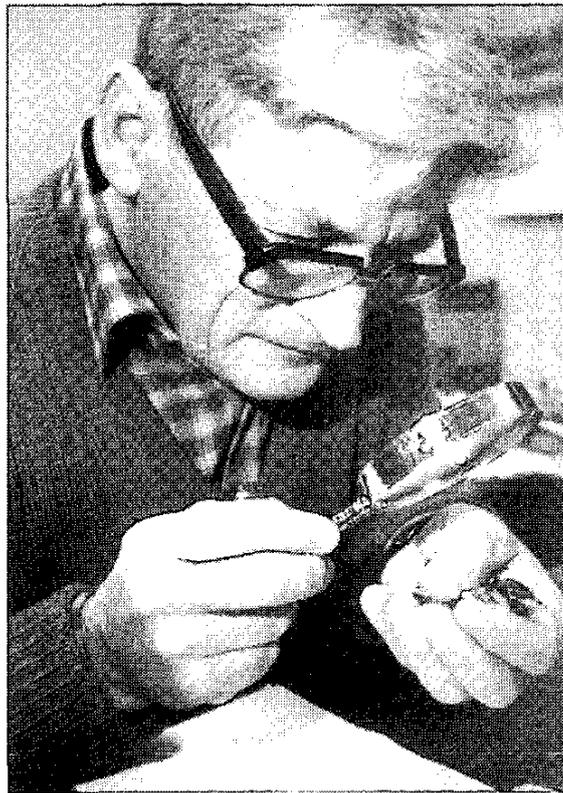


Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc. Election of Fellows

The new Constitution of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand allows for the election of Fellows of the Society (FOSNZ) in recognition of distinguished service to the Society or ornithology, particularly in New Zealand. There will be no more than four living Fellows at any one time. Election as a Fellow represents the highest honour that the Society can bestow.

The only surviving Honorary Life Member elected under the previous Constitution, Professor B. J. Marples automatically becomes a Fellow of the Society. The Council of the Society resolved in 1996 to elect two new Fellows. Both have had distinguished ornithological and scientific careers, while making significant contributions to the running of the Society since its inception. It gives me great pleasure to present their achievements and to acknowledge the assistance of Rowley Taylor and Brian Gill in preparing these résumés of their careers.

C.J.R. Robertson
President



Peter Creswick Bull

Born in 1920, Peter grew up on the family farm at Mangere, Auckland, and from a very young age developed a keen interest in birds. He soon became expert at finding their nests, and one of his first papers in *NZ Bird Notes* was on his observations of hedgehogs raiding skylark nests.

When at Auckland University, in 1940, Peter was introduced by Charles Fleming and Robert Falla to a small group of enthusiasts (including Prof. Marples, Dr Oliver, Edgar Stead and Robert Stidolph) who were the prime movers in the formation of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand (OSNZ). In the same year he took part in some of the earliest bird-banding studies in New Zealand, when together with Fleming in Auckland and Marples in Dunedin they trapped and banded silvereyes using home-made aluminium and coloured celluloid bands. At that time Peter was also involved in beach patrolling at Muriwai.

Also in 1940, he joined an ornithological expedition to the Poor Knights Islands with Graham Turbott and Majors Wilson and Buddle. This was the first of many trips to offshore and outlying bird islands, that in later years took him to places such as Niue, the Three Kings, the Chathams and the subantarctic Auckland Islands. From 1941, Peter served with the Royal New Zealand Navy for over four years while continuing with bird observations at sea and ashore - both in New Zealand and Australia. A search of the Society's publications during this period show that he then authored at least six papers (on seabirds, gulls, dotterel, pukeko, grey warbler, and predation on nesting birds).

Having completed a BSc at Auckland University, in 1948 Peter started a career with Animal Ecology Section (later Ecology Division), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), which lasted until his retirement in 1982. While with the DSIR he completed an MSc at Victoria University of Wellington and was later awarded a DSc by the same university. During the 1950s most of his official research was on wild rabbit populations, but he also made and published observations on birds recorded during the 1949 New Zealand-American Fiordland Expedition, and during several expeditions to the then remote Western Taupo region. These were followed by detailed papers on a marked population of blackbirds at Lower Hutt in 1953, and on the distribution and abundance of rooks in New Zealand in 1957.

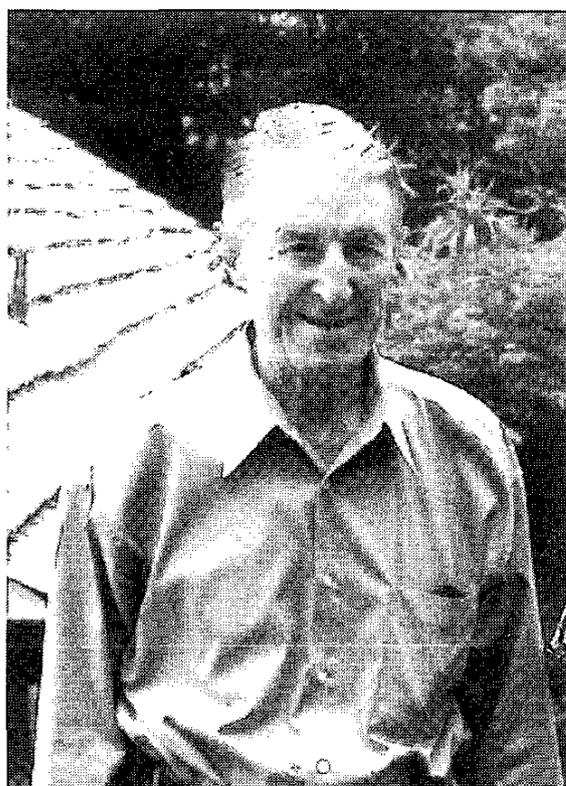
In the early 1960s, DSIR joined with the NZ Forest Service in a study of plant and animal inter-relationships in the Nelson Lakes National Park. While co-ordinating this project, Peter wrote a paper on the Park's birdlife. In 1965, Ecology Division opened a substation at Havelock North to study bird damage to crops which allowed Peter to return full time to ornithological research. Major studies, guided mainly by Peter, were carried out on the ecology of rooks, mynas, starlings, house sparrows, greenfinches, yellowhammers and feral pigeons. In later years, Peter has become the acknowledge authority as regards New Zealand's introduced avifauna - as evidenced by the 17 introduced species accounts he contributed to the *Reader's Digest Complete Book of New Zealand Birds*, and by the books or book chapters he has authored on topics such as "Town Birds" and "Birds and Man".

