



# Twitcher or

# Tweeter?

## Here's Where to Score Birds in Sydney!

**B**eing a bird lover, but not a twitcher—which is the nickname for those who pursue wild birds with binoculars, guidebooks and score their finds—I am still fascinated by the winged wonders I see around our home in Newtown and the surrounding bush when I get out there. Having recently been sent a book titled *Where to See Birds in Victoria*, from Jacana Books through Allen & Unwin Publishers, I was hoping there was a Sydney equivalent.

Sure enough, Jacana, which specialises in natural history, had a paperback title *Sydney's Birds and Where to Find Them* (\$35) by a birding expert of 50 years, Peter Roberts. It's a guide to where to see birds in and around Sydney—from Wollongong to the Central Coast and West to the Blue Mountains—with 30 top bird-watching localities in and around our city.

Its 200 pages are divided into two sections; the first is Localities starting from the CBD outward and the final 60 pages details the birds found as well as a wealth of photos identifying them. In the case of each bird, their most likely spots to be spotted are outlined and they are broken up into types of birds—seabirds, waterbirds, shorebirds, eagles and hawks plus many more. It has helpful tips about each bird's habits and haunts, such as where it roosts or nests.

Each locality entry lists the key species to look out for including rare and seasonal visitors. It describes how to access the location, both by public transport and road, and what amenities to expect; maps are featured wherever necessary. This invaluable guide will take you to some beautiful places, many of which you may never otherwise discover.

The three City East entries cover Royal Botanic Gardens, Centennial Park and Magic Point while the Sydney North section dissects Taronga Zoo, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park as well as other parks and wetland areas. In the Central Coast the three main spots are Woy Woy Peninsula, Gosford Rainforest and Tuggerah Lakes which are incredibly varied in the birdlife they each nurture.

It also has a small section on resources, contacts for birdwatching societies, books and even birdcall disks.



*“A twitcher is the nickname for those who pursue wild birds with binoculars, guidebooks and score their finds.”*