



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



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Society Notices

Au sujet des articles en anglais par des francophones; un avis personnel du Président

Je constate que plusieurs notes et articles, rédigés en anglais par des auteurs de langue française, sont régulièrement publiés dans *Malimbus*. Or, la S.O.O.A. a été fondée, à l'initiative de nos collègues britanniques, non seulement pour unir les efforts et les moyens du plus grand nombre d'ornithologues de l'Ouest africain mais aussi pour permettre à chacun de s'exprimer dans une des deux langues dominantes de la sous-région, l'anglais et le français. Chacun, nous l'espérons, aura pu remarquer que notre société a le souci de rester bilingue: la grande majorité de nos collègues anglophones le comprend et l'accepte.

Je n'ignore pas que, pour les besoins de leur carrière, les ornithologues francophones doivent publier l'essentiel de leurs travaux dans une revue de classe "A" et en anglais, mais cela ne doit pas les empêcher de publier en français dans une revue, telle que *Malimbus*, où le bilinguisme est de règle. Quant à la diffusion des résultats, elle sera la même que les articles soient en anglais ou en français. Mais les articles en français auront sans doute une plus large audience s'ils sont destinés à un pays francophone.

C'est d'ailleurs, à mon sens, une question de courtoisie de la part des ornithologues européens envers les pays où ils ont été admis à exercer une recherche sur l'avifaune.

G.J. Morel

Note de la Rédaction. Sans être opposée à l'opinion exprimé ci-dessus, la politique de la Rédaction restera d'accepter de tout auteur les articles dans l'une ou l'autre langue.

English and French language papers by francophone authors: a personal view from the President

I note that many articles published in *Malimbus* are written in English by francophone authors. W.A.O.S. was founded, on the initiative of our British colleagues, not only to combine the efforts and resources of the maximum number of West African ornithologists, but also to enable use of either of the two major languages of the region, English or French. Everyone, I hope, will have remarked that our Society is concerned to remain bilingual; the great majority of our anglophone colleagues understand and accept that aim.

I realise that, for the purposes of career advancement, francophone ornithologists must publish the bulk of their work in first-class, English-language journals, but that should not prevent their publishing in French in a journal such as *Malimbus*, where both languages are acceptable. Here, the language used has no bearing on the circulation of their results, and articles destined for francophone countries would doubtless have a wider readership if written in French. Besides, for European authors, I feel that there is a question of courtesy to the country where one has been permitted to carry out one's research.

G.J. Morel

Editor's note. While not disagreeing with the above, editorial policy will remain to accept papers in either language from any author.

Guidelines for avifaunal papers in *Malimbus*

Malimbus publishes many articles comprising regional or national species lists. There is no suggestion that this should not continue, for such lists play an important role: they are used for reference by amateurs and travellers, they constitute the raw data for regional bird atlases, and they provide information for conservation planning. These lists are of greatest use if they are easy to digest and analyse, but submitted manuscripts do not always match this criterion (as those who edit them are well aware!). Some mss. contain no map or gazetteer and their content of other information varies greatly (indication or not of migratory status, indication of abundance or density *etc.*). Such variation renders the work of the Editorial Board unnecessarily difficult and reduces the ultimate usefulness of the data. Accordingly, the following guidelines have been developed; they should be followed as closely as possible by potential authors of avifaunal papers.

- 1. Localities.** Every such paper *must* contain either a map showing all localities mentioned or a gazetteer giving geographical coordinates, or both. A map should always have a border and scale, and the border should bear latitude and longitude marks. It would be helpful if the map could show degree squares or half-degree squares (= quarter square-degrees), according to the scale, but beware of curved lines of latitude or longitude on many projections. Note that maps produced by computer printers are rarely of a quality acceptable for publication.
- 2. Background.** The paper should contain brief notes on climate, topography, vegetation types and zones. It would also be helpful to state (particularly for lists compiled during brief visits) the climatic conditions and state of the vegetation during the study, and any unusual events during or preceding the observations (abnormally