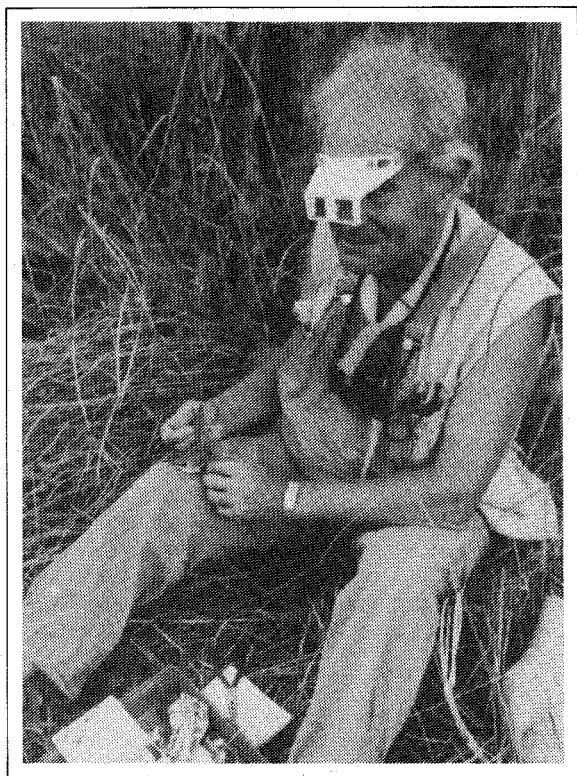


RAOU Fellows: Citations

At the Annual General Meeting on 27 May 1989 the Council's recommendation that Mr I.C.R. Rowley and Dr H.N.B. Wettenhall be elected as Fellows was accepted by an overwhelming majority.



IAN CECIL ROBERT ROWLEY

In the 40 years since Ian Rowley came to Australia he has developed a knowledge of the detailed biology of Australian birds that is hard to parallel. He was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on 6 February 1926, educated in Britain and spent 1943-44 at Cambridge University before he joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1944. Over the next four years he served with the RNVR, for some time on the 'little ships' that were so vital in keeping the English Channel open to Allied shipping in World War II.

When he left the Navy he emigrated to Australia and

entered the University of Melbourne's School of Agriculture. A year of his degree course was at Dookie Agricultural College, north of Benalla in Victoria, where his interest in Australian birds grew and led to the publication of two of his early contributions to *The Emu*. After he graduated he joined the CSIRO Wildlife Survey Section to work on the control of the rabbit, partly in Tasmania and partly in Canberra.

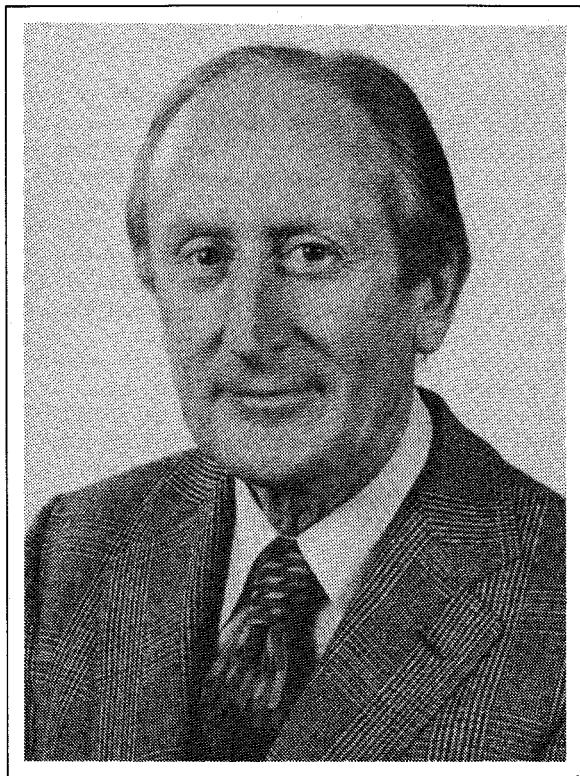
His spare time was devoted to the study of birds, especially the Superb Fairy-wrens of the driveway at Gungahlin, the headquarters of the Section. Here he first described the communal breeding of an Australian bird, a subject that has made him internationally famous. The wealth of examples of communal breeding in Australian birds has at last brought it home to ornithologists from the northern hemisphere that a simple transposition of their cherished principles and techniques is not good enough for understanding the complexities of Australian ornithology. The variety of strategies in use to eke out a livelihood in the poverty of the Australian bush, many described by Rowley, has shown how inadequate is the model of a simple pair of birds defending an all-providing territory. Indeed the fundamental assumption that defence of a territory allows a dominant male unchallenged access to his females has been questioned by some of Rowley's recent results. He and his colleagues have described the domestic economy of ravens, crows, Galahs, Pink Cockatoos, Superb, Red-winged, Splendid and Blue-breasted Fairy-wrens, White-winged Choughs and some of the robins.

