some ornithological books, where the two are out of phase. I liked particularly the questions and exercises posed in the "Notes" section at the end of each factual account. Any bird watcher could try his or her hand at answering them, or gathering the facts necessary to do so. The authors obviously want to extend the reader as well as providing basic information and pleasure.

My criticisms are few and without wishing to be pedantic, I believe that the Adelaide suburban dweller can from time to time see the Rainbow Bee-eater, White-throated Needle-tail, Crescent Honeyeater, and others not listed for that capital city. I have no doubt that the major transposition errors in the text of the Silver Gull on page 34 have been noted for correction in any reprint. Peter Trusler's paintings are generally of high quality, but the Australian Kestrel to me seems rather stiff and artificial in comparison with the remaining 79 illustrations.

The retail price of \$29.95 is not unreasonable considering the high quality of this production and I have already added a copy of it to my own library.

*BIRDS OF AUSTRALIAN GARDENS.* Paintings by Peter Trusler, text by Tess Kloot, Ellen M. McCulloch; pp 191; 80 col. illust.; 1980; Rigby; \$29.95.

Tess Kloot and Ellen McCulloch who are previous authors of a book on garden birds of southern Australia, have combined on this occasion with Peter Trusler, an experienced and precise painter of our avifauna to produce a bigger and better volume.

Although I have not met the two authors, I was privileged to visit Trusler's studio in

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