

CITATION FOR ROBERT FALLA MEMORIAL AWARD 2019

Andrew Crossland

Andrew Crossland has been a committed contributor to ornithology in Canterbury and has done so with enthusiasm and great care for about 35 years. Andrew is first and foremost a dedicated field observer who has meticulously recorded his observations and has published much of his work in *Notornis*.

A notable feature of Andrew's fieldwork has been to use his data to benefit birds. One example has been Andrew's determination to collect observations in and near the Travis Wetland that, along with harnessing public opinion and Christchurch City Council resources, has contributed its preservation at a time when its future hung in the balance. Today, the Travis Wetland is the largest freshwater wetland in Christchurch and over sixty species of birds have been recorded here. It is a attribute to Andrew's drive to see this important site protected.

Andrew has been a stalwart of Birds NZ wader counts, submitting counts from Christchurch and Banks Peninsula since 1984, and from other South Island locations such as West Coast river mouths since 2004. He single handedly counted more sites in Canterbury than anyone else and was instrumental in convincing the Christchurch City Council to participate in counts at Lake Ellesmere. Andrew organised counts of Spotted shags around Banks Peninsula and has regularly surveyed river mouths in Canterbury, focusing attention on the lower reaches of the Waimakariri River, and providing a sound basis for ongoing surveys by the Department of Conservation and Environment Canterbury.

Andrew has been a dedicated and enthusiastic contributor to the Society's Beach Patrol Scheme for many years, in Canterbury and elsewhere in New Zealand. He contributed more than 1,100 records between 1990 and 2017, more than many other observers, and in doing so has added considerably to the wealth of knowledge being accumulated through regular Beach Patrols including making records of several unusual seabird species.

Andrew has provided more than 25 years of sustained service through volunteering in a variety of administrative roles for Birds New Zealand. For more than five years prior to 1992 Andrew was Regional Recorder in the Canterbury Region, a role he performed with care and diligence. Since 1998 Andrew has been the South Island Coordinator of the National Wader Counts and in doing so has always reported thoroughly and on time. Commencing in 2011, Andrew has served as a member of the Records Appraisal Committee and based on his considerable knowledge, practical experience and accurate observations has contributed substantially to the assessment and verification of unusual bird sightings reported by observers throughout New Zealand.

Andrew has taken a key role in educating the general public in Canterbury about bird life through articles in newspapers and a contribution on bird life in the book "The Estuary. Where Our Rivers Meet the Sea. Christchurch's Avon-Heathcote Estuary and Brooklands Lagoon".

Andrew has had over twenty papers accepted for publication in *Notornis*, many based on his extensive fieldwork in Canterbury. He has always encouraged others to conduct fieldwork and publish, and is generous in sharing co-authorship credits with all who have been involved in projects which result in publications.

It is with great pleasure that Andrew is awarded an R A Falla Memorial Award.