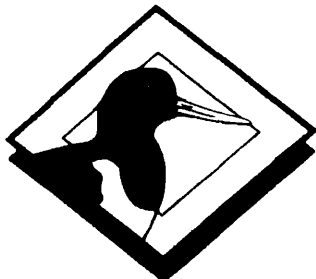


date for joining with the critical mass of Europeans to exchange information. Finally, we would recommend to our North American colleagues that it is time to establish a more formal continental working group than we have now. To be most effective in our scientific and conservation efforts, we need to establish a way to communicate and work together on a regular basis. The Wader Study Group provides an excellent model for us.

Patrick Meire and his colleagues at the Institute of Nature Conservation are to be commended for organizing such a great conference. I also thank the speakers and those who prepared posters for sharing their information with all who attended. The hospitality was unfailing throughout our stay. I am particularly glad that I finally met several colleagues with whom I had corresponded over the years and others whom I had known only through their publications. We look forward to attending more Wader Study Group Conferences in the future.

*Colleen M. Handel*

*The General Secretary would welcome views from non-European WSG on Colleen's suggestion for occasional WSG Conferences to be held with a more global themes. Would such meetings be a significant attraction to those waderologists needing to travel inter-continently? Perhaps the first of such a cycle of meetings with global themes will be provided by the South African WSG meeting.*



**SPECIAL WSG MEETING  
LANGEBAAN, SOUTH  
AFRICA  
12-15 AUGUST 1998**

A special meeting of the Wader Study Group will take place on 12-14 August 1998, at Langebaan, Western Cape, South Africa, with arrival and registration on the afternoon of Wednesday 12 August. One of the planned themes of the meeting is "Where should we going in wader research?" On Saturday 15 August, it is planned to hold a workshop on the Curlew Sandpiper. The meeting will be held in association with the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Ornithological Congress which takes place in Durban the following week; registration for the IOC is on 16 August, and it continues until 22 August.

There are many daily flights between Cape Town and Durban; the flying time is approximately two hours. Flight arrangements (and car hire in the Western Cape) for people attending the WSG meeting can be handled by the IOC conference organisers. The Second Congress Brochure for the IOC is now available. Contact the Secretary-General, Dr Aldo Berruti for more information: phone/fax +27 21 262 6114, email [aldo@birdlife.org.za](mailto:aldo@birdlife.org.za).

The Wader Study Group has a worldwide membership; many members seldom have the opportunity to attend the Annual Conferences, invariably held in Europe. The objective of this meeting is to provide members who will be attending the IOC an opportunity to have direct contact with the Wader Study Group. (Note that the 1998 AGM and Annual Conference will take place in Europe as normal; the Langebaan meeting is an additional meeting).

The village of Langebaan (and the adjoining Langebaan Lagoon) is approximately 120 km north of Cape Town. Given continuation of the three-year breeding cycles on the Siberian tundra, 1997 ought to be a good breeding year, and there therefore ought to be substantial

numbers of "overwintering" waders at Langebaan Lagoon in August 1998. By mid-August, the "spring" wildflowers in the areas around the lagoon are regularly at their best.

Full details of the meeting and booking forms will be included in the December 1997 *Bulletin*. Anyone wishing to offer a paper or present a poster, or needing further information, should in the meantime contact Les Underhill, Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa.  
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fax +27 21 689 7578  
email [lgu@maths.uct.ac.za](mailto:lgu@maths.uct.ac.za)

*Les Underhill*

**Thank you!**

Many thanks to all those who have helped recently with all stages of recent *Bulletin* publication:

**EDITORIAL**

Nick Davidson, Mike Evans, Julianne Evans, Barbara Ganter, Phil Holland, Henk Koffijberg, Lys Muirhead, Jean Patterson, Theunis Piersma, Rui Rufino, Thomas Stroud (computing consultant) and Robin Ward (for bailing the editor out of a tight spot!).

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D. Beadle, Nick Davidson, Adriano de Faveri, Eugeny A. Koblik, Jens Gregersen and others.

And apologies, as ever, to anyone inadvertently omitted!