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BOOK REVIEW

Field Guide to Australian Birds: Complete Compact Edition

Michael Morcombe, Steve Parish Publishing Pty Ltd, Archerfield.
384 Pp. rrp \$34.95

This book is basically a rehash of Morcombe's unique Field Guide to Australian Birds that was published in 2000, but this is a "pocket size" format field guide, *albeit* for very big pockets.

It contains most of the information that was included in the larger format book, though the introduction is shorter and the valuable section on nest and eggs and Australian territorial island species have been omitted to facilitate the smaller format. The useful colour coded cross-referencing and indexing systems developed for the original book have been brought forward to this version of the field guide. Morcombe has included minor updates and feedback from birders that related to the earlier book.

This version brings forward the unique user-friendly concepts from its larger predecessor. The text, identification information and updated distribution maps are placed around the illustration for each species, so the complete account for each species appears on one page only. This field guide also introduces another unique feature — it has a ribbon page marker, so you do not lose your place when you put the book down for another squiz through your binoculars.

The Compact Edition is a very good, conveniently sized field guide and companion for the binocular-toting bird enthusiast and a copy belongs in the backpack, or car, more than in the home reference library. I commend it to casual bird observers, dedicated bird watchers and field ornithologists alike.

J. W. Hardy