JOHN C. Z. WOINARSKI

During the past 26 years, John Woinarski has made an enormous contribution to the scientific knowledge of the Australian avifauna. To date, he has authored or co-authored 62 papers and 20 reports that deal with ornithology; and a further 19 papers and 13 reports dealing with reserve design and other aspects of conservation management relevant to birds. Many of John’s papers record studies of rare and/or endangered species, including the Chestnut Rail, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Gouldian Finch, White-throated Grasswren, Northern Shrike-tit, Red-lored Whistler, Forty-spotted Pardalote and Helmeted Honeyeater. A further 36 publications deal with other taxa, especially mammals and flora.

John has enjoyed an interesting and varied career. He began his interest in ornithology as a science assistant at Geelong Grammar School (Timbertop). From there, he moved to the National Parks Service of Victoria where he researched and prepared a submission for an Alpine National Park. Perhaps two of his more exciting pursuits were the research and radio-telemetry of bowerbirds and birds of paradise at the Wau Ecology Institute in Papua New Guinea followed by a survey of the Lesser Florican, an endangered Indian bustard for the ICBP and UN Fish and Wildlife Department. In 1986 John moved to the Northern Territory where he has since worked on a vast array of bird projects, including endangered species, avifauna of monsoon vine forests, wildlife survey and the conservation of monsoon forest on Bathurst and Melville Islands.

John has supervised, or is supervising, three Ph.D. students working on birds and has served Birds Australia (RAOU) in a number of capacities, including Council Member, Chair of the Conservation Committee and Member of the Steering Committee for the Bird Atlas. He has always been a willing and incisive referee of manuscripts submitted to *Emu*.

The strength of John’s scientific contribution to Australian ornithology lies in its breadth, scientific excellence and relevance to the conservation of species and communities. We feel that John Woinarski is a most worthy recipient of the 2001 D.L. Serventy Medal.

Michael Brooker
Michael Ridpath