



2005

Top to Bottom Down Under

Laura Wadley

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Wadley, Laura (2005) "Top to Bottom Down Under," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 26 : Iss. 3 , Article 8.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol26/iss3/8>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Lewin, Ted and Betsy. *Top to Bottom Down Under*. Illustrated by Ted and Betsy Lewin. HarperCollins, 2005. ISBN 0688141137. \$15.99. 40 p.

Reviewer: Laura Wadley

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informational;

Subject: Australia--description and travel--Juvenile literature; Natural history--Australia--juvenile literature; Book--Reviews;

Ted and Betsy Lewin continue their travels to exotic places in this new book which describes and illustrates the unique landscape and animals of Australia. A beguiling beginning paragraph describes a land with furry, poisonous, egg-laying mammals, hopping animals with feet the size of skateboards; swimming birds that live in holes and can't fly. Much attention is paid to the "salties," or salt-water crocodiles, who come up from the sea into the freshwater estuaries to become a danger to man and beast. Salties can run on the land at a rate of 15 miles an hour, so the Lewin's recommend either running 16 miles per hour or zigzagging since crocodiles' tails make back and forth running difficult for them.

The Lewins' illustrations are spare yet evocative--one feels the danger incipient in the presence of a nearly invisible crocodile on the riverbank. The duck-billed platypus is surprisingly ominous and one snake swallowing another seems actually quite normal. "Top to Bottom Down Under" is an excellent introduction for middle grade students to the wonders of Australia.