

RAOU FELLOWS: CITATIONS

At the Annual General Meeting on 21 November 1970, the Council's recommendation that Mr A. H. Robinson and Mr W. R. Wheeler be elected Fellows was unanimously accepted.



ANGUS HARGREAVES ROBINSON

Mr Angus Hargreaves Robinson was born in London on 22 July 1907 and came to Australia with his family as an infant. He was keen on natural history, particularly birds, as a schoolboy at Scotch College, Perth, where he began an egg-collection, as was customary in those days. His egg-collecting at this period provided the only evidence we have that the Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis* nested at Rottnest Island. After leaving school, he went north as a jackaroo on the Peake Station in the Ashburton (now part of Wyloo). Here he took full advantage of his opportunities to add to the knowledge of the natural history of these areas. After managing Ullawarra Station, he returned south in 1935 and took over the grazing property of 'Yanjettee', at Coolup, where he still resides.

His publications, which began in the EMU in 1933, have been very varied. He is outstanding as an Australian pioneer in the study of territory and the associated function of song among Australian birds, his first paper on the subject appearing in the EMU in 1945. An address to the Perth meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, on the same theme, was published in the EMU in 1949.

Reports on extensive field-work on territorial behaviour of the Magpie-Lark and of the Western Magpie were published in a series of papers in the EMU. In the work on the Magpie he was the first to demonstrate completely the unusual territorial habits of these birds, work which inspired a good deal of further research on the subject by CSIRO at Canberra on the Black-backed Magpie.

His long years in the north-western part of Western Australia impressed on him the importance of opportunism in breeding among the birds of semi-arid regions, and his published data on unseasonal nesting provided important raw material for intensive studies by later ornithologists.

He was the first to publish information suggesting sympatry among species of the quail-thrushes (*Cinclosoma*), observations which were disbelieved for many years until the situation was clarified by Mr H. T. Condon of the South Australian Museum.

Mr Robinson is a member of the Western Australian Wild Life Authority. His activity in the conservation field led to his being nominated to the Landscape and Conservation Committee of the National Trust (Western Australia).



WILSON ROY WHEELER

Mr Wilson Roy Wheeler was born at Coleraine, Victoria, on 6 November 1905 and educated at Coleraine High School. He joined the Postmaster General's Department in 1921 and since his retirement has been Secretary of the Bird Observers Club.

He has published very many articles on a wide range of ornithological subjects, but his main interest is in distribution. His *Handlist of the Birds of Victoria* is the standard work on distribution in his home State. He was an original member of the Altona Survey Group, forerunner of the Victorian Ornithological Research Group, whose work on the Silver Gull formed one of the earliest banding studies in Australia.

Mr Wheeler was President of the Union in 1964-5 and of the Bird Observers Club. He was awarded the Australian Natural History Medallion in 1965 and in January 1969 received the MBE for services to natural history.

As Secretary of the Bird Observers Club, Mr Wheeler has been instrumental in arousing very many people to share his interest in ornithology and love of Australian birds. He has been active in the cause of conservation of birds and their habitat. His outstanding service to Australasian ornithology has been as an opener of windows, an encourager and an inspirer.