

ABOUT OUR AUTHORS



GEOFF. HAROW says of himself: "As long as I can remember I seem to have been climbing and taking an interest in bush and birds. I joined the Forest & Bird Protection Society as a primary school boy and did many cycling trips around Banks Peninsula and Canterbury foothills bush reserves. A wish to touch the snow and ice of the Southern Alps had to wait until secondary school days.

Mr George Southgate and Dr R. A. Falla ran a Canterbury Museum biology club for a few secondary school boys during the early war years, and I was lucky enough to join these activities including field trips to estuaries around Christchurch.

I joined the Canterbury Mountaineering Club in 1945 and the N.Z. Alpine Club in 1954 and became an active mountaineer and skier. I was a member of the Alpine Club's 1954 Himalayan Expedition led by Sir Edmund Hillary to Mt Makalu with plenty of time for bird watching on the approach marches. Dr Salim Ali of the Bombay Natural History Museum supplied Dr Charles Evans of our expedition with a shot gun requesting us to secure specimens of the Blue Grandalga, there being very few study skins in museums at that time. We saw many flocks of these high altitude Himalayan starlings but never shot any.

Interest in birds and experience in mountain country enabled me to follow up clues that led to the finding of the breeding colonies of Hutton's Shearwaters, high on the Seaward Kaikoura Ranges in 1965 and to make bird surveys of these mountains during the following seven years.

Later in 1965 an invitation was accepted to join Professor William Sladen's Johns Hopkins University ornithological research team at Cape Crozier, Antarctica, as a field assistant, and I had three months working with Emperor and Adelle penguins and was able to see several other Antarctic bird species.

During 1967-8 I was Canterbury Regional Rep for OSNZ. For the past three years I have been the Federated Mountain Club's and New Zealand Ski Council's nominee on the Mount Cook National Park Board, when a bird survey of the Park by Ranger Staff has been encouraged with assistance from Canterbury members of OSNZ.

My work is regional sales manager, South Island and Fiji, for a pharmaceutical company, and business trips throughout these areas give many opportunities to visit varied bird habitats."

K. J. POTTS graduated B.Sc. (Hons) in Zoology from the Victoria University of Wellington in 1970, and M.Phil. from Waikato University in 1973. During 1974 he worked as a research assistant with the Department of Forestry, Environment Canada, in Victoria, British Columbia. He joined the N.Z. Wildlife Service in February 1975 and is currently working on a study of the feeding ecology of Grey, Mallard and Shoveller ducks.

BEN D. BELL came to New Zealand to join the Ecology Division DSIR in 1969. He received his B.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Zoology from the University of Nottingham, going on to lecture in ecology at the University of Leicester. While in Britain he studied the ecology of marshland passerine populations, looking especially at habitat selection and territorial behaviour. He was also closely involved in amateur ornithological activities such as banding and migration studies at coastal and inland observatories, and with studying mapping census techniques. In New Zealand he ran a population study of the opossum in the Orongorongo Valley before taking up a new post as lecturer in Zoology at Victoria University of Wellington in July 1976. He has a wide interest in conservation and environmental matters and his other work in New Zealand has included forest bird counts, opossums and wekas on Kapiti, collating records of the recent influx of Australian birds and studying introduced and native frogs.

SIR ROBERT FALLA, recently retired as Chairman of the Nature Conservation Council, was knighted in 1973. A biographical account appeared in the March 1973 *Notornis*.

JOHN L. McKEAN is employed by the Division of Wildlife Research, CSIRO, at Lyneham, Canberra. His major interests lie in the taxonomy and ecology of birds and bats. He is often accompanied on his field work by his co-author John Lewis. At the present time they are at Birdsville studying wrens and owls.

OWEN EVANS lives on Norfolk Island and is of Pitcairn Island descent, his paternal grandmother having come from Pitcairn as a 3-year-old girl on the *Morayshire* in 1856. An amateur naturalist with a deep interest in botany, he is a carpenter for the local administration and a foundation member of the Flora and Fauna Society of Norfolk Island. He and his wife Beryl have illustrated a booklet recently published by the Norfolk Island Hospital Auxiliary as "a project which would bring in a regular income to provide amenities for the Hospital patients and staff and at the same time give pleasure to those who love the beauties of Norfolk Island."

Entitled "*Dars-et (This is it). Birds & Flowers of Norfolk Island*," this introductory booklet will be welcomed by the increasing number of natural history-minded New Zealanders who visit the island.

JOHN H. LEWIS works for the Department of Capital Territory in Canberra as a Housing Inspector. He began banding birds for CSIRO about seven years ago and has since worked on seabirds on Lord Howe Island and Cabbage Tree Island and regularly bands on Tollgates Island. He is interested in breeding of mutations and hybridizing of finches and parrots of which he has a fine collection, developed from the few pairs of budgies given to him by his father at an early age.