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## CLIVE DUDLEY THOMAS MINTON MA PhD

Clive Minton, an outstanding amateur ornithologist with an international reputation, was awarded the John Hobbs Medal for 2000 at the Annual General Meeting on 28 May 2000. Born on 7 October 1934, he first became interested in studying, trapping, and banding birds at Oundle School, UK, from 1947–1953. He completed a PhD in Metallurgy at Cambridge University (1953–1960) but spent his spare time studying migratory waders on the Wash, becoming the founding Chairman of the Wash Wader Ringing Group, a position he held until 1978. Together with Eric Ennion, Clive introduced the use of mist nets and rocket nets to catch waders and was associated with the development of cannon nets, introduced in 1967. He also took part in studies of many other birds including Mute Swans, Canada Geese, Sand Martins, thrushes and finches.

When in 1978 Clive came to Australia as Managing Director of Imperial Metal Industries Australia, he revitalised the activities of the three year old Victorian Wader Banding Project with his energy, enthusiasm, ornithological knowledge and expertise in the use of cannon nets. In June 1979, this project was transformed into the Victorian Wader Study Group (VWSG) with Clive as Co-convenor. In 1982, he became Convenor and still holds this position today. The VWSG is the most active wader banding group in the world, banding over 6000 birds in Victoria each year.

The 1979 cannon netting was so successful that Clive was invited to demonstrate the technique in other States. In turn this led to a meeting of representatives from all States and from New Zealand, and the formation of the Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG) in 1980 with Clive as founding Chair. During this period, expeditions for the *Atlas of Australian Birds* were being undertaken, one result of which was the discovery of thousands of migratory waders at Broome, Western Australia. Clive organised a major expedition

to the area in 1981, which established its status as the third most important area for waders in the world. Since then Clive has organised 18 North-West Australia Wader Expeditions to Broome, Eighty-Mile Beach and Port Hedland. These attract participants and trainees from around the world and in 1998 over 120 people from 16 countries participated over a 13-week period. Clive was also instrumental in the establishment of the Broome Bird Observatory by Birds Australia (then the RAOU), in 1988.

The knowledge gained from the expeditions to north-west Australia has led to many international advances including: the declaration of Roebuck Bay, Roebuck Plains and Eighty-Mile Beach as Ramsar sites; the establishment of the Asian Wetland Bureau; the recognition of the East-Asian Flyway; and made a significant contribution to the establishment of the Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement and the China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement.

Because of his expertise and vast knowledge of waders and terns Clive has been invited to participate in expeditions to Russia, North and South America and the Great Barrier Reef, and to lecture at many national and international conferences. Clive has also contributed to the development of Birds Australia and was Vice-President from 1989 to 1995. Clive's achievements were recognised by Birds Australia in 1998 when he was made a Fellow (see *Emu* 98, 241).

VWSG and AWSG studies have resulted in over 70 publications in national and international refereed journals with Clive as senior author, plus numerous other articles and papers.

Rosalind Jessop, Doris Graham, Peter Collins and Rosemary Davidson

A portrait of Clive appeared in *Emu* 98, p. 241, with his citation as RAOU Fellow. Editor.