

CONTENTS

PREFACE ix

- 1 INTRODUCTION: The Seven Swimmers 1
- 2 LIFE CYCLES: From Sand to Sea 10
- 3 BIOLOGY: Under the Shell 30
- 4 HISTORY: The Ancient Lineage 54
- 5 CONSERVATION: An Uncertain Future 70
- 6 GREEN TURTLES: The Grass Eaters 94
- 7 HAWKSBILLS: The Sponge Eaters 110
- 8 OLIVE RIDLEYS: A Phenomenon of Nature 126
- 9 KEMP'S RIDLEYS: The Rarest of All 144
- 10 LOGGERHEADS: A Crushing Jaw 160
- 11 FLATBACKS: Australia's Turtle 180
- 12 LEATHERBACKS: The Giant Mariner 194
- 13 CONCLUSION: Dreaming of Eden 217

SOURCES AND SUGGESTED READING 221

INDEX 225

Pivoting with its left flipper, this hawksbill performs a sharp turn. Hawksbills have been heavily harvested for their beautiful shells, while their important role in maintaining coral ecosystems has gone underappreciated.