



**West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
Africain**



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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE WEST AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY HELD ON SATURDAY 19 MAY 1990 in the Mairie, La Haye-du-Puits, Département de la Manche at 2 pm.

Present: G.J. Morel President
J.H. Elgood Vice President
A. Tye Editor
A. Moore Secretary to the Council
Sixteen members and guests

Apologies: R. Sharland and P. Jones.

The President opened the meeting by expressing the Society's thanks to the Maire and Council of La Haye-du-Puits for the use of the room for meetings to be held over the weekend. He introduced M. Debout, President of Groupe Ornithologique Normand who had been so helpful in making the arrangements for the meeting. M. Debout told the meeting a little about the GON and the ornithology of Normandy, and the local places of interest to visit. The President welcomed particularly the U.K. members who had travelled to Normandy and gave an outline of the programme for the two-day visit.

The Vice-president gave a history of the Society beginning with the formation of the Nigerian Ornithologists' Society in 1964 leading to the expansion of 1979 with the formation of WAOS and the publication of Malimbus, an almost unique bi-lingual publication. He welcomed the new editor, Dr A. Tye.

The Editor said that the new issue of Malimbus, Vol. 11 (2) had been distributed. The six month delay in publication was expected to be reduced by the production of two further issues this year. The cost of production is about £1,000 each issue. Members whose subscriptions are not paid up have been deleted from the membership list. The Council had agreed to supply Malimbus, free of charge, to one Corporate Member in each West African country, where necessary. The Editor asked for critiques and suggestions for future issues of the journal. The President said he hoped that the problems of translation had been solved. I. Collins offered help with faxing material between U.K. and France, free of charge, in order to facilitate translations. The Editor said he would consider the possibility of accepting contributions for Malimbus on IBM compatible disc.

In the absence of the Treasurer the Secretary presented the accounts. Most members had accepted the increased rate of subscription, and the Treasurer is contacting those have not paid the increase or had not renewed their subscription. The Society has £3,190 in Deposit and Current Accounts, and there is an additional sum which the President has collected in France. The total will cover the cost of producing Volume 11 (2) and Volume 12 (1 and 2), probably about £3,000 including postage. The Treasurer is hoping to recruit people who are working in West Africa on ICBP and RSPB projects. There has been some success in selling back-numbers. Three back-numbers were out of print, and the last eight numbers of the NOS Bulletin are also offered for sale. The 1989 accounts would be published in the journal.

The President asked for comments and suggestions on what the Society could do to further the interests of ornithology in West Africa. The Editor hoped he would receive more analytical papers in addition to checklist style material for Malimbus. Mr Allport said that the IWRB was undertaking an annual waterfowl census in West Africa and asked if a notice calling for volunteers could be printed in the journal. He had brought papers with him on methods of survey. It was suggested that a Bird Atlas might be prepared by people working in West Africa, but it was felt that the records would not reflect the true bird population. It was felt that the Society could not undertake any long term major projects as there were no expatriate ornithologists living in West Africa over a long enough time, very few indigenous ornithologists and no funds available. Suggestions for low cost projects were: preparation of a list of birds needing special attention (noting particularly call, distribution, species and subspecies) (see Chappuis, this issue. Ed.), publication of an endangered species list. Further suggestions were the encouragement of short term casual visitors to contribute their bird observations by advertising in publications such as 'British Birds' and 'Birdwatching' and offering to advise such travellers.

Because of shortage of time it was proposed to defer questions until after dinner at the hotel. The meeting closed at 3.55 pm.

A.M. Moore

BRITISH BIRDWATCHING FAIR 1990

This event took place at Rutland Water, U.K. at the beginning of September 1990. It had the general aim of raising money for the Coto Doñana National Park in Spain, and was an opportunity for ornithological and conservation societies, booksellers, equipment manufacturers and artists to display their wares. About 9000 people visited the three-day fair. WAOS ran a stall which attracted a surprising and gratifying degree of interest. Ten new members were enrolled, and a raffle for a volume of *The Birds of Africa* was won by Mr M.H. Rogers of Wantage. The organisers intend the Fair to become an annual event and Council hopes to run a WAOS stall at the next one, which should be held in September 1991.

Alan Tye

BACK NUMBERS OF MALIMBUS/NUMEROS ANCIENS DE MALIMBUS

New members of W.A.O.S have been offered sets of Back Numbers at a special price. Some of these were out of print so we have been supplying back numbers of the Bulletin of the Nigerian Ornithologists' Society instead. We have now had the missing numbers reprinted and can supply all back numbers at the rates given on the inside front cover.

Des séries de Numéros anciens ont été proposés aux nouveaux membres de la SOOA pour un prix spécial. Certains de ces numéros étant épuisés nous avons fourni à la place d'anciens numéros du Bulletin of the Nigerian Ornithologists' Society. Ces numéros manquants ont été réimprimés et nous pouvons désormais livrer tous les numéros anciens au tarif indiqué au verso de la page de couverture.

R.E. Sharland