

British Birds

Editorial changes at Bedford

This month sees a major change in the editorial arrangements for *British Birds* with the departure of I. J. Ferguson-Lees to take up the position of deputy director (conservation) with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. James Ferguson-Lees has spent almost all his working life as executive editor of *British Birds*; indeed, with the exception of its founder, H. F. Witherby, he has served in a major editorial post for a longer period than anyone in the journal's history. In June 1952, while still a schoolmaster and only 23, he took over on a voluntary basis from J. D. Wood as assistant editor and then in October 1954 he was appointed as its first full-time executive editor. From then until 1970, when P. F. Bonham joined him as assistant editor, he carried the full and ever-growing burden of the editorial responsibilities. His services to *British Birds* for more than 20 years have been invaluable. He has been an outstanding editor, painstaking and accurate, and the many new developments during this period owe much to his energy and inspiration. For much of this time he has also played a major part in the work of many local and national ornithological bodies including successively council member, vice-president and president of the British Trust for Ornithology, council member and chairman of the Conservation and Education Committees of the R.S.P.B., and chairman of the Records Committee of the British Ornithologists' Union. He has become one of the best-known figures in modern British ornithology, exerting a powerful influence on many aspects of developments in recent years. He is also well known on the international scene, especially for his efforts to encourage the co-ordination and extension of amateur research on a European basis.

His colleagues on the editorial team, whilst wishing him every success in the important new tasks he will be undertaking for bird conservation, are grateful that he has agreed to remain on the editorial board, so that his ability and long experience will be at their disposal. P. F. Bonham was appointed executive editor from 1st February 1973 and is assisted by D. A. Christie. S. C.