



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



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CONTENTS

Editorial

Malamfatori Bird Observatory :	R.E.Sharland	
Receipts and Payments Account :	Treasurer	1
Financial Notice :	Treasurer	2
International Wildfowl Research Bureau :		
Duck Working Group : Summary of Progress Report:		
	R.E.Sharland	3
Wildfowl in Nigeria : The 1966-67 Census :	C.H.Fry	5
The Birds of Ilaro : II, Part B :	J.A.Button	10
Ikoyi Bund , Lagos :	G. Pettitt	20
Lighthouse Beach, Tarkwa, Lagos :	G.Pettitt	21
Notes : Wheatears in Winter Quarters :	R.E.Sharland	23

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EDITORIAL

Members will notice that Bulletin Vol I4 No. I6 is somewhat belatedly dated December 1967 . We apologise for the delays in the appearance of Nos. I3/I4 and I5 : the situation at present is that the Secretary/Treasurer Bob Sharland is in Kano , the Editor at Ilaro near Lagos , while the technical production of the Journal is carried out at Ahmadu University Zaria ; publication is thus much more liable to be affected by hitches than if one man was responsible for all three jobs. I shall be leaving Nigeria for aye in June this year , by which time it seems likely that we shall have returned to the happier system in which a "Poo-Bah" is in charge of the Bulletin .

It has been suggested that the time has come to give this journal a "new look" . A printed Bulletin should be considered as a definite possibility of the near future . Your comments on how this could best be effected would be greatly appreciated .

I should like to suggest a regular correspondence forum, in which members could comment on recent contributions, be started in the next issue . It is aimed to get No. I7 Vol. V in the post by the end of March ; so please send your contributions as soon as possible .

Finally, we are very grateful to Prof. Lewis of the Department of Zoology , Ahmadu Bello University who has kindly offered to take charge of the processing of the Bulletin .

Malamfatori Bird Observatory

Following the very successful joint A.B.U./B.T.O/B.O.U. Expedition to Malamfatori , Lake Chad , earlier this year plans are going ahead for the establishment of a more permanent Bird Observatory .

Mr. M.J. Dowsett , who is at present working in the Game Department in Zambia , intends to come to Malamfatori in February 1968 . Mr. Dowsett is coming at his own expense apart from a small grant from the B.T.O. and B.O.U. He hopes to stay at Malamfatori for two or three years .

A small team also hopes to come out from England for the month of April . Their coming depends on financial assistance towards the cost of the air passages being received .

As many hands as possible will be needed to assist Mr. Dowsett during the main passage in March and April . Will any ornithologist in Nigeria who is able to spend even a week at Malamfatori during that period please let me know .

R.E.Sharland .