



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



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activities such as bird-watching can be converted into economic cost-benefit analyses. A group of interesting papers at the end of the first section describe the important parts that birds play in the social and economic life of the Cree in Canada, Aboriginal Tasmanians, Jamaican fishermen, the people of Sulawesi and the Boran of Kenya.

The section on bio-indicators is a useful roundup of the ways in which birds have been used to monitor pollution. Birds are able to pick up and react to the effects of pollutants in a very sensitive or easily observed manner. Indeed, their sensitivity is often greater than that of the instruments of physical chemists. Here then, are presented the use of birds for indicating pollution from pesticides, acid rain and marine pollutants. Other sorts of environmental change may not be so usefully measured by the use of birds, because of slower reaction rates.

Finally, I must mention the important message from Christoph Imboden, director of ICBP, in his foreword: The economic usefulness of birds can never be the most important rationale for their conservation. They contribute importantly to the quality of life of mankind and so we must learn to appreciate their value as well as their price.

H.Q.P. CRICK

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WETLANDS, LEIDEN 5-8 JUNE 1989.
"The People's Role in Wetland Management".

To discuss policies and objectives for wetland management throughout the world, by considering case histories, new ideas and initiatives, theoretical reflections, and the Ramsar Convention. The conference will consist of a symposium, concurrent sessions, workshops and poster sessions and will be published as a proceedings. Write to: Leiden Conference Bureau, P.O. Box 16065, 2301 GB Leiden, The Netherlands.

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A joint meeting of the West African Ornithological Society and the British Ornithologists Club will be held on Tuesday 26 September 1989, at 6.15 pm for 7 pm, when Roger Beecroft will speak after dinner on "Birds in the Sahara". The meeting will be held in the Senior Common Room, Sherfield Building, Imperial College, London, SW7. Those wishing to attend should send their acceptance with a cheque for 5 per person, payable to the B.O.C., to reach the Secretary to WAOS Council, Mrs A. Moore, 1 Uppingham Road, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6JB, England, by 12 September 1989.