

## ABOUT OUR AUTHORS

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"RONALD JACK SCARLETT was born at Stoke, Nelson, in 1911, and prefers to be called Ron. His father was a sawyer and he was largely brought up round sawmills. Although his work keeps him city-bound he is essentially a countryman and happiest when travelling in the bush, tramping dunes looking for bones, digging moa bones from a swamp or just generally living in the country.

After attending six different primary schools he worked on farms, in a sawmill, as a labourer, a golf greenkeeper, gardener, gold-miner and later at trucking in a coalmine. He began a degree course at Canterbury University College when he was almost 27, completing his B.A. some years later. He then studied Anthropology at Otago under Dr. Skinner, and did a course in Bibliography and Librarianship under John Harris. During his varsity days in addition to the gardening and labouring chores common to students in need of funds for living, he was for a time a printer's salesman and also made sweets, including probably the strongest peppermints in New Zealand.

From his youth (when he formed a collection of fossil shells) he had always been interested in natural history, and when invited by Dr Roger Duff, now Director of Canterbury Museum, to participate in the excavation of Moa skeletons at Pyramid Valley, North Canterbury, he accepted with enthusiasm. Ron Scarlett worked with Jim Eyles, now Director of the Nelson Museum, for three months in the "big dig" of 1949, and has excavated there many times since. In his student days and afterwards, he gave voluntary assistance whenever possible to Canterbury Museum. He joined the staff as Recorder of Collections at the beginning of 1950, and became Osteologist some years later. He enjoys the bone work so much that he says he has no intention of retiring until told to do so.

His other interests include archaeology for which he trained under Jack Golson, and he has done some archaeological work in Australia, New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, as well as a considerable amount in many parts of New Zealand. He was first editor of the N.Z. Archaeological Society's Newsletter and has been a Council member and Vice-President of that Society. He belongs to numerous scientific societies and has published 18 scientific papers. Speleology, book collecting, philately, a cigarette card collection and listening to music from folk songs and good jazz to classical, satisfactorily fill the remainder of Ron Scarlett's time. He could be said to be a man of many parts."

[Reprinted, with permission, from "Who you should know — 8" by Wendy Carnegie & Beverly Macpherson, AGMANZ News 4 (4): 74-75, 1973].

DONALD S. HORNING is at present Senior Lecturer in Zoology at the University of Canterbury. He and his wife CAROL come from the Pacific Northwestern United States. Don received his Ph.D. in Systematic Entomology from the University of California in

1969. He was the Oregon State Survey Entomologist before being appointed Visiting Lecturer at the University of Canterbury in March 1970. He immediately began a survey of the Tardigrada (Water Bears) of New Zealand, and has travelled the country's back roads from Cape Reinga to Bluff searching for the lichens and mosses in which these microscopic animals live. Don has also collected Tardigrada and other invertebrates from the Chathams, Open Bay, Auckland and Snares Islands, as well as Stewart Island and Antarctica.

Carol received a B.A. in Psychology and Education from Whitman College in Washington in 1957. She has taught primary school for 13 years in the United States, France and also briefly in Christchurch before the 1971 Snares Expedition. She accompanies Don wherever she can and has become an expert field assistant, technician and general dogsbody.

They spent two months at Snares in early 1971 and returned for a 13 month stay, leaving the islands in January 1973.

MILTON W. WELLER is Professor-in-Charge, Fisheries and Wildlife Section, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. He gained his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri in 1956. Professor Weller teaches ornithology and wildlife ecology and his major research interests are in the biology of waterfowl. He became especially interested in Southern Hemisphere forms through work in Argentina. Recent publications include — Ecological studies of Falkland Islands' waterfowl. *Wildfowl* 23: 25-44, 1972. Lately, he has been investigating ecological adaptations of the ducks of austral islands, and was a member of the Auckland Islands expedition in 1972-73 (see Robertson, C. J. R. 1973. International expedition's scientific studies on Auckland Islands. *Forest and Bird* November 1973: 22-27). His study of the Auckland Island Teal or Flightless Duck (see Weller, M. W. 1973. Waterfowl in the Auckland Islands. *Antarctic Journal of the United States* VIII (4): 188-190) was followed by a brief study of the Brown Teal because the latter is the presumed ancestor of the flightless form.

ELLIOT DAWSON is a marine zoologist with the New Zealand Oceanographic Institute, Wellington, and specialises in the Brachiopoda or lamp-shells, following the tradition of his former teachers Professor E. Percival and Professor R. S. Allan. He has worked extensively in the seas of the New Zealand Subantarctic and the Antarctic and organised several research cruises of HMNZS *Endeavour* which also took him to the islands of the South Pacific as leader of the DSIR Eclipse Expedition in 1965 and of the Royal Society Cook Bicentenary Expedition in 1969. He has, since then, become interested in the descriptive ecology of corals and coral reefs of the Southwest Pacific and looks forward to further field work in the Cook Islands and Tonga. Recently he attended the Second International Symposium on Coral Reefs held aboard the cruise ship *Marco Polo* which sailed through the entire 1,200 mile length of the Great Barrier Reef of Australia with field excursions to several notable reefs and islands allowing, incidentally, an introduction to Queensland bird life especially Masked Plovers and Sunbirds.

