



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



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# Nigerian Ornithologists' Society

## Bulletin

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### THE AFRICAN CHAT

What looks likely to become yet another regular conference was an event staged in September 1977 at the County Museum, Liverpool, UK dubbed the 'African Chat'. But a conference with a difference; for the chat was just that - a weekend gathering of Africa ornithologists, with no formal agenda. Unencumbered by the requirement to deliver or listen to weighty addresses, the meeting served well that other purpose of conferences, meeting and exchanging ideas with like-minded people. There seemed to be no shortage of things to say. For two days some 25 participants delved among the Museum's collection of 150 000 bird skins (having very good African representation) and compared notes on their research interests, played tape recordings and showed slides to one another, and gave three or four impromptu talks on diverse topics. If West African interests had been a little neglected at the 4th pan-African Ornithological Congress in Seychelles ten months before, they were certainly not on this occasion. A meeting convened in the Nigerian Ornithologists' Society's name was attended by 18 members of the Society, and favoured unanimously its 'westafricanisation'. Participants adjudged the Chat a great success and they look forward to a repeat performance, larger perhaps, but no less informal, another year.

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### THE WEST AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Preliminary notice may be given of the intentions about the 'westafricanisation' referred to above; the matter has yet to be finalised by Committee, endorsed by our sponsors the Ahmadu Bello University Press, and constituted. Briefly, the meeting of the Society convened at the 'African Chat' recommended that the Nigerian Ornithologists' Society become the West African Ornithological Society, soliciting membership from ornithologists interested particularly in the region from Senegal to about Cameroun. The W.A.O.S. would exist primarily to publish a journal with the same format and policy as this Bulletin, but accepting papers in French as well as in English.

By this notice members are invited to send their comments about this proposal to the President. You may also like to offer suggestions for a new name for the Bulletin : no prizes, but instant fame for the 'winner' in receiving acknowledgement on this editorial page!

