



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



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EDITORIAL NOTICES

LOSS OF RECORDS IN THE AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY FIRE. As Members have already been notified, the entire records of the Society - books and accounts, cash float, correspondence, stationery, back copies of the BULLETIN etc., etc. - were destroyed in a fire which gutted the offices and staff rooms of the Department of Zoology in March 1967. The thirteenth issue of the BULLETIN, the first number of Vol. 4, was destroyed "in press", but is reproduced as a joint issue with Vol. 4 No. 14 herewith.

In fact, the disaster was not quite as bad as it sounds. The Society's property was not insured, and it is not at all certain whether a claim to the University's insurers for an ex gratia payment against the loss of some £50 of Field Cards and BULLETIN covers will be met. However the plate for the cover had been kept by the printers in Kaduna, so that the new cover which first appeared on Vol. 3 No. 12 has been reprinted and will continue to be used. A small stock of Field Cards has been acquired (about 250), from which further orders can be printed by photolithography. Very unfortunately the Society's collection of some 320 filled-in cards was lost, and members are earnestly asked to complete and send to the Society duplicates of entered cards they possess. Cards can be obtained at the usual rate of 17/6d. per 100 or pro rata while stocks last.

The letter circularised to Members immediately after the fire was meant only for information, but the majority of Members have very kindly responded with donations, back runs of the journal, and offers of help. All are most sincerely thanked for their kindnesses.

MID-WINTER CENSUS OF WILDFOWL. All articles and short notes which would have appeared in the original BULLETIN No. 13 appear here, except that the Editor has not yet been able to recoup all the information pertaining to the January wildfowl count, which he had written as an 8-page report for the BULLETIN. Fortunately a copy of all the census data had been sent to the International Wildfowl Research Bureau, from whom it will eventually be recovered and presented in this journal. Suffice it to say here that a good deal of interesting information on the distribution and abundance of wildfowl was obtained by about a dozen observers in January. It will certainly be very well worth while repeating the exercise in January 1968, but it will give yet more worth-while results if more ground is covered. So plan your Christmas vacation now to include some wetland touring !

LAKE CHAD ORNITHOLOGICAL EXPEDITION, 1967. The expedition to Lake Chad to investigate the ecology of Palaearctic migrants to West Africa in the dry season, sponsored by the British Ornithologists' Union, is reported here at considerable length (pp. 3-12). This report appears simultaneously in the July 1967 issue of Ibis, where there is also an Appendix of the 230 species recorded by the expedition. By all criteria the expedition must be accounted a great success, and it is greatly to be hoped that it leaves

its mark not only with the publication of its results but in the establishment of permanent ornithological interest in the Chad/Bornu area.

CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION. By the time this BULLETIN is put into the post, I shall have left Zaria and Nigeria in order to take up an ornithological post in the University of Aberdeen. The decision to move back to Britain was made at the last minute, and unfortunately it has not been possible at the time of writing (2.vii.1967) to finalise arrangements for the continued running of the Society; for much as I have enjoyed the posts of editor and secretary to the Society since its inception in 1963, it seems to me to be unrealistic to attempt to manage the Society and publish the BULLETIN from Britain, and reluctantly I must relinquish these posts.

Negotiations are in hand for Mr R.E.Sharland and another member <sup>\*\*</sup> to share the burden of administering the Society, and for the clerical work of duplicating and despatching the BULLETIN to be continued in the Department of Zoology, Ahmadu Bello University, which has been closely associated with the Society throughout.

If - but this is not anticipated -, if no arrangements for the continued management of the Society are made successfully, members will be circularised with various proposals for the Society's future. In the meantime files, stationery and accounts are deposited at the Department of Zoology, A.B.U. My forwarding address in Britain is : 34, Seacroft Esplanade, Skogness, Lincs.

May I say how honoured I feel to have been asked in the first instance to edit the BULLETIN of the Nigerian Ornithologists' Society, and what a pleasure it has been that members have kept in constant touch with me on ornithological matters in my capacity as Secretary. I hope that the Society grows from strength to strength, and wish it every success in the future. C.H.Fry

**\*\*STOP-PRESS** Mr J.A.Button has very kindly agreed to manage the BULLETIN in conjunction with Mr R.E.Sharland.

\*(See opposite) This report is superseded by the report appearing in Ibis for July which is slightly longer and incorporates a few minor corrections. A copy of the corrected report has been received by the Editor, but regrettably there was insufficient time for him to incorporate the amendments in the BULLETIN before proceeding on terminal leave.

The Council of the British Ornithologists' Union is thanked for permission to publish the expedition's report here.