



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



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## NOTICES

LAKE CHAD ORNITHOLOGICAL EXPEDITION, 1967. - Members will be interested to hear of a proposed ornithological expedition to the western shore of Lake Chad from mid-March to mid-April, 1967. The expedition will be based at Mallam'fatori, N.E. Bornu Province, the Federal Fisheries Field Research Station, and is to make a preliminary examination of the area to explore the feasibility of setting up a permanent field-station to study a series of interconnected ecological problems of interest not only to ornithologists but to other tropical biologists.

Immediate objectives are to obtain further information on the species and abundance of Palaearctic and African migrants in the area; to trap, weigh, measure and ring as intensively as personnel will allow, and to obtain lipid and gonad specimens; and to investigate food availability and preferences.

At least five members are required for the above work, and the following will probably participate: J.S. Ash (Research Director, Game Research Association, Fordingbridge, Hants), I.J. Ferguson-Lees (Executive Editor, 'British Birds'; member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the B.T.O. &c.), C.H. Fry; Dr and Mrs A.J. Hopson and R.E. Sharland as time will allow, and perhaps A.R. Ludlow.

To a degree, the more experienced field ornithologists resident in Nigeria who could participate for a longer or shorter period at Mallam'fatori, the better. Would any-one interested please contact C.H. Fry.

MID-WINTER CENSUS OF WILDFOWL. - This winter for the first time in Europe, Africa and western Asia an international wildfowl (ducks, geese and swans) census will be undertaken, as one aspect of a wider scheme of research. The aim is to study on a continental scale the trends in population of the wildfowl which migrate southwards and westwards from the U.S.S.R. and Scandinavia to wintering areas in Europe, North Africa (as far South as the middle valley of the Niger, about Lat.  $8^{\circ}$  N.) and Asia, in order to formulate a sound international policy for wildfowl conservation. The census is being organised by the International Wildfowl Research Bureau: Duck Working Group (Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat, Le Sambuc, B. du Rh., France; and Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, Glos.).

The scheduled period for the census is the week on either side of January 15th, and I shall write to enlist the help of all members suitably placed geographically. If you do not hear from me within a week and think that you could help in any way - please