



Growing up with Australian Birds

Little Corellas courtship preening

Growing up with Australian Birds is the personal exploration of one of our country's most respected birders, Raoul Slater.

This visually stunning large format book takes the reader on a journey through the stages of Raoul's life—from a childhood observing birds, wondering what it would be like to be in their feathers to deeper introspections of adulthood. This collection of fascinating and beautiful photos is accompanied by the author's descriptions of his subjects and the complexities in capturing the moment.

Raoul Slater was born in Perth and began photographing birds at age twelve with the guidance of his father, wildlife artist, Peter Slater. At age eighteen he became interested in large format landscape photography. His parents wrote *The Slater Field Guide to Australian Birds* which is viewed as one of Australia's seminal bird texts. Raoul's mother Pat, wrote many books on nature and horses. His mother's writing influenced his easy, yet descriptive, writing style.

Here we have a selection of photos that capture Raoul's incredible talent and passion for his subject matter. This is an extraordinary book and will no doubt find its way into many of our readers' homes and coffee tables. It is a reminder that Australia is blessed with a diverse and colourful array of avian delights.



Three's a crowd – Sulphur-crested Cockatoos

Just like a magnet, a cockatoo has two poles. At one end is a desire to come together with its friends to wrestle and play. At the other is a quick temper that sees friendships flung apart. The challenge for a photographer at a bird feeder is to predict when these forces will cancel each other out. For a fraction of a second all the magnets are lined up north to south and the frame is filled with apparently peaceful cockatoo heads. The polarities shift and chaos erupts. Cockatoos go everywhere. In an eye-blink, the frame is empty.

“This photo was taken at sunrise. Desert dwelling birds like the Crested Pigeon have a limited time to drink deeply before the imminent threat of a predator. This bird is so thirsty and time so limited that he immerses himself up to his eye to get as much water as possible.”



A Rainbow Lorikeet sneezes up wind



Crystal shower – a Little Wattlebird erupts from the birdbath



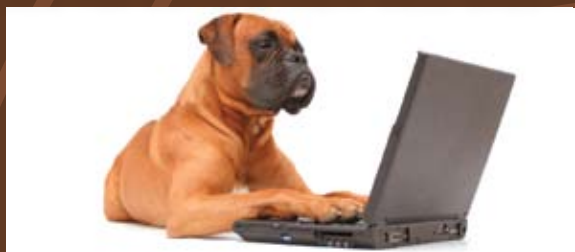
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