

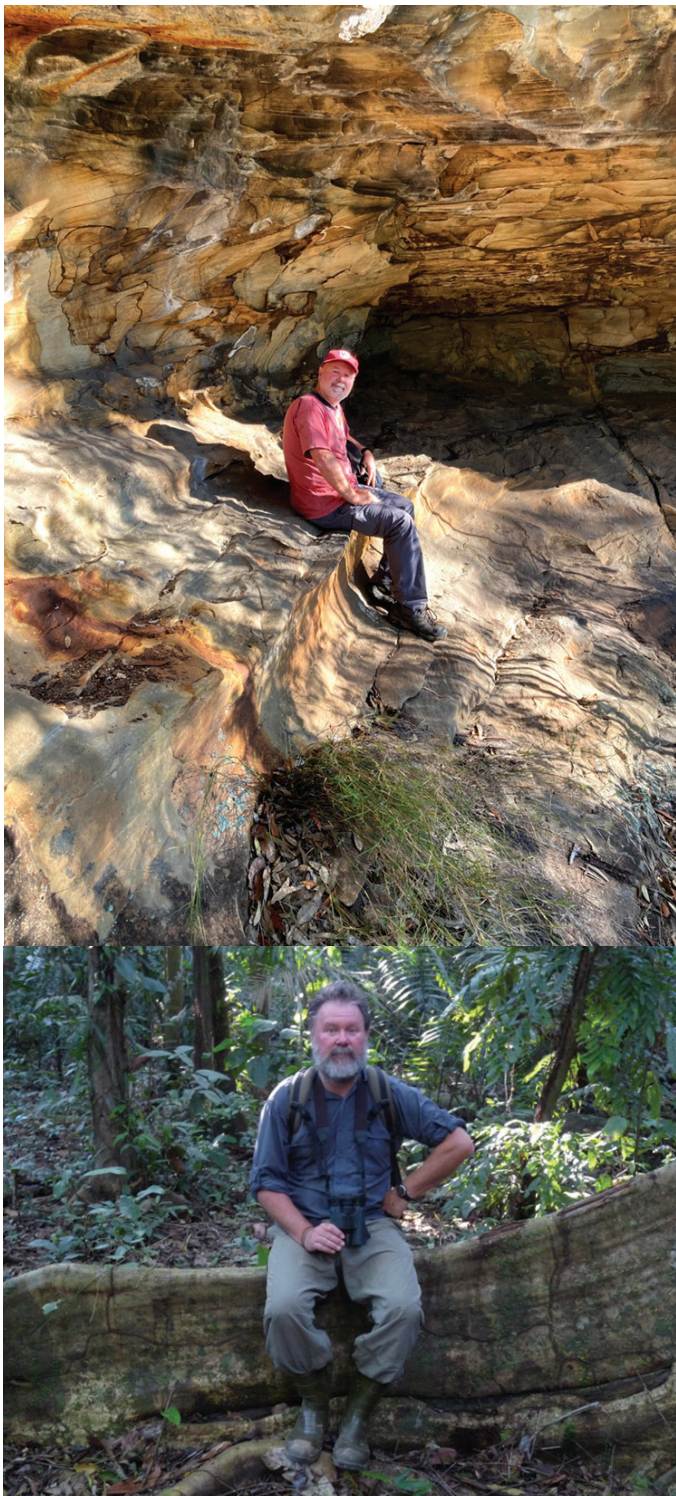
New Fellows of the Royal Zoological Society of NSW: Dr Bradley Law FRZS

Dr Bradley S. Law was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Zoological Society of NSW at the Society's Annual General Meeting in September 2021

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Another outstanding scientist identified by the RZS NSW Council for fellowship in 2021 is Dr Bradley S. Law. Brad is a Principal Research Scientist in the Forest Science Unit, NSW Department of Primary Industries. After finishing an Honours degree at the University of Sydney in 1986 on water skinks, Brad continued his studies at Sydney to complete his PhD on the then-enigmatic eastern blossom bat *Syconycteris australis* in 1992. This was just the start of a lifetime quest to uncover the secret lives of bats and their ecological requirements in Australia's east coast forests. After graduation, Brad took up an Australian Research Council post doctoral fellowship in Townsville with the Cooperative Research Centre for Tropical Rainforest Ecology and Management to study bat pollination in fragmented rainforests. He returned to Sydney thereafter to take up a position working on threatened species for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, moving then to take up research-focused positions with Primary Industries – and its various iterations – for the next 25 years.

Brad and his team undertake experimental, observational and long-term research to ensure ecological sustainability in forest management. This work includes studies of the impact of disturbances such as logging and fire, the effectiveness of forest management prescriptions, the biodiversity effects of planting native trees on farms and also the ecology of threatened species such as the Hastings River mouse, eastern pygmy possum and koala. For all this, Brad is best known for his research on bats. He is one of the foremost experts on bat ecology and biology in the country; in fact it wouldn't be a stretch to say that he is the leading exponent, the go-to person, for any research on the country's micro-bats, whether this is with respect to bats in forests or in urban environments, the food, roosting or habitat requirements of bats, or with respect to pioneering new ways to identify bats from their ultrasonic calls. This has been a very long term passion. Although Brad completed his Honours research on water skinks, he was determined to pursue work on bats when I first met him 32 years ago, and three years later he had completed the first ever, and quite definitive, study of blossom bats for his PhD. He has since produced about 160 papers, many that have become classics in the field (as attested by his accrual of some 5650 citations), as well as other publications such as *The Biology and Conservation of Australasian Bats*



In the field: Brad Law FRZS. Top: in Ecuador in 2014; bottom: on the central coast of NSW in 2021.

(B. Law, P. Eby, D. Lunney and L. Lumsden, editors) in 2011. Most recently in 2021, Brad co-edited two special issues on Australasian bats for the *Australian Journal of Zoology* dedicated to the memory of Les Hall, a pioneer of Australian bat research.

With his unrivalled expertise on topics from bats to forest sustainability and urban ecology, Brad is in frequent demand to assist inquiries into threatened species and field questions about best-practice management to ensure the retention of biodiversity. He works collegially and collaboratively, often acting as a co-supervisor for higher degree research students at universities up and down Australia's east coast. Students benefit from his inspirational practical skills with fauna, as well as the rigour that he brings to the design of observations and experiments in the field and his interpretations of findings back in the office and the lab. Some 31 students have benefitted from Brad's supervisory oversight, as can be seen from the roughly

45 papers that have been co-authored by Brad and his students over the years.

Rendering distinguished service to Australian zoology is one criterion for election to fellowship, and another is service to the Royal Zoological Society of NSW itself. Brad has been on the Society Council for 22 years, he has served on various sub-committees over that time and, from first joining Council, he has been an indefatigable co-editor of the Society's journal, the *Australian Zoologist*. In that time he's handled hundreds of manuscripts and, with co-editors Dan Lunney and Martin Predavec, has helped to drive a huge increase in the journal's scope, impact and numbers of papers published.

The Council was unanimous in its acclaim for Brad, and it is a pleasure to provide now a very warm welcome to fellowship of the RZS NSW!

Chris Dickman, University of Sydney