

## Reviews

**The Book of Australian Wild Life**, by Harry Frauca, William Heinemann Ltd., 170 pp., with 157 black and white plates, 42/-.

This reviewer felt quite breathless after following the author through "The Book of Australian Wildlife" in what he himself describes as "A panoramic view of Australian animals from insects to the higher mammals".

Although the author obviously knows and loves the bush and has much to say of general interest, he did not appear certain to whom his book was directed: the student or the well-known "man-in-the-street".

In the two chapters on birds, for example, there was nothing new for the bird student, while it was difficult to reconcile the two forms of writing. Speaking of the ducks, Mr. Frauca says . . . "man . . . seems to be quite happy in adoring Mr. Duck today and blasting hell out of it tomorrow", while apropos of the Tawny Frogmouth he says . . . "It has two definite attitudes, the cryptic and the aposematic".

The book has 157 black and white illustrations. The captions for these are set out in a numbered form which is complicated and very hard to follow in spite of a list of illustrations. For example, the captions for two illustrations opposite p. 96 appear among others facing p. 81.

The book has an index of scientific names and a general index.—  
I. M. WATSON.

**Australian Bird Songs**, by Carl and Rise Weissman, Jacaranda Press, 20 pp., with 7 inch L.P. Record, 27/6.

It is most pleasing to see Australian bird calls being brought to the attention of the public. In this instance, Jacaranda Press has published a recording by Carl and Rise Weissman, with a text by Allen Keast, of the calls of nineteen species. These are, on the whole, faithfully rendered, with an absence of extraneous noise. Unfamiliar qualities in the songs of some species are possibly due to local characteristics. The recording would have been improved by the announcement of each species, thus defining clearly the limits of each bird's song.

Many fine or distinctive songsters are featured, although the selection is biased in favour of species occurring along the eastern sea-board. It is also unfortunate that as many as four species of sea-bird are included in so short a selection.

The text by Dr. Keast is excellent, giving a brief description of the bird itself—its nest and eggs, its habits and song. There is also a discussion on the function of song.

This recording should prove of interest to both layman and bird student.—D. J. NOONAN.

**Preliminary Report on Discovery of Nesting Site of Hutton's Shearwater**, by G. Harrow, *Notornis* 12: 59-65, 1965.

The author describes his discovery of a major nesting place of Hutton's Shearwater, *Puffinus gavia huttoni*, of several hundred burrows, at a height of about 4,800 feet on Mt. Kaiterau, Seaward Kaikoura Mountains, Marlborough, New Zealand. This shearwater's breeding place has long been sought by ornithologists.—H. L. SECKER.