



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



**Join the WAOS and support
the future availability of free
pdfs on this website.**

<http://malimbus.free.fr/member.htm>

If this link does not work, please copy it to your browser and try again.

If you want to print this pdf, we suggest you begin on the next page (2) to conserve paper.

**Devenez membre de la
SOOA et soutenez la
disponibilité future des pdfs
gratuits sur ce site.**

<http://malimbus.free.fr/adhesion.htm>

Si ce lien ne fonctionne pas, veuillez le copier pour votre navigateur et réessayer.

Si vous souhaitez imprimer ce pdf, nous vous suggérons de commencer par la page suivante
(2) pour économiser du papier.

EDITORIAL

It is with some trepidation, mingled with excitement, that I have taken over the editorship of Malimbus from Hilary Fry. A tribute to Hilary's excellent and unstinting work as editor follows and all I can say is that I hope I can fulfil the expectations of the membership and build on the solid platform laid by Hilary. In this task I shall be helped immensely by the guidance of an editorial board consisting of Gerard Morel, our vice-president, Roger Wilkinson and Bob Cheke, all of whom will be familiar to you through their writings in Malimbus and elsewhere. Each paper will be commented on by at least two of us and may be sent to another referee when specialist knowledge is required.

This particular issue is the product of an editor learning the ropes and finding new production facilities and as such, I apologise for the lateness and relatively small size. However, I have already enough papers in store to fuel further issues including ones on such subjects as Hammerkops, Turtle Doves, Acrocephalus warblers, the birds of Northern Air, reviews of recent books, as well as nearly completed checklists of the birds of Mauritania, Niger and Burkina Faso. Of course, as Hilary Fry on occasion pointed out, the success of Malimbus depends on a continuing flow of contributions from you, the ornithologists of West Africa. So keep them coming.

With the Season's Greetings.

Humphrey Crick

HILARY FRY

Clearly history does sometimes repeat itself! Long standing members of WAOS, whose membership goes back to the former Nigerian Ornithological Society, will recall that one of us paid tribute to Hilary Fry when he left Ahmadu Bello University, Zaire to take up appointment at Aberdeen University in 1967. 'N.O.S.' and its Bulletin were then quite unestablished and it was feared that the loss of 'Pooh-Bah' Hilary (as that earlier tribute called him) might sound the death-knell of the Society.

However, thanks to the efforts of John Button and Roy Parker as successive editors, the Bulletin survived and in 1974 Hilary, now well established at Aberdeen, re-assumed editorship and with the University facilities behind him, was able greatly to improve the journal's format, and the standard of articles rose correspondingly. Although the N.O.S. had acquired a set of Officers it was Hilary's untiring energy that held the Society together. With members never able to meet as a Society, the Bulletin had to appear regularly for our survival.

Then in 1978, Hilary had the brilliant idea of convening an 'African Chat' at Liverpool. Over 20 members of N.O.S. attended, and almost as many non-members interested in African

ornithology. The meeting was completely informal - no advertised programme, no listed speakers. Was it inspired by Hilary's Quaker upbringing? But this meeting led to the birth of WAOS, with its new and now internationally recognised journal Malimbus. With this bilingual journal the work of the Editor was greatly increased and it says much for Hilary's drive and leadership that the journal has included so many excellent articles from the francophone membership.

We feel that, on behalf of the Society we should congratulate Hilary on the award of a DSC Degree by Aberdeen University, for a thesis encompassing his life-time's work in African Ornithology. In recent years he has furthered his great contribution to African Ornithology with the assumption of joint editorship of 'The Birds of Africa' following the sad and sudden death of Leslie Brown. He has become the recognised authority on Coraciiform birds on a world-wide basis, culminating in his authoritative monograph on The Bee-eaters published by T. & A.D. Poyser. Furthermore, all African Ornithologists are indebted to Hilary for his series of Coded Bibliographies of African Ornithology.

Now, sadly, history has repeated itself with Hilary's moving to pastures new with a Chair at Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat. (We understand that 3 species of Bee-eater nest, if not on the campus, at least very near to it!) On behalf of all WAOS members we wish him every success in this new venture and our good wishes are extended too to his wife Kathie. We shall hope to learn how they are faring and to see them when they come on leave.

Just as Hilary ensured that the N.O.S. Bulletin would continue when he left Nigeria for Aberdeen, by talking to John Button into becoming Editor, so now he has characteristically arranged for the continuance of Malimbus. The new Editor, Humphrey Crick, was a post-graduate student of Hilary's (working on Bee-eaters!) at Aberdeen where he continues to hold an appointment and will thus be able to continue to use the same production facilities. Moreover he is currently also working in London at The Tropical Development Research Institute which will mean that the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Society will be able to meet him relatively easily. Hilary has also arranged for Gerard Morel our vice-president, Roger Wilkinson of Chester Zoo and Bob Cheke also at TDRI to form an editorial board to assist Humphrey Crick. We wish the new Editorship well and thank them for undertaking this arduous task, on which the future of WAOS depends.

J.H. Elgood, Secretary WAOS

R.E. Sharland, Treasurer WAOS

(Founders with Hilary Fry of NOS)