



## Howard Jarman Administrator, librarian, encourager

To many current BOCA members Howard Jarman's greatest attribute was his enthusiastic ability to share his vast knowledge with others, especially beginners.

He joined the club in 1953 and is remembered by those who knew him as a pleasant companion, and a capable worker with a keen sense of humour as well as for his extensive knowledge and leadership qualities.

One aspect that comes to most minds is his amazing ability to remember and identify bird calls even if he had not heard them for some time. His insistence on accuracy was a hallmark of his work, his birding and his writing.

His BOCA beginners outings began in 1972 and in 1974 he conducted very successful bird identification courses for the Victorian Council of Adult Education (CAE). These were the starting point for many who are now well-experienced BOCA members, as were his BOCA study meetings. He quickly became a team leader for the BOCA Port Phillip Bay gull count and was BOCA president from 1956-58.

On the BOCA Council (now Board of Directors) for more than 20 years he was also the club librarian. The 'library' at this time was housed in the Melbourne eastern suburbs at the home of Howard and his wife Beryl, who took over the librarianship on her husband's death (see separate profile on Beryl and the library).

Howard worked tirelessly to build up the library to a first-class working reference source. Through his articles and book reviews in *'The Bird Observer'*, always signed HEAJ, members came to know the library as many had never done before.

In another BOCA position - that of Education Liaison Officer of the Publication Committee, he saw two successful books through the press: *'Australian Flycatchers'* by Brigadier Hugh Officer and *'Australian Warblers'* by Arnold McGill.

From 1968 Howard also became a member of the selection committee for the Australian History Medallion, presented annually by the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria.

From 1935-1950 he wrote 22 papers on bird study. Parrots (his favourite species) were the subject of review papers for the *Australian Bird Watcher* (now *Australian Field Ornithology*).

Just before he died on 16 January 1982 he was working on an identification book on birds of south-eastern Australia.

On the home front he was a foundation member of Warringal Conservation Society and a major contributor to this organisation's *'Birds of Heidelberg and the Yarra Valley'*. As well, he was an early member of Victorian National Parks Association and served on its committee from 1965-68.

After becoming a member of the Royal Australian Ornithologists Union (RAOU) in 1948 Howard was appointed Honorary State Secretary in 1949 and was a council member from 1949-52. He formed friendships with many, including Roy Wheeler and Ina Watson.

Treasurer of RAOU from 1954-56 and Secretary from 1956-58 he remained an active member all his life and worked hard at the union's atlassing project.

After service in WWII Howard became Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the South Australian Ornithological Association and took a job with the Royal Zoological Society of South Australia which enabled him to study in captivity his favourite birds, the parrots.

His interest in bird watching began in early childhood, 'almost instinctively' as he once put it, and this went along with his love of outdoors life and camping. He began writing daily journals of his bird observations - a habit which he continued all his life.

His first published bird notes appeared in the 'South Australian Ornithologist' in 1935. Life Membership of BOCA was conferred on him in 1977.

*Written by Leonie Robbins from obituaries by Jack Hyett, Helen Aston and MD Gottsch from The Bird Observer Vol 9 (7) September 1982, 13 October 2004*