



*Top:* A forest gecko photographed in Tararua State Forest Park. Although quite common, the gecko is difficult to find because of its camouflage. Photographing such animals is a delicate business; they must be carefully handled.

*Inset:* The delicate forked tail of the white-fronted tern has given it the name of "sea swallow". Such beautiful photos as these are the result of much hard work – in this case a three and a half hour wait and 72 shots.

*Above:* Using a wide angle – 15mm – lens, the author has here moved in very close to the shrub fire, involving the viewer in the drama. Near Carnarvon National Park, Queensland.

graphic books of natural subjects to study if you are interested. However, there is no short cut, anymore than there is in any other pursuit requiring skill. In spite of this we can all still take photographs that will give us a great deal of pleasure without labouring over technicalities. As already stated, anyone can take a photograph; the differences come in the levels of quality.

Experience is our best teacher. All the books, articles and courses in the world will not replace real life experience – give it a go! If it doesn't work, analyse the mistake and try again. Minimise the number of variations in your equipment and technique. Stay with a single type of film until you understand it completely, and try to avoid being an "equipment freak", who tries some new lens or camera frequently. I realise that there are people who are more interested in the equipment than the results.