

British Birds

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New Editorial Board member

We are pleased to announce that Rob Hume has accepted our invitation to join the Editorial Board of *British Birds*.

Rob's name will be very well known to *BB* readers. His first contribution was in 1970 – a note, jointly with P. L. Garvey, on 'Possible display-flight of four Sparrowhawks [*Accipiter nisus*]' (*Brit. Birds* 63: 132) – closely followed by the write-up of his trail-blazing discovery of 'Ring-billed Gull [*Larus delawarensis*] in Glamorgan: a species new to Britain and Ireland' (*Brit. Birds* 66: 509-512), and papers on the numbers and plumage variation of Mediterranean Gulls *L. melanocephalus* at Blackpill, Glamorgan (with P. G. Lansdown), and on the separation of Common *Sterna hirundo* and Arctic Terns *S. paradisaea* (with the late P. J. Grant) (*Brit. Birds* 67: 17-24, 133-136). Since then, his contributions have increased to an average of half-a-dozen a year, with the variety maintained: identification, patterns of records, and behaviour, with increasing emphasis on informed comment.



For over four years, from November 1979 to March 1984, Rob was joint compiler (with Keith Allsopp) of the monthly summary of migrants and rarities, 'Recent reports' (now replaced by the quarterly 'Seasonal reports'). His views on identification methods are that careful observations of jizz and of plumage details are both important, as expressed in a 1985 letter (*Brit. Birds* 78: 356-357), and his expertise has been passed on via a variety of fieldguides, including *Birds by Character: the fieldguide to jizz identification* (1990), and through his membership of the Rarities Committee, which he joined in 1988. His profile, by Trevor Gunton, was published in 1983 (*Brit. Birds* 76: 215-216).

Rob Hume has been a professional ornithologist with the RSPB for 16 years. He is now Editor of *Birds*, having previously been Editor of *Bird Life* for six years, both magazines winning major awards under his editorship. We are still congratulating ourselves that we have persuaded this modest and multi-talented (but very busy) expert to devote even more of his 'spare time' to helping *BB*. We are delighted to welcome Rob onto the editorial team. EDS