Along with these scientific studies that have had such extensive influences on the direction of Australian ornithology, Ian has continually promoted the value of amateur ornithologists through fascinating talks to meetings of bird organisations and through his renowned book *Bird Life*, now in numerous editions. Since his move to the CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology at Perth in 1969, he has been particularly helpful to the Middlesex Field Study Centre near Manjimup in south-western Australia, an establishment in which the RAOU has a special interest. He has been a frequent contributor to *The Emu*, as an author, referee and reviewer, and is currently seeing his major work on the Galah through the publication process in the RAOU Ornithological Monograph series.

Ian was elected a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists Union in 1979, in recognition of his work on communal breeding. He was elected as an Australian representative to the International Ornithological Committee in 1974 and to the Permanent Executive

Committee of the International Ornithological Congresses in 1982. As an outstanding ornithologist who has contributed much to the knowledge and enjoyment of our birds, it is fitting that he should be honoured in his adopted land and elected a Fellow of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union.

S.J.J.F. Davies



HENRY NORMAN BURGESS WETTENHALL

Born in 1915 and educated at Geelong College and the University of Melbourne, H.N.B. Wettenhall, AM, MD, BS, FRCP, FRACP, FMV, has had a deep interest in natural history from early childhood. Within this field his contribution to ornithology has been distinguished and far-reaching.

In medicine he was Surg. Lieut. RAN 1941-44, Sr. Physician Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, 1948-73, Endocrinologist 1973-80, and has been Hon. Consult. Endocrinologist since 1980. In 1985 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for work in conservation.

Dr Wettenhall was a member of the Council and Executive of the Australian Conservation Foundation 1965-69 and is Chairman of the Victorian Conservation Trust. In the arts he was Chairman of Heide Park and Art Gallery from 1980-88 and has long supported art in natural history. His interest in the history of Australian ornithology led to the formation of his outstanding collection of ornithological literature.

From 1978-87 Dr Wettenhall was a Council Member of the Museum of Victoria and in that sphere has also been a member and until 1988, the Chairman of the Science and Humanities Committee. This Committee administers the Thomas Ramsay Science and Humanities Scholarship of the Museum of Victoria that encourages research, scholarship or artistic endeavour that harmoniously links science and the humanities. Scholarships have been awarded for work related to natural history.

In ornithology Dr Wettenhall joined the RAOU about 1945. He found prompt encouragement from the late Mr Charles Bryant, attended his first RAOU Congress and Campout at Lake Barrine, Queensland and has been a frequent attendee ever since. Having a strong love for birds in the field, he has also been involved in extensive field trips throughout Australia, especially with the late Mr Claude Austin, with Brigadier Hugh Officer and with Mr Graham Pizzey. His field work has also included wader banding. Dr Wettenhall was appointed an Hon. Associate in Ornithology at the Museum of Victoria in 1963 and for 15 years in that capacity was, for the Ornithology Department, a ready and generous source of assistance and informed opinion over a range of events and topics. During this period he played a vital role in encouraging the Victorian Government's decision to purchase for the Museum an almost complete series of John Gould's major ornithological works.

In 1975 Dr Wettenhall joined the Council of the RAOU and was President from 1978-83. It is here, as well as in his efforts for the Museum, that we see the special character of his contribution to ornithology. Having a wide acquaintance with the business community, with government and academic circles and with leaders in both science and the arts, he has been able to apply his special ability — that of drawing people together to facilitate access to varying expertise. This he has done to the RAOU's advantage with warmth and an enthusiasm for birds and for the Union that has sometimes initiated interest in birds from some of those approached for expertise. Additionally, his responsible awareness of both the RAOU's financial and scientific needs supported a sensible business sense in the Council.

Examples of projects that have benefited substantially from Dr Wettenhall's particular abilities, although some

were initiated under earlier Presidents, are the acquisition of the RAOU's headquarters at Moonee Ponds, the *Atlas of Australian Birds*, the checklist of Australian birds being prepared, the *Handbook of the Birds of Australia, New Zealand and the Antarctic*, and the development of additional field observatories at Rotamah Island in Gippsland and at Barren Grounds in New South Wales. A Capital Research Fund was also established and RAOU membership increased during Dr Wettenhall's Presidency. Of particular benefit has been his work on the Library and the Research Committees.

The influence of Dr Wettenhall in RAOU affairs has been highly significant. Always a sympathetic supporter of the Union, his Presidency came at a time when, following the revision of the Constitution and the excellent work of the three Presidents subsequent thereto, there was a continuing need for financial impetus together with enthusiastic and wise leadership. Dr Wettenhall's particular skills brought much of the RAOU's potential for growth into reality to the benefit of Australasian ornithology.

A. McEvey