

## RAOU FELLOWS: CITATIONS

At the Annual General Meeting on 31 March 1973, the Council's recommendation that Mr H. T. Condon and Sir Robert Falla be elected Fellows was unanimously accepted.



**HERBERT THOMAS CONDON**

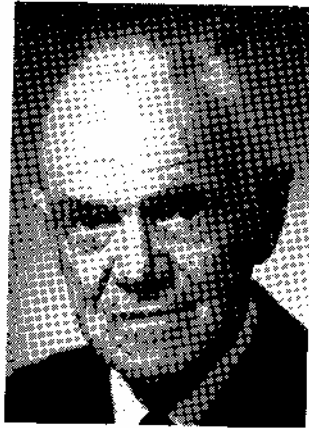
Mr H. T. Condon was born in Melbourne on 27 February 1912, and educated at Unley High School and the University of Adelaide. He joined the scientific staff of the South Australian Museum as a cadet in February 1929 and became assistant to the Ornithologist in 1933. The Honorary Curator of Ornithology at the time was John Sutton and Mr Condon was trained under him in the meticulous and conscientious performance of field and cabinet duties in museum ornithology for which Mr Sutton was noteworthy. Mr Condon was promoted to the post of Assistant in Zoology in 1935, and after Mr Sutton's death in 1938 he was placed in charge of the bird and reptile collections.

Mr Condon became Honorary Secretary of the South Australian Ornithological Association in 1938 and held the office until 1942. He was also Editor of the *South Australian Ornithologist* for many years. In 1941 he was made a member of the RAOU Checklist Committee and followed the late Major H. M. Whittell as convener. Latterly, on the recommendation of Dr G. M. Storr, he was placed in sole charge of the preparation of the new RAOU Checklist. He is a member of the Council of the RAOU, and was President in 1961-62.

Mr Condon began publication in ornithology in 1933. Three years later he published a noteworthy paper on the albatrosses occurring in South Australian waters and followed this three years later with a novel paper on the cranial osteology of some petrel forms. A similarly notable basic paper on the Australian broad-tailed parrots appeared in 1941.

Following war-service with the RAAF, he published a series of papers on birds met in the field in northern Australia.

Among his later papers he is best known to interstate ornithologists by his annotated lists on the birds of South Australia, with important taxonomic and nomenclatural discussions, and two pioneering field guides—on the hawks and on the waders, the latter in co-authorship with A. R. McGill, which were published by the Bird Observers' Club of Victoria. The latter two publications and numerous other of his papers, were illustrated by his own competent drawings. He is also an able water-colourist of bird subjects.



### ROBERT ALEXANDER FALLA

Sir Robert Falla, KBE, CMG, MA, DSc, FRSNZ, was born on 21 July 1901 at Palmerston North, in the North Island of New Zealand, and educated first at Invercargill and later at the Auckland Grammar School and Auckland University College, where he graduated MA in 1925. He obtained his DSc as the result of ornithological researches. He was appointed lecturer in nature study at the Auckland Teachers' Training College in 1925. His first major ornithological discovery was the nest and eggs of Buller's Shearwater *Puffinus bulleri*, then an almost unknown species. In 1929 he was appointed assistant zoologist on the British, Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition under Sir Douglas Mawson, and his voluminous report on the birds is one of the major source-books on Antarctic ornithology. On his return he was appointed ornithologist and educational officer at the Auckland War Memorial Museum in 1931, and became assistant director in 1936. The following year he was appointed director of the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, and in 1947 Director of the Dominion Museum, Wellington. He retired in 1966. Since his retirement he has served as the first Chairman of the Nature Conservation Council in New Zealand. He is a past President of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, of the Royal Society of New Zealand (of which he is a Fellow) and of the Pacific Science Congress, and an honorary member of the AOU and BOU.

Sir Robert was awarded the CMG in 1959 and was knighted (KBE) in the New Year's Honours List of 1973.

The Procellariiformes have been Sir Robert's principal interest in research and his papers on their taxonomy and ecology have been a stimulus to many younger workers. He was the first to draw attention to the precise timing of the egg-laying season of those petrels that engage in long migrations, as compared with the prolonged season in the more sedentary ones, and elucidated the details of the life history of several species. The difficult groups of prions and *Cookilaria* series of *Pterodroma* were worked out by him. For these studies he has undertaken field work on outlying islands from the Three Kings south to Macquarie Island, and during the war was in charge of a coast-watching party at the Auckland Islands. He developed a passionate interest in ships and the sea. He is also interested in the geographical relations of the New Zealand avifauna and active in present-day conservation problems.

With R. B. Sibson and E. G. Turbott he was the joint author of *A Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand*, 1966.