



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

promote and work with local African societies, to produce a twice-yearly colour bulletin featuring identification papers and site guides, to encourage visits to lesser-known parts of the region, to locate and publish information on globally threatened and near-threatened species and to develop a Conservation Research Fund. Anyone can join; the standard membership rate is £12 per year. The ABC is also seeking Founder Members to fund its launch and first year of operation. Founder Membership is available as a one-off payment of £30 and includes the first year's subscription. For a comprehensive membership leaflet, please contact: The Membership Secretary, The African Bird Club, c/o Birdlife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, U.K.

A dater du 1 janvier 1994, l'African Bird Club sera un centre de collecte de données à l'échelle continentale et en facilitera l'usage à la fois aux ornithologues résidents et à ceux d'outre-mer. Le club a comme buts de stimuler l'intérêt pour la protection des oiseaux dans la région, de promouvoir les sociétés africaines locales et de travailler avec elles, d'éditer un bulletin semestriel en couleur présentant des articles d'identification et des guides régionaux, d'encourager la visite des secteurs les moins connus de la région, de rechercher et publier les données sur les espèces menacées d'extinction générale ou en danger et de créer un Fonds de Recherche pour la Conservation. Chacun peut adhérer: la cotisation ordinaire est de £12 par an. L'A.B.C. recherche aussi des Membres Fondateurs pour financer son lancement et la première année de fonctionnement. La qualité de Membre Fondateur s'acquiert par un versement unique de £30 et comprend la première année de souscription. Pour obtenir une notice complète d'inscription, veuillez vous adresser à: The Membership Secretary, The African Bird Club, c/o BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, UK.