

## Editor's note

### The management of endangered species

The papers in this issue are a compilation of reviews and case studies contributed to a symposium entitled "Management methods for populations of threatened birds" held in November 1990 during the 20th World Conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation. The original intention was to publish the proceedings of this symposium, as well as papers commissioned simply for publication, first as an ICBP Technical Publication, then in the BirdLife Conservation Series, under the working title "The management of endangered species".

Various factors prevented the fulfilment of this plan. There remained, however, a body of already refereed papers of sufficient value and quality that publication remained highly desirable. Two – by Ntiamoa-Baidu and Avery *et al.*, both relating to the conservation of the Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* – appeared in *Bird Conservation International* 5(4). It is possible that one or two more may yet appear in later issues of volume 6. Regrettably, however, many of the other contributions are no longer available for publication. Nevertheless, the papers in this issue, all dealing with or bearing on long-term programmes for extremely threatened birds, have a particular consistency and relatedness of theme that justifies their grouping in a single issue of the journal.

Inevitably many of the papers were intended as recent case histories, so there has had to be some quickfire adjustment and updating in order to publish in 1996 material prepared five, six or even seven years before. The relevance of these case histories is not, however, affected: each tells an important story that will be of continuing use – and a source of inspiration and encouragement – to present and future managers in search of guidance and understanding as they grapple with the conservation options for other bird species around the world.

The idea for the original symposium and book came from the conveners, Anthony W. Diamond and Brian D. Bell. The symposium itself was chaired by Alan Saunders. Later, under Brian Bell's leadership, Sonia Tidemann, Jan Komdeur and Michael Rands assumed responsibility for drawing the material together for publication. To them and to all the authors and referees, BirdLife expresses its warm thanks as well as its deep regrets.

I must also thank Sue Bell, David Baker-Gabb, Regina Pfaff, Sue Squire and the authors of papers in this issue for their help in its production.

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