

2024 Annual General Meeting

Notice: Nomination of BirdLife Fellow

Dear Members,

We are proud to announce the nomination of Associate Professor Jim Radford as a BirdLife Australia Fellow. A/Prof Radford has made significant contributions to nature conservation and ornithology across a career spanning academia, government, a non-government conservation organisation and the private sector. Birds have been a common focus of his research, and his many contributions to BirdLife Australia align with a lifetime commitment to the conservation of birds and their habitats. He has been an active member and contributor to many of BirdLife's events and committees since 2012, including the Australasian Ornithological Conference, Student Awards Committee, and the Research and Conservation Committee.

You can find a copy of A/Prof Radford's citation below.

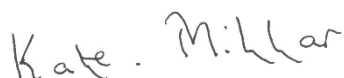
A Fellow of BirdLife Australia is a formal acknowledgment that a person has made a distinguished contribution to the discipline of ornithology in Australasia through the organisation by advancing the knowledge and conservation of native birds.

The distinction is a Constitutional Award and is limited to only twenty recipients at any one time, or as determined by the Board, and is elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). A full list of current recipients can be found on our [Fellowship page](#).

In February this year, BirdLife's Research and Conservation Committee put forth a nomination for Professor Radford to the Board, which was unanimously approved. We will therefore include the vote for Fellow at this year's AGM on Saturday May 25th.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2024 AGM in Melbourne or online.

Yours sincerely,



Kate Millar
CEO
BirdLife Australia

16 May, 2024

2024 Annual General Meeting

BirdLife Australia Fellow Citation

Associate Professor Jim Radford

Associate Professor Jim Radford has made significant contributions to nature conservation and ornithology across a career spanning academia, government, a non-government conservation organisation and the private sector. Birds have been a common focus of his research, and his many contributions to BirdLife Australia align with a lifetime commitment to the conservation of birds and their habitats.

After completing BSc (Hons) at the University of Melbourne, Jim worked as a research technician at Monash University and the Environment Protection Authority, before commencing a PhD at Deakin University in 1997. His research, on the conservation ecology of the White-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris affinis*, was the first population study of this species, documenting its breeding biology, social organisation and factors affecting its distribution in both continuous and fragmented habitat. Subsequently, as a Research Fellow at Deakin, Jim had a pivotal role in a range of studies on the conservation of woodland birds, including championing a 'landscape-scale' approach to understanding the impacts of land-use, identifying thresholds in landscape change, examining the effects of habitat fragmentation on gene flow and population processes in woodland birds, and assessing the benefits of revegetation and restoration.

In 2008, reflecting his strong commitment to using science for practical conservation outcomes, Jim joined Bush Heritage Australia. He applied scientific skills and rigour in a range of roles, including Ecological Monitoring Coordinator, Science and Monitoring Manager, and Executive Manager Science and Conservation. Among many activities, Jim led the conservation planning process for Bush Heritage's private conservation reserves, wrote a strategic plan for scientific research and partnerships, and developed a prioritisation framework for future investments in properties and partnerships.

Jim returned to academia in 2017, recruited to La Trobe University to take a leading role in developing the Research Centre for Future Landscapes (of which he is now co-Director). He has instigated and led major projects in fire ecology, climate adaptation and sustainable agriculture; supervises and mentors numerous research fellows and PhD students; and collaborates on innovative projects with First Nations people. A signature achievement has been initiating and leading a large, multi-party project on farm-scale 'natural capital accounting' that aims to integrate conservation and production outcomes on farms across Australia.

Jim has made important contributions to BirdLife Australia throughout his career: as an active member, as a participant and symposium organiser at AOC conferences, as Chair of the Student Awards Committee (2015-2022), and especially through the Research and Conservation Committee (RACC) – first as a member (2012-2017) and then as Chair for 5 years (2017-2022). He was an efficient and effective Chair of RACC, appreciating the importance of robust research while committed to achieving outcomes. An important contribution of this time included overseeing RACC's development of the new Bird Conservation Strategy 2023-2032 'Save Birds. Save Life', BirdLife's plan to stop the extinction crisis and put birds on a path to recovery.

Jim is widely known and respected, both in BirdLife Australia and across the conservation sector. Several facets of his character and approach stand out: a passionate commitment to enhancing the conservation of Australia's flora, fauna and landscapes; a talent for bringing people together to build effective teams and collaborations; leadership with integrity and empathy; and a genuine commitment to communicating knowledge to the wider community. Jim is frequently sought by the media for comment (radio, TV, press); he gives many presentations (>100) to community organisations; uses newsletters and brochures to disseminate research findings widely; and regularly presents at national and international conferences.

With such sustained and ongoing contributions to the conservation of Australia's birds and their habitats; a strong commitment to working collaboratively to achieve practical outcomes; and a record of service to BirdLife Australia, Associate Professor Jim Radford is a worthy candidate for election as a Fellow of BirdLife Australia.

Andrew F Bennett
31 August 2023

May 2024