



GUIDELINES FOR AWARDS

Birds New Zealand Council offers the following awards:

- 1 Fellow of the Society
- 2 Honorary Member
- 3 Nomination for external Honours
- 4 Robert Falla Memorial Award
- 5 Meritorious Service Award (MSA)
- 6 A.T. Edgar Junior Award
- 7 Grants from a 'Fledgling Fund'
- 8 Notornis – New Author Award
- 9 Notornis – Student Award
- 10 NZ Bird Conference – Best Student Talk Award
- 11 NZ Bird Conference – Best Student Poster Award
- 12 NZ Bird Conference – Best Poster Award "People's Choice"
- 13 AOC Student Travel Grant

Society members are encouraged to consider writing up nominations to recognise those who have worked hard to advance the aims and objectives of the Society. All nominations are considered by Council, and Council shall approve recommendations if in its discretion it considers the nomination meet the standards of the award.

1 Fellow of the Society

Nominations may be made at any time according to the criteria set out in the Constitution (5.2.5), and must be submitted to the Secretary secretary@birdsng.org.nz. The decision made by Council must be unanimous.

2 Honorary Member

Nominations may be made at any time according to the criteria set out in the Constitution (5.2.6) and must be submitted to the Secretary secretary@birdsng.org.nz.

An honorary membership may be awarded by Council to any member of the Society in its sole discretion on the resolution of not less than eight Councillors in recognition of an outstanding and specific physical contribution made to the Society that does not qualify for election as a Fellow. The outstanding contribution can be practical or academic and will be judged by Council as having enduring value or benefit to the Society.

3 Nomination for External Honours

Nominations may be made at any time, and if the support of the Society is requested, must be submitted to the Secretary secretary@birdsng.org.nz. The decision to support a nomination made by Council shall be by a majority of three quarters of the members present or participating in a ballot.

4 Robert Falla Memorial Award

Criteria: The two basic requirements for this prestigious award of the Society are:

- a) valuable contributions to the study of birds in the New Zealand region (includes New Zealand, Southwest Pacific, Southern Ocean and Antarctica) and
- b) sustained service to Birds New Zealand.

Nominees should satisfy both criteria - though not necessarily of equal merit, there must be sustained and valuable contributions in both areas.

The nomination must be signed and dated by two financial members of the Society. Electronic signatures are acceptable, but full names and dates must also be included.

In reaching their decision, Council will bear in mind the prime importance of maintaining the very high status of the award, and this consideration will take precedence over any desire to make an award regularly, or every year.

Procedure: See below.

5 Meritorious Service Award (MSA)

This award will be made to individuals who have demonstrated meritorious service in the furtherance of the Objects of the Society, namely:

- To encourage, organise and promote the study of birds and their habitat use particularly within the New Zealand region.
- To foster and support the wider knowledge and enjoyment of birds generally.
- To promote the recording and wide circulation of the results of bird studies and observations.
- To produce a journal and any other publication containing matters of ornithological interest.
- To effect co-operation and exchange of information with other organisations having similar aims and objects.
- To assist the conservation and management of birds by providing information, from which sound management decisions can be derived.
- To maintain a library of ornithological literature for the use of members and to promote a wider knowledge of birds.
- To promote the archiving of observations, studies and records of birds particularly in the New Zealand region.
- To carry out any other activity which is capable of being conveniently carried out in connection with the above objects, or which directly or indirectly advances those objects or any of them.

Criteria: The award is not confined to members, or to past members of the Society, and it may be awarded to suitable non-members living in New Zealand and overseas.

An individual can be eligible for more than one award, but each must be for different services according to the Objects of the Society. No individual can receive an award for a particular service more than once, nor can two different awards be made in the same year. A maximum of five awards can be made annually. Nominations shall not be made posthumously.

Nominations must be signed and dated by two financial members of the Society and be accompanied by a supporting statement of not more than 150 words setting out the achievements of the person nominated. Electronic signatures are acceptable, but full names and dates must also be included.

Procedure: See below.

6 A.T. Edgar Junior Award

Criteria: The two basic requirements for this award are:

- a) valuable contributions to the study of birds in the New Zealand region (includes New Zealand, Southwest Pacific, Southern Ocean and Antarctica); and
- b) candidate must be under the age of 20 years on 31 December of the year for which s/he is nominated, and s/he must be a financial member of the Society on that date.

Nominations must be signed and dated by two financial members of the Society, one of whom should be a Regional Representative or a Councillor who knows the candidate personally. Electronic signatures are acceptable, but full names and dates must also be included.

Procedure: See below.

