

Your Garden Birds

By Ellen McCulloch, Hyland House Publishing, RRP \$19.95

Reviewed by D.G. Hird

For the urbanised majority of Australians, gardens provide the most frequent contact with birdlife. For the most casual observer, larger and more brightly coloured birds will often attract initial attention and the latter are especially well illustrated in this book and often in unapologetically artificial settings.

With an anecdotal rather than systematic approach, this book is aimed towards children and the less serious birdwatcher. The author's wealth of experience shows through, though, in the interesting comments. For example, the migratory feats of some common, tiny garden busybodies such as silvereyes and spotted pardalotes are mentioned, adding to the more general information on providing garden habitats and on the birds to expect in them.

A possible omission is a featured Tasmanian Endemic! This book is nonetheless recommended as a well produced attractive book, ideal as a child or new birdwatcher's present.

Where to Find Birds in Australia

By John Bransbury. Published by Century Hutchinson Aust. Pty. Ltd.
R R P \$35.00

Reviewed by L.E. Wall

This is a substantial book of over 500 pages, divided into the various States and Territories, each of which is further divided into well known and recognised districts where birds are of special significance.

All good birding districts are illustrated by detailed maps, and there are a number of coloured photographs of typical bird habitats, with a few birds also illustrated. Reference is also made to means of access to each area and facilities, including accommodation, which are available. Tasmanian notes are divided into six areas and each of these further subdivided to give greater detail of interesting bird spots.

In the description of each location there is also included a list of birds most likely to be seen; whilst these bird lists of Tasmanian localities are generally a fair indication of what can be found there are a few doubtful inclusions. For instance, I have no record of ever having seen an Australian Shelduck in the Bridgewater area but it has been quoted as being one of the most common waterfowl there.

This book is highly recommended as a useful guide to all birdwatchers, whether they be residents or visitors. Its format is excellent and the writing style very easy.