



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



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**Minutes of the General Meeting of the West African Ornithological Society held at 15.15 h on Saturday 7 May 1994 at the Olde Brugge Hotel, Kampen, The Netherlands**

Present:	G.J. Morel	President
	R.E. Sharland	Treasurer
	M. Germain	Member of Council
	A.M. Moore	Secretary to the Council

and 10 Members of the Society.

The President welcomed members to the third biennial meeting of the Society. He particularly thanked Peter Alexander-Marrack (who was unfortunately unable to attend because of illness), for suggesting that the meeting be held in Holland, and Jan Nap, for organizing such an excellent programme for the meeting. He also thanked Mr Schepers and Mr Edelaar for sparing the time to come to speak after dinner.

He regretted that our Vice-President, John Elgood, had not felt well enough to travel to Kampen, particularly as he was, with Hilary Fry and Bob Sharland, a founder of W.A.O.S.

The President felt that the interest of members from Holland, France, U.K. and Austria in the meeting gives encouragement for the future of the Society. The purpose of the Society was not only to meet but to promote research, particularly to encourage young researchers, into the ornithology of West Africa.

**1. The Minutes of the General Meeting held at Felixstowe on 16 May 1992.** These had been published in *Malimbus* 14: 69-71 and were agreed as correct and signed.

**2. Financial Report.** The Treasurer presented his financial statement showing the accounts for 1993. It had not been possible to get them audited in time for the meeting. There was still a surplus in 1993 of £320; this was less than in 1992 because money had been spent on improving *Malimbus*.

The proposal of M. Skilleter, seconded by G.D. Field, that subject to audit the accounts for 1993 should be accepted, was agreed by the meeting.

The Treasurer drew members' attention to an error in the accounts for 1992 printed in *Malimbus*, June 1993. The subscription income should read £2739 and not as printed.

Mr Field said that the surplus for the year was now very low and that annual increases in printing costs and postal charges will erode it. The possibility of reducing these costs will be explored. The meeting did not consider it appropriate to raise the subscription at present but the possibility was considered of a lower subscription for African members. The Treasurer said that, of the African members, the two in Nigeria receive their journal free from W.A.O.S. and the subscriptions of the six African members in Ghana are paid by the R.S.P.B. W.A.O.S. also sends free copies of *Malimbus* to West African universities.

The Society is unable to apply for charitable status as it is not constituted within the U.K. The Treasurer agreed to pursue the possibility of getting a better rate of interest on the Society's funds than is presently obtained.

**3. Editor's Report and *Malimbus*.** Mr Field presented the Editor's Report on behalf of Dr Tye. It was noted that it would be published in *Malimbus* [see *Malimbus* 16:69-70].

Dr Germain, seconded by Mr Field, proposed that the Editor be asked to consider placing the vernacular name of the species after the scientific name, where the names appear together in *Malimbus*, reversing current usage. There was general agreement with this and the feeling of the meeting would be conveyed to the Editor.

Dr Chappuis asked whether a bibliography of West Africa could be included in *Malimbus*. The President said that this is now being prepared by Hilary Fry and it will be published by Robert Dowsett as a supplement to *Tauraco*. It was suggested that a note about its availability could be included in *Malimbus*.

A review will appear in *Malimbus* of the Dowsett *et al.* Afrotropical Checklists. The President suggested that Devillers' list of French names of birds, the same as that used in *The Birds of Africa* should be used by authors who publish in *Malimbus*. This should ensure that authors only use recognized vernacular names.

Dr Skinner said that the Editor had taken cognizance of members' wishes expressed in the questionnaire about the content and format of *Malimbus*.

It was suggested that a slip for payment of subscriptions should be inserted in *Malimbus* each year. It was felt that this would simplify the collection of subscriptions and may bring in new members.

The President expressed his thanks to Dr Tye for his continued excellent editorship despite the difficulties of communication.

**4. Funding of research by W.A.O.S.** The Secretary said that, following the evaluation of the questionnaire, by Dr Skinner and Dr Tye (*Malimbus* 15: 101-106), Council has published an invitation for researchers from West Africa, particularly those doing postgraduate research, for grants of up to £500. Not more than £1000 of the Society's funds shall be disbursed in any one year. Additional notices will be circulated in the next few months.

It was agreed to implement Dr Skinner's suggestion that a personal approach should be made to universities in West Africa to see whether they have students there who might benefit.

Mr Beecroft noted that the surplus funds had diminished over the last two years and felt care should be taken that the surplus did not become a deficit. The meeting agreed to his proposal, seconded by Mr Field, that not more than £1000 should be disbursed in grants before consideration of the matter again at the next biennial meeting.

**5. Biennial Meeting 1996.** The Council asked the meeting to consider holding the next biennial meeting in The Gambia, during the 9th Pan-African Ornithological Congress, 17-23 October 1996. After discussion, this was accepted in principle by the meeting.

A circular will be placed in *Malimbus* outlining the programme and asking members to register their interest.

It was suggested that the business meeting could be conducted during the week and the possibility of arranging a joint symposium with other African ornithological societies during one of the scientific sessions of the Congress will be explored.

**6. *The Birds of Nigeria.*** The President read a letter from John Elgood describing the progress of a second edition of the B.O.U. Checklist no. 4 since the biennial meeting in Felixstowe. The revised text is now in proof and it is hoped it will be published during the summer. It will follow the nomenclature of *The Birds of Africa* as far as possible and this edition will include coloured plates. The species list for Nigeria is now increased to 883.

**7. African Bird Club.** The meeting noted the formation of the African Bird Club. Details of the club had been circulated to those attending the meeting.

**8. Any other business.** Mr Skilleter thanked the Council for the work it had undertaken on behalf of W.A.O.S. during the past two years.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 17.00 h.

Amberley Moore

### Troisième Assemblée Bisannuelle de la Société

La troisième assemblée bisannuelle eut lieu du 6 au 8 mai 1994 aux Pays-Bas, sur la suggestion de Peter Alexander-Marrack. La réunion, tenue à Kampen, cité hanséatique sur le fleuve IJssel, fut préparée par Jan Nap. Elle fut suivie par 24 adhérents et accompagnateurs, venus des Pays-Bas, de France et de Grande-Bretagne.

L'Assemblée Générale de la Société, dont le compte rendu est donné ci-dessous, eut lieu le samedi 7 mai.

Le samedi soir, le dîner fut suivi par les exposés de Frans Schepers et P. Edelaar sur deux missions montées par l'International Wader and Waterfowl Research (WIWO) en Afrique de l'Ouest, dans le cadre de leur programme de recherches sur le système migratoire Afro-Paléarctique. Frans Schepers présenta un projet sur les limicoles dans la zone côtière du Gabon et M. Edelaar une étude sur des rizières irriguées du nord-Cameroun. Il était particulièrement encourageant d'apprendre que des recherches sont menées dans l'Ouest Africain.

En dehors de l'ordre du jour de la réunion, les participants pouvaient profiter de la proximité de la réserve de Zwarte Meer et des célèbres zones humides d'Oostvaardersplassen en Flevoland. Jan Nap avait obtenu la permission de visiter le site de baguage de Zwarte Meer, bastion de la Rousserolle turdoïde aux Pays-Bas. Après avoir très bien vu cette espèce en effet, on nota aussi l'Hypolaïs icterine, la Locustelle lusciniôïde et le Bruant des roseaux dans les roselières. Dans les champs