Procedure for nomination of a “Robert Falla Memorial Award”, “MSA” or “A.T. Edgar Junior Award”

1. Each year the Secretary will call for nominations in the September issue of *Birds New Zealand*.
2. Nominations should be on the relevant form available through Regional Representatives or on www.birdsnz.org.nz/about-us/manual/
3. People being nominated should not be told of this fact at this stage, but the person ultimately selected by Council may be told before it is publicly announced.
4. Nominations must reach the Secretary secretary@birdsnz.org.nz by **31 December**.
5. The Secretary will check for eligibility and forward nominations to Council by 31 January.
6. The Council will decide which one, if any, will receive the award. In reaching their decisions, members of the Council shall be free to consult any other member(s) as each sees fit.
7. The award is determined by a majority of two thirds of Council members.
8. The President will advise the Secretary 8 weeks prior to the AGM of the Council decision as to which one, if any, of the nominated people should receive the award.
9. The Secretary will produce Certificates, which will be signed by the President before the AGM.
10. Awards will be announced by the President at the AGM and published in *Birds New Zealand*.

7 Grants from a “Fledgling Fund”

The purpose of the Fledgling Fund is to provide cash grants to encourage Student Members of the Society to attend and actively participate in New Zealand Bird Conferences and Birds New Zealand annual meetings. Each grant made to a Student Member shall cover cost of (a) the conference registration fee, and (b) attending the conference dinner.

Criteria: Applicants must have been a Student Member of Birds New Zealand for two or more years and enrolled full-time at a NZ tertiary institution or secondary school. A grant from the Fledgling fund shall only be made once to each Student Member. Nominations should be submitted to the Secretary secretary@birdsnz.org.nz by **28 February**.

Procedure: Each year the Secretary will invite applications from Student Members of the Society for the award of a cash grant to support attendance and participation at New Zealand Bird conferences and Birds New Zealand annual meetings, including attendance at the Society dinner.

1. Not later than 28 February in the year in which a conference is to be held, applicants should submit to the Secretary the title and an abstract of not more than 50 words for a proposed talk or poster.
2. Applicants should name the NZ tertiary institution or secondary school at which they are enrolled.
3. The conference organising committee in the region in which a conference is being held shall select and rank applicants for a grant. Council may approve of the award of grants to Student Members on the recommendation by the respective RR. Council will determine each year the number of Fledgling Fund grants that might be made.
4. The Secretary will advise successful applicants not later than 31 March in the year in which a conference is being held.
5. The EO will arrange payments for the conference registration fee and cost of the Society dinner. The EO will advise confirmation of registration and dinner payments to successful applicants.

Send to Secretary, secretary@birdsnz.org.nz.

8 *Notornis* - New Author Award

An annual award of \$300 is offered for the best *Notornis* publication where the sole or lead author has not previously published in *Notornis* or any other scientific journal.

Criteria: Applicants must be current members of Birds New Zealand, and must state when submitting their manuscripts that they are a first-time author and wish to apply for the award. The award can be applied for once only. We seek well-researched and well-written papers that make a significant contribution to ornithology in the South Pacific region (including New Zealand and Antarctica). Students are able to apply for both *Notornis* awards (if eligible) but one award only will be granted to any one manuscript.

9 *Notornis* - Student Award

An annual award of \$500 is offered for the best *Notornis* publication where a student or recent graduate is the sole or lead author.

Criteria: Applicants must be current members of Birds New Zealand, and must state when submitting their manuscripts that they wish to apply for the award, and that they are currently enrolled in a New Zealand education institute or have graduated in the last 3 years. There is no restriction on the number of submissions that a student may make in the course of their studies, and the award is open to students of all ages. We seek well-researched and well-written papers that make a significant contribution to ornithology in the South Pacific region (incl. New Zealand and Antarctica).

10 NZ Bird Conference - Best Student Talk Award

An annual award of \$100 is offered for the best oral presentation by a student member of Birds New Zealand at the New Zealand Bird Conference. Talks will be assessed on content (new and interesting information), context (why the work was done, and what was known previously), clarity of presentation... and keeping to time!

Criteria: To be eligible for the award, presenters must be current members of Birds New Zealand and be students, or within one year of graduating.

11 NZ Bird Conference - Best Student Poster Award

An annual award of \$100 is offered for the best poster by a student member of Birds New Zealand at the New Zealand Bird Conference. Posters will be assessed on content (new and interesting information), context (why the work was done, and what was known previously) and clarity of presentation (including good use of colour and images).

Criteria: To be eligible for the award, presenters must be current members of Birds New Zealand and be students, or within one year of graduating with their poster based on work undertaken while they were a student.

12 NZ Bird Conference - Best Poster Award “People’s Choice”

An annual award of a bottle of wine or box of chocolates is offered for the best poster at the New Zealand Bird Conference. The winning poster will be chosen by members attending the conference.

13 AOC Student Travel Grant

The Australasian Ornithological Conference (AOC) is a biennial conference hosted jointly between Birds Australia and Birds New Zealand. Birds New Zealand offers travel grants to assist postgraduate research students from New Zealand to present their findings at the AOC. Two travel grants are offered every two years: \$500 (if the AOC is held in New Zealand) or \$1,000 (if held in Australia) each. A travel grant is awarded ONCE to any one person. Successful applicants are expected to write a short report on their conference experience for publication in Birds New Zealand and/or submit an article to *Notornis*.

Criteria: To be eligible, applicants must be current Birds NZ members and postgraduate students at the time of submitting an application.

Award details are also available on www.birdsnz.org.nz/research/#awards.

Revised / October 2021