
Instructions to Authors

Malimbus publishes research articles, reviews and news about West African ornithology.

Papers and **Short Notes** must be original contributions; material published elsewhere, in whole or in part, will not normally be accepted. Short Notes are articles not exceeding 1500 words (including references) or four printed pages in length. Wherever possible, manuscripts should first have been critically scrutinised by at least one other ornithologist or biologist before submission. Manuscripts will be sent for critical review to at least one specialist reviewer.

Items for **News & Comment** should not exceed 1000 words.

Contributions are accepted in English or French; editorial assistance will be made available to authors whose first language is not one of these. Submission by email (attached file) is preferred. Consult the editor for further details, *e.g.* acceptable software.

All Papers (but not Short Notes) should include a **Summary**, not exceeding 5 % of the paper's length. The Summary should include brief reference to major findings of the paper and not simply review what was done. Summaries will be published in both English and French (or in the official language of the country in which the work was done) and will be translated as appropriate by the Editorial Board.

Format of tables, numbers, metric units, references, *etc.* should match recent issues. Note particularly: authors' names should be listed with surname (family name) last, with given names or initials preceding it (*e.g.* John A. SMITH); dates are written 2 Feb 1990 but months standing alone may be written in full; times of day are written 6h45, 17h32 and coordinates as *e.g.* 7°46'13"N (no leading zeros) or as decimal degrees with up to five decimal places (*e.g.* 1.23456°N), but not as decimal minutes; numbers up to ten are written in full, except when followed by abbreviated units (*e.g.* 6 m), numbers from 11 upwards are written in figures except at the beginning of a sentence. All references mentioned in the article, and only such, must be listed in the bibliography.

Taxonomic sequence and **scientific names** (and preferably also **vernacular names**) should follow either Borrow & Demey (2001, *Birds of Western Africa*, Christopher Helm, London) with names (but not sequence) as amended in Borrow & Demey (2014, *Birds of Western Africa*, Bloomsbury, London), or *The Birds of Africa* (Brown *et al.* 1982, Urban *et al.* 1986, 1997, Fry *et al.* 1988, Keith *et al.* 1992, Fry & Keith 2000, 2004, Academic Press, London), unless reasons for departure from these authorities are stated. However, the words "Common" and "African" should only be applied if they are part of a long-established common name.

Avifaunal articles must contain a map or gazetteer, including all localities mentioned. They should include brief notes on climate, topography, vegetation, and conditions or unusual events prior to or during the study (*e.g.* late rains *etc.*). **Species lists** should include only significant records; full lists are justified only for areas previously unstudied or unvisited for many years. Otherwise, include only species for which the study provides new information on range, period of residence, breeding *etc.* For each species, indicate range extensions, an assessment of abundance (see *Malimbus* 17: 36) and dated breeding records; indicate migratory status and period of residence only if revealed by the study. Where appropriate, put data in context by brief comparison with an authoritative regional checklist. Lengthy species lists may be in tabular form (*e.g.* *Malimbus* 25: 4–30, 24: 15–22, 23: 1–22, 1: 22–28, or 1: 49–54) or in the textual format of recent issues. A **more complete guide for authors** of avifaunal papers, including the preferred abundance scale, appeared in *Malimbus* 17: 35–39 and a fuller version of this may be found at (<http://malimbus.free.fr/instmale.htm>). The Editor will be happy to advise on the presentation of specific studies.

When designing **Figures**, and particularly font size, pay attention to *Malimbus* page shape and size. Figures prepared in a graphics package and saved at high resolution are preferred. Low-resolution files and poor-quality scans will not be accepted. Authors are encouraged to submit **photographs** that illustrate salient points of their article. Photographs should preferably be in colour and at high resolution. Figures and photographs should be supplied as graphics files (*e.g.* jpg or tif), and not pasted into a Word file. Consult the Editor for further advice.

A pdf file of Papers and Short Notes, and one paper copy of the issue in which they appear, will be sent to single or senior authors, *gratis*.

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