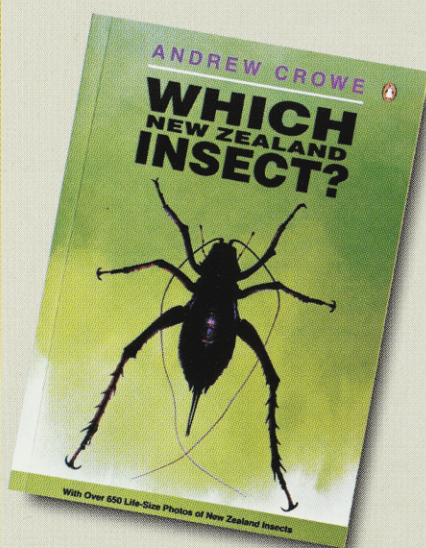


## Which New Zealand Insect?

By Andrew Crowe, 128pp, limp-bound, Penguin Books, Auckland 2002, RRP \$39.95.

Andrew Crowe has gradually cornered the market in illustrated field guides which are easy to interpret, and full of useful information. Having done the trees, the birds, and the seashells (and insects life-sized), he's returned with a handbook which includes 650 photographs and a substantial amount of straightforward text. Both native and introduced insects are included, with details of their behaviour and distribution.

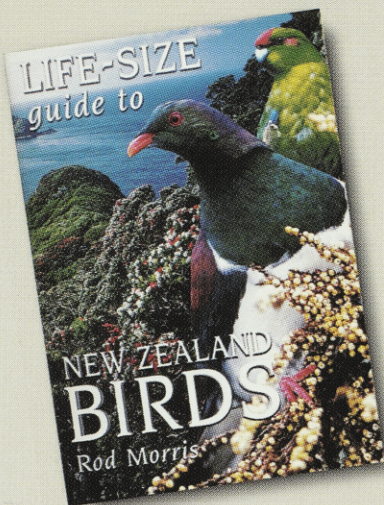


The book is intended as a field guide for adults and children. Again, it features life-sized photographs with magnifications noted on tiny creatures such as sandflies. There are three times as many species recorded here than in his previous *Life-Size Guide to Insects*, yet the format is small enough to be handy in the field. The text provides a mass of complementary information, from Maori names to biosecurity breaches, and often the kind and amount of food taken.

This should be a basic book in any collection of nature guides, for its sheer usefulness and comprehensive nature.

## Life-size guide to New Zealand Birds

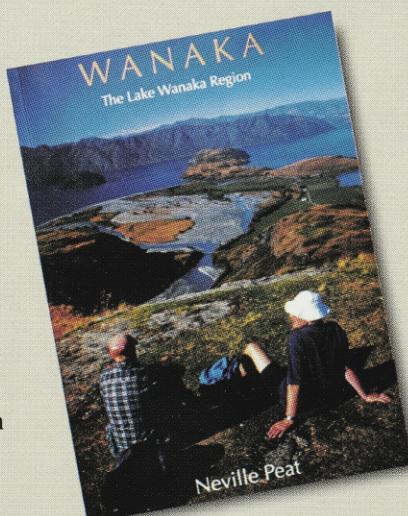
By Rod Morris, 32pp, limpbound, Random House N.Z. Ltd. Auckland 2002, RRP \$19.95.



A curious one this, for many of the birds are bigger than an A4 page. Consequently many of them appear as arresting portraits only, their bodies out of frame. The book focuses on a few representative habitats into which the birds have been inserted by computer manipulation. Each colour spread has a following monochrome key which includes notes on the birds. Rod Morris is a superb photographer and the close-up details are striking.

## Wanaka, The Lake Wanaka Region

By Neville Peat, 64pp, limpbound, University of Otago Press, Dunedin 2002, RRP \$19.95.



Neville Peat has already written similar volumes about *Stewart Island* and *The Catlins* in this excellent series of local guides/souvenirs. In full colour, they introduce the land, its geology, nature, and human history, for the thinking traveller. This volume, too, outlines the physical setting of high-country lakes and mountains. There is a chapter on walking and another on nature. The bright presentation and the gorgeous landscapes are an invitation to visit.

## Outdoors in New Zealand

By Colin Moore, 175pp, limpbound, New Holland, Auckland 2002, RRP \$24.95.

Colin Moore's 'Outdoors' column in the old-style *New Zealand Herald* was one of the few acknowledgments that



newspaper gave of a life beyond the Bombay Hills. Now the newspaper has changed and Colin Moore has moved on, but here is a collection of his columns from the 1990s. It records an adventurous middle-age; walking in civilised and wild places, fishing and sailing, canoeing, and several attempts on Aoraki/Mount Cook. The pieces are as slender as a newspaper column but Colin Moore is still good company.

## Sea Kayaker's Guide to New Zealand's Upper North Island

By Vincent Maire, 176pp, limpbound, New Holland, Auckland 2001, RRP \$29.95.

Paddling your own canoe is an increasingly popular way of entering the natural world, and a much more sympathetic way of enjoying the outdoors than the petrol-powered options. This book covers the coast (islands, and tidal rivers and estuaries too) from about Auckland, the Hauraki Gulf and Coromandel to the Far North. There's not much detail and only indicative maps of coastlines and places to locate the text. Appropriate marine charts and maps are listed, however, along with marine radio channels. Notes on land access, camping grounds, and safety considerations are useful, for those contemplating a course about these bountiful and fascinating coasts.

## Pukaha, songs from the forest



Compiled by the National Wildlife Centre Trust, Mt Bruce (Pukaha). *Forest & Bird* doesn't usually notice compact disks but this one comes with a conservation purpose, supporting work at Mt Bruce. Compiled largely from recordings made over many years by Les McPherson, the disk successfully recreates a dawn chorus of birdsong, followed by daytime bird calls and the sounds of night in the forest. Local Maori, Rangitaane O Wairarapa, contribute a greeting and songs. The birdsong tracks have been carefully engineered to remove the twin-recording curses of wind 'pops' and persistent insects; at times more than 32 tracks are melded into one. The disk comes with a 48-page booklet naming and illustrating the birds.