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Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest  
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## 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 relevant authority.

Items for **News & Letters** 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. For submissions on paper, two copies are required, typed on one side of the paper, with double spacing and wide margins.

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 and will be translated as appropriate by the Editorial Board.

**Format** of tabular material, numbers, metric units, references, etc. should match recent issues. Note particularly: dates are written 2 Feb 1990 but months standing alone may be written in full; times of day are written 6h45, 17h32 and coordinates in the form 7°46'N, 16°4'E (no leading zeros); 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.

**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 information; 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 (*Malimbus* 17: 36) and dated breeding records; indicate migratory status and period of residence only as shown by the study. Where appropriate, set 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. **Taxonomic sequence** and **scientific names** (and preferably also **vernacular names**) should follow Borrow & Demeey (2004, *Field Guide to the Birds of Western Africa*, Christopher Helm, London), or Dowsett & Forbes-Watson (1993, *Checklist of Birds of the Afrotropical and Malagasy Regions*, Tauraco Press, Liège) 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. A **more complete guide for authors** of avifaunal papers, including the preferred abundance scale, appeared in *Malimbus* 17: 35–39 and an augmented and updated version of this may be found on the web site (<http://malimbus.free.fr/instmale.htm>); a copy may be obtained from the Editor, who 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 or scanned into an appropriate graphics package and saved at high resolution are preferred. They should be supplied as graphics files, and not pasted into a Word file. Low-resolution files and poor-quality printouts will not be accepted. Authors are encouraged to submit **photographs** that illustrate salient points of their articles. Photographs should be high-contrast and high resolution (at least 600 dpi). They should be supplied in graphics file format (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 copy of the issue in which they appear, will be sent to single or senior authors, *gratis*.

# MALIMBUS 31(1) March 2009

## Contents — Table des Matières

<b>Les limicoles au Mali, en particulier dans le Delta intérieur du Niger.</b> O. Girard, B. Niagaté, J. Thal & J.M. Boutin	1-19
<b>Cooperative breeding in the Violet-tailed Sunbird <i>Anthreptes aurantium</i>.</b> T. King & R.A. Cheke	20-27
<b>Birds recorded from surveys in Ghana's Central and Brong-Ahafo regions.</b> J.D. Weckstein, B.D. Marks, R.G. Moyle, K.P. Johnson, M.J. Meyer, J. Braimah, J. Oppong & J. Amponsah	28-46
<b>Note sur l'avifaune des massifs d'Hombori et Douentza (Mali).</b> M. Clouet, J.-L. Goar & J.-F. Bousquet	47-54
<b>Short Notes — Notes Courtes</b>	
<b>Nest defence by Senegal Lapwings <i>Vanellus lugubris</i> against Night Adder <i>Causus maculatus</i>, in Gabon.</b> S. Mibambani, M.O. Engouang, F. Maisels & K. Jeffery	55-56
<b>Odd observations from bird ringing in Nigeria.</b> R.E. Sharland	57
<b>Bird observations from Aouk, S Chad, including additions to the avifauna.</b> P. Bulens & R.J. Dowsett	57-60
<b>Errata</b>	
<b>Bird diversity in the Nyassang Forest Park, The Gambia.</b> S. Ballantyne	61
<b>The avifauna of southeast Niger.</b> F.P. Jensen	61
<b>Society Notices — Informations de la Société</b>	62-64