In 1968, Peter suggested to Council that OSNZ should compile species lists from as many as possible of the 10,000 yard squares of the National Grid. A mapping scheme developed from this with Peter as the main organiser. This has been one of the Society's most successful enterprises, in terms of both the information obtained and the number of people involved. It finally led, in 1985, to the joint publication by OSNZ, Ecology Division and the NZ Wildlife Service of the *Atlas of Bird Distribution*

in New Zealand. During the 1970s, he led the development of the now widely-used "five-minute bird count" technique for assessing the relative density of forest birds. This was a continuation of earlier work on ways of counting bush birds pioneered with Turbott on the Three Kings Islands in 1945 and 1953, and developed further during fieldwork in West Taupo.

Since retiring from Ecology Division, Peter has continued his deep involvement with ornithology - in field studies, writing, and with Ornithological Society affairs. He was the official Secretary of the New Zealand Organising Committee for the 20th International Ornithological Congress held in Christchurch in 1990.

Peter was President of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand from 1957 to 1960 and spent 24 years on the Council; he ran the Banding Scheme during 1952-56 and in later years served terms as the Society's Banding Liaison Officer. He also helped to run the Beach Patrol Scheme from its beginnings in 1940 until 1961; and remains a major contributor to the Nest Record Scheme. He was a recipient of the Falla Memorial Award in 1986. Peter has authored more than 70 papers on ornithological topics, and about 40 of these are in *Notornis* or other OSNZ publications.



Evan Graham Turbott

Graham was a foundation member of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand, having been one of the 15 ornithologists in 1938 to whom R.A. Falla sent a circular commending the Society's formation. Graham has maintained a continuous association

with the Society, which has included service as President (1949-52), North Island Vice-President (1947-49, 1957-58) and Councillor (1953-55).

Born at Auckland in 1914, Graham was educated at Takapuna Grammar School, Auckland University College [M.Sc. (NZ) 1937] and Auckland Teachers' College. After completing university training as a zoologist (his Master's thesis was on the distribution and anatomy of Hochstetter's Frog) Graham served as Assistant Zoologist, and later Ornithologist/Entomologist, at the Auckland Institute and Museum (1937-57). He then moved to Christchurch as Assistant Director and Keeper of Zoology at Canterbury Museum (1957-64), before returning to Auckland Museum as Director (1964-79).

During his curatorial time at Auckland and Canterbury Museums, Graham presided over considerable expansion of the bird collections, and he fostered a wider awareness of nature by numerous talks and lectures on birds. At Canterbury Museum, Graham took part in planning and installing the Edgar Stead Hall of New Zealand Birds, and this was followed by the Hall of New Zealand Natural History and Hall of Biology. On returning to Auckland he planned the content of the highly successful Hall of New Zealand Birds which remained open at Auckland Museum from 1972 to 1996; the educative value of this can be guessed from the fact that for about a million visitors annually, the Giant Moa reconstruction in the Bird Hall was the second most popular attraction after the Maori Gallery.

From the late 1930s to the late 1950s, Graham joined numerous pioneering expeditions to offshore islands - the Three Kings, most of the north-eastern offshore islands, the Chathams, and the Bounty and Antipodes Islands. The war years in 1944 saw Graham doing service as a coast-watcher (the "Cape Expedition") at the Auckland Islands, where Lake Turbott is named after him. He did field work in Notornis Valley, Fiordland, following the rediscovery of the Takahe. In 1952 he was a guest of the Danish deep sea "Galathea" expedition during trawling in the Kermadec Deep.

At various times Graham served on important committees concerned with wildlife and conservation - the Animal Ecology Research Committee, the Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Council, the Fauna Protection Advisory Council and the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Board. Graham was elected a Fellow of the Art Galleries and Museums Association of New Zealand in recognition of outstanding service to the museums movement. In 1977 he was awarded a Q.S.O. He received the Falla Memorial Award of the OSNZ in 1988.

Graham was a co-author with R. A. Falla and R. B. Sibson, of the influential *Collins Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand* (1966, 1978), the generously donated royalties from which have largely funded the Society's Projects Assistance Fund over many years. His other books are *New Zealand Bird Life* (1947) and *Buller's History of the Birds of New Zealand: A New Edition* (1967). He has written about 80 papers and articles dealing with New Zealand birds, New Zealand natural history and museum organisation while, as Convener of the Checklist Committee, he was responsible for the preparation of the 3rd Edition of the *Checklist of the Birds of New Zealand* published in 1990.