

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



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### News & Letters

### Ornithological Societies in The Gambia

Dear Sir,

The Gambia Ornithological Society (GOS) was founded in 1975. It promotes interest in the bird-life and general natural history of The Gambia and supports local wildlife conservation. Local programmes include evening bird walks, weekend trips further afield and indoor evening meetings. These activities are intended for GOS members but we are happy for visitors to join our meetings when possible. Although it has proved impossible to maintain contact with overseas members, Life Membership of GOS applies for as long as and whenever the member is in The Gambia. Telephone numbers and a contact address are given below.

The existence of a "Gambian Ornithological Society" has recently been brought to our notice. We wish them every success but the similarity of the names of the two societies may lead to confusion. We wish to emphasise that the two societies and their officers are quite distinct. The President of the Gambia Ornithological Society is the President of The Gambia, H.E. Sir Dauda Kairaba Jawara, and the Vice-President of the society is the Director of the Department of Wildlife Conservation, Dr A. Camara.

A number of local bird-guides offer their services to visiting ornithologists. Several are very competent and are reliable guides to some of the more interesting sites away from the hotels. Some have recently joined GOS and, while we are glad of their support, we must emphasise that possession of a GOS membership card is in no way an endorsement of their abilities.

GOS is pleased to receive records from visiting ornithologists. These will be entered on our database and unusual sightings critically considered by a rarities committee

Donal Murray, Chairman (office 394847, home 371486)
Bill Snow, Hon. Secretary (462932)
The Gambia Ornithological Society, P.O. Box 757, Banjul, The Gambia

### African Bird Club

From 1 January 1994, the African Bird Club will provide a focus for gathering information on a continental basis and making it more accessible to both resident and overseas birders. It aims to foster an interest in bird conservation in the region, to