



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



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EDITORIAL

The Society's tenth birthday last year passed unnoticed in this column because severe production difficulties resulted in only two numbers of the Bulletin appearing in 1973 with 1974, instead of the customary four per year. But neither membership nor enthusiasm has waned; to the contrary, the knowledge that ornithology in Nigeria has never before been more actively pursued has provided the impetus for re-organisation of the Society and its journal. A new Constitution is being prepared, which will be presented in the next issue.

With membership so far flung - 45% in this huge country, 35% in Europe and 20% in 11 other countries - there seems no immediate prospect of arranging Society meetings or functions. Even meetings of the Committee are so difficult to arrange that allowance for opinions-by-post are being written into the Constitution. However, from the outset the Society's primary raison d'être has been the production of the Bulletin to set down its far-flung observations, and with this 39th number we may allow ourselves a belated centennial congratulation.

Publication of the Bulletin has now returned to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and will be in association with the A.B. University Press. With the gradual development of ornithological activities at the University, there is a stronger guarantee of uninterrupted production of this periodical than there has been for some years. Eventually it may prove feasible for the Bulletin to metamorphose into a letterpress-printed journal of West African ornithology. In the meantime, the changes evident in this number are intended to be a modest step in that direction.

Our policy is to appeal alike to the academic ornithologist and to those people whose enjoyment of Nigeria's wonderful bird life is matched by their desire to extend knowledge about it. This we hope to achieve by an amalgam of scientific papers, short notes, reviews, letters, and illustrations. Two issues will be published per year, about March and September, and the word content of the annual volume in this photo-reduced production is comparable with that of early typed foolscap volumes. A Members' List will in future appear only in the second issue each year.