

at least, to pluck and devour the more delicate morsels on the spot.

We are in the midst of a devastating drought [February 1983] and the predator was obviously in such a good and satisfied condition that it could afford to take so little from each kill.

By NORMAN J. FAVALORO, 199 Deakin Avenue, Mildura, Vic. 3500. ■

Review —

Birds of Geelong by Trevor Pescott, Neptune Press, Geelong, 1983. 255 mm x 190 mm, boards, pictorial d.w., b & w photos., map, 186 pp., RRP \$12.95.

In 1914 there was published in Geelong, a book entitled *The Birds of the District of Geelong, Australia*, by Charles F. Belcher, which claimed to be the first 'local' bird book to be published in Australia. It covered an area of approximately 35 miles radius about the town of Geelong, omitting only that small area in the circle on the eastern side of Port Phillip Bay. It contained quite discursive notes, unlike most 'local' bird books published since that date, and was illustrated with 50 black and white photographs of habitats, nests and eggs and a few birds.

Now, almost 70 years later, we have a new, up-to-date 'local' bird book for Geelong, more simply entitled *Birds of Geelong*, written by Trevor Pescott who was recently awarded an honorary M.Sc. by Deakin University for his work in natural history in the Geelong area. It follows the same style as Belcher, with anecdotal material illuminating the bare facts, and Pescott shows considerable skill in doing this, an ability sharpened by his more than twenty years of writing a natural history column for the Geelong Advertiser.

The book is well illustrated with 57 black and white photographs of birds taken in the area, apparently all by the author himself. It is a pity that the reproduction has not always been kind to the photographs.

The dust-wrapper carries a pleasant photograph of Galahs drinking, and on the rear an unusual but characteristic portrait of the author in colour by that most capable portrait photographer Ian Hawthorne of Geelong.

It is pleasing to note that the book was printed and published in Geelong itself.

The district dealt with in this book is considerably larger than that to which Belcher's book was confined. The reviewer can find no definition of the area which Pescott has covered except for a double-page, untitled, map which seems to indicate an extension of the district as far west as Port Campbell. This makes somewhat difficult any comparison with Belcher.

There is an elaborate 'Location Chart' at the end of the book which shows the status of each species in the whole area, in Belcher, and in eleven localities, again undefined, within the area. Adequate comparisons of the status of individual species in the time of Belcher and at the present day are almost impossible because the status terms are, necessarily, subjective and it is difficult for the reader to decide if what Belcher meant by Common or by Rare is what Pescott means. Taking them as equivalent seems to indicate that more species have improved their status since Belcher's time than have had their status reduced.

Belcher followed the nomenclature of Mathews in his *List of the Birds of Australia*, which was never generally accepted, and the common names in common use in his time. Pescott uses the common names of the RAOU's *Recommended English Names for Australian Birds* and the scientific names used in that list.

Pescott's book is a very welcome addition to the literature of Australian birds and a necessity for Victorian bird-watchers, particularly for those birding in the south-western quarter of Victoria.

Jack Hyett ■

Notes for Contributors

The *Australian Bird Watcher* welcomes original papers on the ecology and behaviour of Australian birds and on other kindred subjects of likely interest to amateur and professional ornithologists. Black and white photographs are preferred for illustration, but colour transparencies of adequate contrast are acceptable. Photographers may care to offer lists of unpublished material on which the editor may call.

Subscribers to the *Australian Bird Watcher* at home and overseas total approximately 1500.

Papers submitted should preferably be typed, wide spaced and with generous margins; please send the typed original and one copy. Address contributions to the Editor ABW, P.O. Box 185, Nunawading, Victoria 3131.

Bird names should normally follow the list of recommended English names published by the RAOU as a supplement to the *Emu* vol. 77. Nomenclature and order of families should follow current RAOU Checklists and Supplements.

The conventions adopted in the *Australian Bird Watcher* are those to be found in the *Style Manual for authors editors and printers*. 3rd edn, rev. John Pitson, AGPS, Canberra, 1978. References follow the author-date (Harvard) system.

The proportions of graphs, figures and tables should be selected so they can be fitted within all or part of a single page, or in exceptional cases a double page.

Authors not having easy access to the *Style Manual* can of course use current issues of the *Australian Bird Watcher* as a guide to layout and appearance.

Reprints can be supplied at cost if ordered before the journal is printed.