

D.L. Serventy Medal: Citation

JOHN WARHAM

In John Warham, two careers involving ornithology are perfectly intertwined — one as a scientist and the other as a photographer. When John and Pat Warham came to Australia from England in 1953, John was already a most accomplished bird photographer, as his publications in *Emu* and elsewhere soon showed. He wrote about, and photographed, the birds of south-western Australia and then the Kimberley, before he and his wife Pat, often his invaluable companion in the field, became wardens of the severely diminished Cat Island gannetry in Bass Strait. After this came studies of seabirds and bower birds in north Queensland, then more island work. By now, John's love of seabirds was clearly evident, resulting, in 1971, in the publication of *The Handbook of Australian Seabirds*, co-authored with Dom and Vincent Serventy. This is still the definitive work on seabirds in Australia and most of the superb photographs in it are by John.

Following almost a decade of field work in Australia, much of it on seabirds, John returned to England to take his doctorate at the University of Durham, close to his native Yorkshire. He then obtained a post at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, remaining there until his retirement as Reader in Zoology. At Christchurch, John continued his studies on seabirds and led several university expeditions to New Zealand's sub-Antarctic islands. Five years into an active retirement, John brought nearly 40 years of work on petrels to fruition, in 1990, with the publication of his definitive monograph *The Petrels — their Ecology and Breeding Systems*. This will obviously be the standard work on this group for many years and contains the usual excellent monochrome photographs by John. His career should soon be further crowned by the companion volume, giving details of petrel behaviour, physiology, population biology and diet.



John has brought to his science the same meticulous attention to detail evident in his photographs. These photographs show an intimate knowledge of the behaviour of birds that comes only from their long and careful observation and this also characterised his 80 scientific publications. John was always ready to share this knowledge with the serious student, as attested by his several books on wildlife photography. His long and distinguished career studying seabirds, a group beloved of Dom Serventy, makes John Warham a very fitting recipient of the D.L. Serventy Medal.

Ron Wooller