



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



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The Nigerian Ornithologists' Society. Founded by J.H.Elgood and R.E.Sharland. Provisional Secretary, Treasurer and Editor C.H.Fry, Dept. of Zoology, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria ..

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EDITORIAL NOTICES

Leave Addresses If you are proceeding on leave and wish the Bulletin to be sent to your leave address, please notify the Editor.

Cheque Payments to the Society. Members are again respectfully requested to endorse all cheque payments to the Society with the "Commission to drawer's account".

BIRDS OF NIGERIA Field Cards. The Field Check-list Card is now available and orders already placed are being despatched. The response to the circular notice inserted in Bulletin No. 5 was greater than anticipated, nearly 2,000 cards being requested, and as a result 6,000 cards have been printed rather than the 2,000 indicated since each order will be accompanied by the same number of free cards in the hope that copies of all cards filled in will be returned to the Society, c/o Department of Zoology, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Thus over 3,500 cards will be despatched to members immediately, and the remaining 2,500 should meet requirements for two or three years. Contrary to the explanation in the circular re payment of printing costs by the Society with the Dept. of Zoology, Ahmadu Bello University, the Department of Zoology has paid the whole of the expenses and will be partially re-imbursed by direct sale of cards at cost price; this system has been adopted since it will be simpler to administer. The reduction in the cost per card by having a larger order printed has been partly offset by using letterpress instead of photo-lithography, and the resulting cost is within 2% of 2d. per card.

The Field Card is double-folding (six-sided) and measures 6" x 4½" folded; it lists some 420 species by English names, and incorporates plenty space for notes additional to the check-list. Cards can be had at 17/6d. per hundred or pro rata, post free, from the editorial address.

On Keeping Records. Systems of note-taking and record-keeping by bird-watchers are very diverse, but the important thing is that adequate and comprehensible records be kept by whatever method. The Birds of Nigeria Field Cards should prove particularly useful when on tour, and for recording the numbers of birds at one's home station by regular observation throughout the year. While there is room on these cards for additional notes (e.g., breeding, migration, voice, behaviour etc.) it may be found more convenient to make such notes in chronological order in large note-books, desk diaries etc.; or (doubtless better, but requiring considerably more work) on species-cards. The most refined method in this category, suitable only where record-taking is long-term, is perhaps to use punched-cards index systems which allow of cross reference under an almost unlimited number of categories. One such card is manufactured by the Copeland Chatterson Co. Ltd., Stroud, Glos. To record regular and very frequent (almost daily) field observation of bird numbers at one locality, I find the specially printed British Trust for Ornithology Twinlock Sheet 10387-489728 invaluable; across the head of of each side are printed the 31 days of a month and 30 species per side can be entered. The advantage is that a minimum of work is involved, and the seasonal distribution of a species can be seen at a glance.

I can loan examples of any of the above-named sheets, and shall be pleased to elaborate further on request.