

## EDITORIAL

### WRITE IT UP!

It is my pleasure to report that this is the first of two numbers of Safring News to appear this year. Many of you have responded to my proddings and cajolings and have produced articles for publication. However it is noticeable that the same names appear in edition after edition. Come on you "silent majority" who sit on a veritable goldmine of information, let the information see the light of day where it can be used. Don't say you don't know how to write up your data - jump in at the deep end and have a go. There are very few of you who are unable to obtain advice from professional scientists on ways of presenting data. Complex analyses are not required; simple clear presentation of your data, results and observations is all that is necessary. It would be invidious to single out individuals for praise but you can draw inspiration from publications such as Southern Birds two recent numbers of which were written by amateur bird ringers.

Currently the survey of the status of species appearing in the Red Data Book: Aves is getting under way. Every scrap of information relevant to these and other birds is useful and may even be vital to their long-term survival. No matter how trivial you may feel your information may be share it with your colleagues - each fragment helps to complete the mosaic of knowledge about our avifauna. In our highly technological age ornithology is one of the few disciplines where the amateur can make a real contribution to knowledge. In fact until relatively recently the vast bulk of ornithological publications were produced, if not by amateurs, at least by people for whom ornithology was not the source of their bread and butter. Let us nurture this worthy tradition and not leave the task of publication to the professional scientist. Write it up!