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IN MEMORIAM: DOMINIC LOUIS SERVENTY, 1904–1988

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Dominic Louis Serventy was born on 28 March 1904 at Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, and died in Perth on 8 August 1988. He joined the AOU as a Corresponding Fellow in 1949 and became an Honorary Fellow in 1970.

Dom, Australia's best-known ornithologist during his active years, left behind a legacy of brilliant achievement. Dom graduated B.Sc. with First Class Honours in Zoology from the University of Western Australia in 1931. A prestigious Science Research Scholarship enabled him to enroll at Cambridge, where he was awarded a Ph.D. in 1933. On his return to Perth, Dom lectured in zoology for three years at the University of Western Australia. In 1937 he joined the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Division of Fisheries, where he worked on mackerel and tuna biology at Sydney before returning to Perth in 1951 to become the western head of the newly formed Wildlife Survey Section of CSIRO.

Then began Dom's long study of the Short-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*), which earned him increasing international acclaim. For the next 20 years, he made trips each Novem-

ber–December and January–March to Flinders Island in Bass Strait. He banded thousands of birds in perhaps the greatest study yet made on a procellariiform. Results included all aspects of reproduction, behavior, feeding, migration, population dynamics, and especially longevity. He also determined what proportion of each year's crop of young could be safely harvested for the economically important Bass Strait muttonbird industry.

After World War II, Dom with brother Vincent and sister Lucy revived the Western Australian Naturalists' Club. Under his 33 years of editorship, *The Western Australian Naturalist* became the leading journal of its type. His publications numbered in the hundreds and included *Birds of Western Australia* (with Whittell) and *The Handbook of Australian Seabirds* (with Vincent Serventy and John Warham).

Dom is survived by three sons. His wife Gertrude died in 1977. We are all sad losers by his passing. More detailed tributes appeared in *The Emu* (April 1989, pages 183–184) and *Western Australian Naturalist* (January 1989, pages 201–225).