Early experiences in collecting bird bones from schoolboy archaeological digs and in the Pyramid Valley moa swamp led him

to want to know more about living birds and their ways by joining the OSNZ which he did in 1948, being RR for Canterbury during his student days. He says he owes his realisation that birds do more than have bones to the friendship of the late Ray Jacobs, M.B.E., former Chief Preparator of the Canterbury Museum, with whom he spent many hours while playing truant from cricket and the like at his school over the fence. Interest in the dispersal movements of Black-billed Gulls to the river banks of central Christchurch involved him as one of the first operators under the Society's ringing scheme in 1950. Later he had some success in tracing movements of White-fronted Terns across the Tasman.

He has enthusiasms for, amongst other things, bird bones, Black-billed Gulls, criminology, church architecture, the Imperial Regiments of the Maori Wars, islands and peoples of the Pacific, and clay pipes from archaeological sites. He also edits *Notornis*.

CHRIS ROBERTSON was introduced to readers in *Notornis* for March 1972. He has since visited the Auckland Islands and the Chatham Islands in the course of his studies on albatrosses. He is also the co-author of *The Fiat Book of Common Birds in New Zealand*, the second volume of which is reviewed in this issue of *Notornis*.

BARRIE HEATHER, author of "The Black-fronted Dotterel in the Wairarapa" published in *Notornis* for September 1973, was originally a product of the King's College Bird Club. He has, therefore, a built-in interest in New Zealand birds seen as a whole and in their world context, and is particularly keen on waders, terns, petrels and offshore islands. He has served the Society as RR for Southland 1960-63, as editor in the regular editor's absence abroad, as a member of Council 1964-69, and as author of *A Biology of Birds*. He notes further about himself: "Has been keen on banding and beach patrols. Has a soft spot for Wrybills, SIPO, and the neocolonial Spur-winged Plover and, lately, Black-fronted Dotterel. Is a bore on these topics. Hates the Sparrows that roost on his window ledges. Keen on encouraging amateur projects and would like to see the day when habitat for shore and swamp birds be deliberately created as part of public parks and public works."

GEOFFREY R. F. HICKS, author of "Latitudinal distribution of seabirds between New Zealand and the Ross Sea, December 1970" published in *Notornis* for September 1973, has now been at Victoria University for six years, gaining his B.Sc. (Hons.) in Zoology in 1972. He is at present at the VUW Marine Laboratory at Island Bay working towards his Ph.D. on the population structure and ecophysiology of some meiofaunal marine Copepoda.

He was a member of the N.Z. Oceanographic Institute's 1970-71 expedition to the Antarctic (from which the data for his paper were collected) which studied the hydrobiological variations in McMurdo Sound. His part in this work entailed the study of zooplankton and their relationships with the sub-ice hydrology.

Mr Hicks and his wife took part in an expedition to the Poor Knights Islands during last November where they worked with Peter Harper on the nest distribution and breeding behaviour of Buller's

Shearwater, the results of which we hope to read in *Notornis*. At the Poor Knights he was able to indulge in his other interests of Scuba diving and photography.

Ornithologically, he says that he "is particularly stimulated by the contribution and interplay of biotic and abiotic factors in the distributional control of seabirds."

JEAN-FRANCOIS VOISIN, author of "Notes on the Blue-eyed Shags" published in *Notornis* for September 1973, was born in 1941 in Rouen, France. He writes: "I was educated at Lycee Corneille in Rouen and then went to University to study biology, the first year in Rouen and the rest in Paris. After having gone through the "Licence" (equivalent to a Bachelor's degree), I went through a first-degree doctorship, the "Doctorat de Troisieme Cycle," on the biology of surface-nesting petrels of the Possession Islands in the Crozet group. Now I am working on a second thesis ("Doctorat d'Etat") on the biology and biogeography of grasshoppers and locusts of the mountains of Central France.

"Even though I am officially attached to the Laboratory of Zoology of the Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, I, like many young French researchers, have no position in scientific research and must earn a living as a private school teacher. Recruitment in French research posts was drastically reduced after the troubles which shook France in 1968 while I was serving my time in the Army.

"When I was a small child I developed a strong inclination toward Nature, perhaps partly because of the beautiful holidays which I spent with my grandparents in the country of Central France. In course of time this inclination became more specialized, and I am now most interested in birds, mammals and insects — I have always enjoyed travelling and have been over most of Europe, but especially Scandinavia which I visit almost every year with my wife and children. I have been to Spitzbergen three times, and I took the opportunity of my one year long stay at the Crozets to visit Kerguelen, Reunion and Madagascar. As well as travel, I am also very fond of languages. Norwegian is almost my second vernacular and I like English because of its conciseness and suppleness.

"I got married in 1967 and my wife is an ornithologist also, working on herons and geese at the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris."