

## Obituary

**Keith Alfred Hindwood** collapsed and died on 18 March 1971 while walking with friends in the Royal National Park, Sydney. His sudden death at the age of 66 years was a sad blow and a severe loss to his family and his many friends.

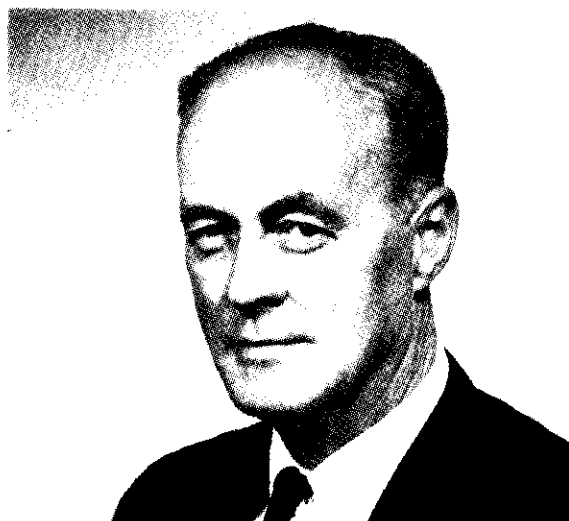
He was one of this country's most distinguished ornithologists and was widely known throughout Australia and overseas for his knowledge of Australian birds. For over 40 years he was Honorary Ornithologist to the Australian Museum having been appointed to that position at the age of 26 years. He was a Fellow and Past President of both the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union and the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales, and a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union.

Although he never sought limelight he was awarded the Australian Natural History Medalion in 1959 for outstanding ornithological work.

A writer of considerable ability, he published a number of books and innumerable papers and notes in ornithological and natural history journals. His literary work revealed his interest in historical ornithology, the accuracy of his meticulous field notes and records, and his considerable field experience, particularly with the birds of his home state. At the time of his death he was working with Arnold McGill and others on a book of the birds of N.S.W.

For over 23 years I have considered him my ornithological guide and tutor and have been privileged to have had such a good friend. I have accompanied him many times in search of birds, on local outings, on camping trips to various parts of this State and on visits to off-shore islands and I will always remember his companionship and friendship.

Although he was not a bird bander, he was keenly interested in this side of ornithological science. He had worked with Dr Serventy banding shearwaters in Bass Strait and, with Arnold McGill who had similar experience, he assisted during the first season's banding of shearwaters on Lion Island. The first nestling Wedge-tailed Shearwater recovered back on the natal island was banded by him in March 1958 (see Recovery Round-up, vol. 4, no. 1, p. 17).



*Keith Hindwood*

As he did not band in his own right, no articles appear in his name in *The Australian Bird Bander*. However, he wrote seven reviews for this Journal and willingly assisted with constructive criticism on many occasions and in many ways. Numerous ornithologists will miss his friendly assistance, his prompt response to queries, his readiness to provide references or information, and his skill in suggesting alterations to drafts of notes and papers without deflating the enthusiasm of the writer.

Although not so well known in recent years as a bird photographer, he was skilled in this field also. Many of his black and white photographs of birds have been published, usually with papers by other people. His photographs are on the cover of this Journal on volume 4, number 3 (Red-footed Booby on nest) and volume 6, number 3 (Brown Tree-Creeper leaving nest stump). Other photographs of his appeared in volumes 5, 6, 7 and 8.

All who knew Keith Hindwood would wish me to extend sympathy to his wife Marjorie, his daughter Jan and his son Ross in their great loss which we share.

S.G.L.