

D. L. Serventy Medal 2006: Citation

DENIS A. SAUNDERS

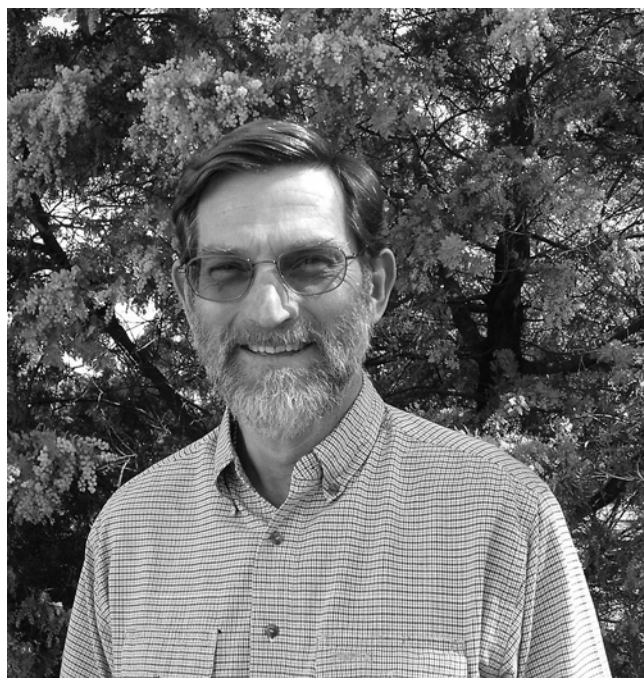
The D. L. Serventy Medal is an award of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (now Birds Australia) that honours members who have made outstanding contributions to publication in the science of ornithology in the Australasian region. Details can be found at: www.birdsaustralia.com.au/people/serventy.html

In many ways, Denis Saunders has the perfect credentials to be a Serventy Medallist. He has contributed to the publication of Australian ornithology in manifold ways, including his own publications, his many editorial activities and his membership of several committees associated with publications.

He has authored or co-authored 53 refereed scientific articles (most on birds), 48 refereed book chapters and three books, edited another 12 books, and contributed to several hefty reports. Another 53 notes, conference proceedings, booklets and book reviews complete his publications list. Many are on birds and the majority relate to birds via their conservation or landscape ecology focus.

In addition Denis edits several journals and scholarly book series, undertakings that are time consuming and require considerable liaison with, and encouragement of, potential authors. Between 1994 and 2002 Denis was on the Editorial Board of *Conservation Biology*. Currently, he is an Editor of *Biological Conservation* and, after 11 years, he has just finished as Associate Editor (Australia and Asia) of *Landscape and Urban Planning*. He sits on the Editorial Board of *Pacific Conservation Biology*, and is a member of the Advisory Board of Cambridge University Press' series, *Biological Conservation and Restoration*.

Denis completed terms as a Birds Australia Councillor and member of the Research and Conservation Committee during a period of recovery for the organisation. He was Chair of the Steering Committee of the second atlas and championed the publication of *The New Atlas of Australian Birds*. He was the Birds Australia representative on the NSW Natural Resources Advisory Council. He chaired the committee which reviewed *Emu*. This resulted in a successful publishing partnership with CSIRO Publishing and the broadening of the scope of *Emu* to cover Austral ornithology. Subsequently, he chaired the *Emu* Editorial Advisory Committee, stepping down in 2005.



He has chaired or otherwise participated in a variety of other scientific/conservation committees and councils. His current appointments include the WWF Executive Council, Earthwatch (Australia) Board of Directors, the Australian Heritage Council and the Carnaby's Cockatoo Recovery Team.

Denis is one of the most respected conservation biologists in Australia as evidenced by his membership of the influential Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists. He has received the International Society for Conservation Biology's 1998 Individual in Government Award for making 'significant, meaningful and lasting contributions to conservation biology' and the International Association for Landscape Ecology's 1999 IALE Distinguished Scholarship Award for 'exceptional contributions to the development of landscape ecology as a science and a practice.' In 2005 he was made a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) for 'service to nature conservation, particularly through the study of Australian birds and the development of landscape ecology in Australia'. His contributions to ornithological publication could well have been added to this list of exceptional achievements.

Dr Penny Olsen