

Editorial

This year the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology celebrates its 21st anniversary. Much of the research conducted at the FitzPatrick Institute in recent years has been on seabirds and it is therefore fitting that this issue of *The Cormorant* contains papers and notes by most of the Fitztitute's 'marine ornithologists'. Indeed, readers could be forgiven for thinking the whole issue has been devoted to the Fitztitute!

One of the main 'events' of the Fitztitute's 21st will be the publication of the 'Handbook of African Seabirds', presently being written by my colleague Dr A.J. Williams. A task like this takes time (there are 130 species to be covered), but it is hoped that the handbook will be published by 1983. I'm pleased to say Tony Williams has found *The Cormorant* of value in compiling his species' accounts and elsewhere in this issue he makes an appeal for members of the African Seabird Group to publish their observations so that they can be incorporated into the handbook.

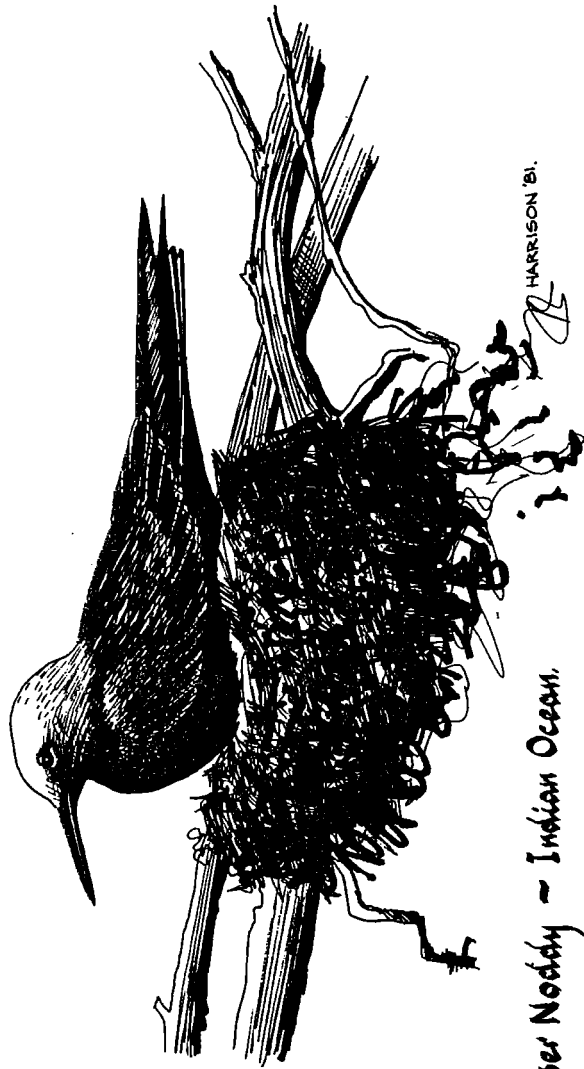
Peter Harrison has published in *The Cormorant* before and readers of his guide to separating Royal and Wandering Albatrosses at sea (*Cormorant* 6: 13, 1979) will know him to be a careful observer. Not all will know that Peter Harrison is also an artist of considerable skill. Thus I'm greatly pleased to include in this issue of *The Cormorant* a number of illustrations including the frontispiece of a Lesser Noddy.

Peter Harrison has now become a full time freelance illustrator of birds and we are very lucky to be able to publish his drawings *gratis*. He has promised to supply drawings to fill up the blank spaces in future issues, and I'm hoping that at least some articles can be illustrated by the species studied.

Looking back through my bound set of *The Cormorant* I can see a gradual improvement in presentation since the first issue of November 1976. Many of the ideas for improvement have come from others and I thank them for their continued interest and advice. Who knows, maybe next year we will be 'right hand justified'!

John Cooper





Lesser Noddy - Indian Ocean.

HARRISON '81.