

J.N. Hobbs Medal 2025 Citation – Ann Lindsey



Ann Lindsey trained as a nurse but for most of her working life she was a high school teacher. Her interest in birds started in 1969 after watching a television program, during which viewers were invited to open their door and look out at birds in their yard. Ann instantly was hooked. From then on, birdwatching became a major part of her life.

Shortly after her avian enlightenment, Ann joined both the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (now BirdLife Australia) and NSW Field Ornithologists Club (now Birding NSW). For several years she was the Activities Officer for the latter group. She moved to Queensland for a time, then back to Sydney, and in 1989 moved permanently to the Newcastle area, where she soon became involved with the Hunter Bird Observers Club (a BirdLife Australia affiliate). She had a long and distinguished role with Hunter Bird Observers Club, serving as a Management Committee member for several years, President (1994–1998) and Conservation Officer (2004–2020). In the latter role, she was a tireless campaigner in the Hunter Region and beyond

on behalf of protection of bird habitat, making numerous written submissions and twice testifying in person at New South Wales planning tribunal inquiries. From 2005 for several years, she was also Conservation Officer for the Australasian Wader Studies Group, coordinating conservation activities at a national level and twice travelling to South Korea to assist with the Saemangeum Shorebird Monitoring Project. Ann was also the Regional Organiser in the Hunter for the BirdLife Australia New Atlas and then the Continuing Atlas, where she dealt not only with all the vetting and publicising but also led a program organised around encouraging atlassing activities within the Hunter Region.

Ann's interest in shorebirds took off when she had the Hunter Estuary on her doorstep. She is now widely recognised in the local community, and with all stakeholders, as the voice for shorebirds in that estuary. She was a prime mover in establishing and carrying out long-term monitoring projects for shorebirds and waterbirds within the Hunter Estuary and at the Morpeth Wastewater Treatment Works, and also at the Worimi Conservation Lands where she also established a working relationship with the Worimi people and mentored them in environmental studies. Mentoring became a key part of Ann's birding activities and many now-experienced birdwatchers got their start with her.

Although not trained as a scientist, Ann soon realised the importance of careful observation. Her close monitoring of Black-necked Storks at their nests made important contributions to our understandings of their breeding ecology, as described in four published papers. Similarly, her observations of an Australian Painted Snipe drinking led to new insights for that species. To date, Ann has been the author or co-author of 30 publications about birds.

Ann's passion for birds has made a major impact on conservation of bird habitat at both the regional and national level, and her careful and persistent fieldwork has brought many insights about individual species and about population trends for shorebirds and waterbirds within the Hunter Region. Ann Lindsey is a worthy recipient of the J. N. Hobbs Memorial Medal.

Alan Stuart, Ettalong Beach, New South Wales

Neil Fraser, Shoal Bay, New South Wales