



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



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Notices

Malimbus Index

The production of the index to *Malimbus* is now complete up to Volume 13 and it is intended to maintain regular annual production of an index to the previous year's Volume. If any member lacks an index to one or more Volumes, the Treasurer will supply them free on request (address inside front cover).

Index de *Malimbus*

L'établissement de l'index de *Malimbus* est désormais achevé jusqu'au volume 13; il est prévu de maintenir une livraison annuelle régulière d'un index du volume de l'année précédente. Si un abonné désire l'index d'un volume (ou plus), le Trésorier le fournira gratuitement sur demande (voir adresse sur la couverture).

Request for reprints on owls

Authors of articles or publications dealing with owls and wishing them to be listed in the second edition of a *Working Bibliography of Owls of the World* are asked to send reprints to: Richard J. Clark, The Owl Bibliography, c/o Dept of Biology, York College of Pennsylvania, York, PA 17405-7199, USA.

Bi-annual meeting of the West African Ornithological Society, Felixstowe, England, 15-17 May 1992

The first General Meeting of the Society was held in Normandy, northern France, in 1990 (*Malimbus* 12(2)). The success of this meeting encouraged Council to arrange a meeting of the Society bi-annually, if feasible in the different countries which the members represent. This year, on 15-17 May, the meeting was held at Felixstowe on the east coast of England. Twenty-six members and guests from France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Britain attended the weekend, based at the Marlborough Hotel.

The programme began with dinner on Friday, followed by an introduction, given by Roger Beecroft, to the Felixstowe area, in particular to the reserves which would be visited in the next two days.

On Saturday morning the party visited the Bird Observatory at Languard Point, a shingle spit to the south of the town. The Ranger, Nigel Odin, showed some of the work of the observatory and guided a walk round the reserve in which it stands. Of particular interest was the sighting of Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*, which are known to

breed in the industrial installations of the adjacent Felixstowe dock. Other points of interest included an area of Stinking Goosefoot *Chenopodium vulvaria*, for which the reserve is noted, and an impressive population of hairy caterpillars of the Brown-tail Moth *Euproctis chrysorrhoea*.

The afternoon programme, at which the attendance was 39, was at the hotel. The General Meeting was opened by the President, in both English and French. The Minutes will be published in a later issue of *Malimbus*.

A scientific programme followed the General Meeting. Dr David Aidley gave an account of a study of Palaearctic warblers made over 12 months in 1981-82 in northern Nigeria, Dr Christian Perennou spoke of the progress made with the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau census in tropical Africa, and Jim Askins described the Senegal 1991-92 Ringing Expedition. Summaries will be printed in a future edition of *Malimbus*.

The afternoon concluded with a visit to a salt-marsh on the Deben estuary. It was an enjoyable walk beside the river although a stiff breeze prevented prolonged use of binoculars without tears.

The last day was spent at the newly opened 200-acre wetland reserve at Trimley on the Orwell estuary, which will eventually be adjoined by the expanding Felixstowe dock. Freshwater lagoons with shingle islands have been created and already provide habitat for breeding Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* and Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*. Members were able to practise their identification skills on more than 20 species seen. The meeting ended with a cheese and wine picnic in the warm sunshine outside the Visitors' Centre.

Our thanks are due to Nigel Odin, Ranger of Languard Bird Observatory, who kindly spent his Saturday morning showing us round and especially to Roger Beecroft, who made most of the meeting arrangements (and did all the provisioning of the Trimley picnic), for an interesting and enjoyable weekend.

Amberley Moore