

# RAOU Fellow: Citation

## MARGARET ALISON CAMERON

AM, FLAA

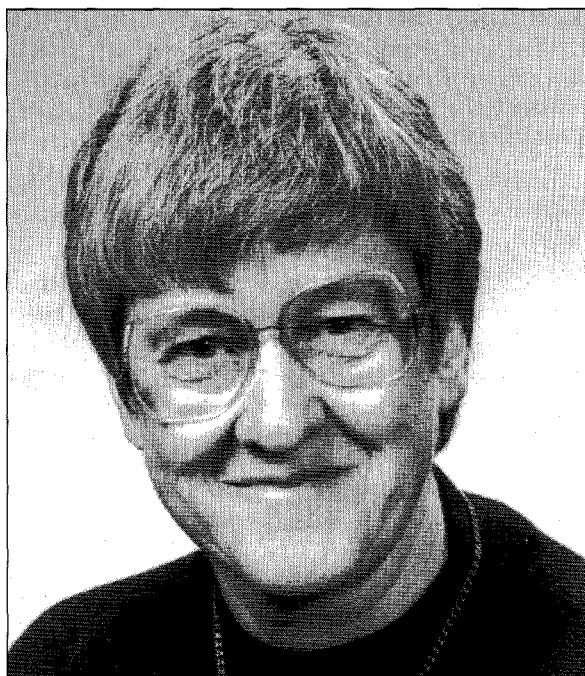
Margaret Cameron must be one of the best known ornithologists in Australia. She was born in Queensland on 10 September 1937, and grew up in the country where her father encouraged her initial interest in birds. In early adult life this interest was dormant but when Margaret became a librarian at Flinders University in South Australia in the 1960s, she was stimulated by Mrs Joan Paton's adult education lectures to go on field trips and to become active in conservation issues.

After South Australia, Margaret moved to New South Wales where she was Reader Services Librarian at Macquarie University from 1969 to 1977. It was during this time that she developed her skills in field ornithology; I remember first meeting her at Iron Range on a BOC camp in 1970 and was impressed by her enthusiasm and energy and her enquiring mind. She also became involved with the running of several societies, including the Ornithology Section of the Royal Zoological Society of NSW and the NSW Field Ornithologists Club. She chaired the joint meetings of the Sydney bird clubs for a time and was responsible for correspondence relating to conservation.

In 1977, Margaret became the foundation Chief Librarian at Deakin University in Geelong, Victoria, and her career blossomed both professionally and ornithologically. She was Pro-Vice Chancellor from 1986-90, a period that included the inter-regnum between two Vice-Chancellors when she acted as Head of the University. In 1993, Margaret is still University Librarian with the title of Professor and is one of the outstanding personalities of Deakin University.

Margaret is expert at bird identification in the field. She is a generalist interested in all species and not just in one or two particular groups. She is also a competent bander and counter of birds, taking an active role in the Victorian Wader Studies Group, and with BATH. She is intelligent, enthusiastic, active and persistent. Sometimes she is impatient and tries to do too many things at once. Nevertheless, her great contribution has been and is the stimulation and encouragement she gives to many people. She herself has stated it is important to make people feel interested in and enthusiastic about birds because this encourages them to protect habitat and support conservation.

Within the RAOU Margaret was a member of Council from 1980 to 1989 and President during the last



three years of that period. Since 1990 she has been convenor of the Victorian Group of the RAOU. She has been Chairman of the Library Committee since 1980 and was Chairman of the Publications Committee from 1982-89. Margaret is a member of numerous state and regional bird societies around Australia, in particular the Geelong Field Naturalists Club where she was editor of the *Geelong Naturalist* from 1980 to 1987.

Margaret's organisational quality has also been recognised by Federal and State authorities. She was a member of the Advisory Committee of the Australian Biological Resources Study from 1984 to 1991 and its Chairman from 1987 to 1991. Within Victoria, she has been a member and Chairman of the Research Advisory Committee to the Minister of Conservation, Forests and Lands from 1986 onwards. She has also been a member of the Council of the Museum of Victoria since 1987.

In summary, it is evident that Margaret has been and still is a great contributor to our community. Her professional leadership has been recognised by the award of Fellow of the Library Association of Australia in 1987. More recently in 1990 she received the honour of becoming a Member of the Order of Australia. It is entirely appropriate that Margaret's specific contribution in the area of ornithology now be recognised by election as Fellow of the RAOU.