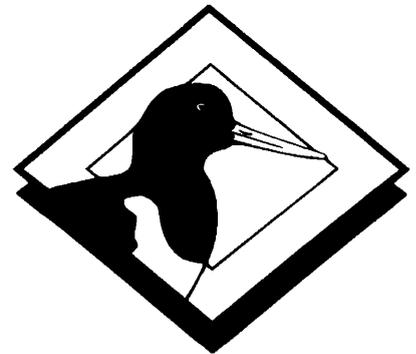

WADER STUDY GROUP



BULLETIN 65 August 1992

Wader Study Group Annual General Meeting

Hajduszoboszlo, Hungary, 5th September 1992

The Annual General Meeting of the Wader Study Group will be held during the annual conference at the Hotel Delibab, Hajduszoboszlo, Hungary at 0900 hours on Saturday 5th September.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM, held on October 5th 1991 on Texel, The Netherlands (Bulletin 63:1-2)
3. Chairman's Report
4. Co-ordinator's Report
5. Editor's Report
6. Membership Secretary's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Election of officers and members of the Executive Committee. The Chairman Dr.M.W.Pienkowski and the Treasurer, S.J.Sutcliffe are retiring.

The Executive Committee has therefore proposed the election of the following officers:

Chairman Dr. G.C.Boere

Treasurer B. Loos

The Committee has proposed the election of a second vice-chairman:

Vice-Chairman Dr. N. C. Davidson

In addition, the Executive Committee propose the election of the following members of the Executive Committee:

Dr. P.S.Tomkovich
Dr. A.K.Yurlov
E. Lebedeva

9. Any other business

Petra de Goeij, General Secretary

Chairman's Report

In my report last year, I outlined the ways in which your Executive Committee were attempting to meet the challenge of the success of the Group and the great volumes of work this entails. We have continued the successful approach of dividing this work into more manageable elements, so that the officers - working in a voluntary capacity - have better prospects of fulfilling these roles. Indeed, with tasks

divided to more manageable loads, we are having more success in persuading members to take on such roles. However, your officers always remain open to suggestions of persons who might be prepared to assist!

Some of the further ways we are dividing the tasks will be evident from proposals we are putting before the Annual General Meeting. The general success of the approach is clear from the performance of the Group during the year and from the reports of my fellow officers.

It is particularly pleasing to note the renewed enthusiasm for the Group in the Americas, resulting in part from a very useful interaction between the Vice-Chairman and members from South and North America at the Fourth Neotropical Ornithological Congress in Quito, Ecuador. Some years ago, we were very pleased that our colleagues in those continents decided to start a 'New World' Section of WSG rather than a separate society. This led to a very useful degree of interchange about the world, particularly via the *Bulletin*. More recently, however, there have been concerns as to how best to take forward initiatives in this area. The enthusiasm for a restructured Western Hemisphere Section is addressing this in a most encouraging manner, as outlined in *Bulletin 63*.



The success of WSG conferences is becoming legendary. Despite the risk of having too much of a good thing, the Group organised two conferences within the last year, both of which more than amply maintained the high standards. Our annual conference returned to Texel, in the Netherlands, the home of previous highly valuable gatherings. This was no exception, the very friendly conference being followed by a stimulating workshop. A major challenge was our first conference in what had been the Soviet Union when its planning started. To organise such a venture would be a notable achievement at any time. To do so at such a time of major change - and to achieve such an enjoyable and productive event - was nothing short of astounding. Accordingly, we record our great thanks to Anatoli Korzyukov and his team at Odessa. Members will see more of the outcome of these initiatives in the Bulletin and at the AGM.

Conferences and the Bulletin are the faces of the Group that members see most. It is very easy to overlook the work behind the scenes which make this all possible. One key post is that of Treasurer, and we have been fortunate in having the services of Steve Sutcliffe for several years. His quiet confidence in the handling of our finances has been an immense support to fellow officers and myself. After a successful career running his own business, Steve took up the post of Warden of Skomer, a National Nature Reserve off the Welsh coast. Consequently, he could rarely attend WSG meetings, but his contribution has been invaluable. Steve indicated some time ago his wish to retire but kindly agreed to continue while we searched for someone to take on this key role. I would like to record my thanks, in addition to those of the Group, to Steve for his invaluable support over several years.

I too have decided to retire at this AGM. My fellow officers have made it clear that they expect me to include in my final Chairman's Report a few longer term reflections. Indeed, one of them

was unkind enough to note that I am the last remaining original officer still in post with WSG. I hope to fend off senility for a while yet, and note in my own defence that I was an undergraduate student when originally in the editorial team, and that I have certainly not been in the same post for over twenty years. However, that time period is more than long enough even with different roles, and a change will be good for both the Group and myself.

I am a little doubtful about recollections, as they might foster a satisfied approach to achievements, rather than building on these to exploit new opportunities. I shall not, therefore, dwell over-long on this. A strength of the Group has always been its flexibility to respond rapidly, without convoluted processes, to perceived needs.

That really was its origin. At a time when wader studies were blossoming at the start of the 1970s, with the first wave of international expeditions to address gaps in knowledge, several British (then mainly amateur or student) workers were anxious to focus these collaborative efforts to ensure that they were directed most profitably. Perhaps the biggest - and certainly one of the happiest - boosts to this came from the mid-1970s onwards. Increasingly, workers from other countries made clear that they wished to share this forum. Very rapidly, the Group became truly international, with members throughout the world, albeit centred in Europe. The 1980s saw increasing links with groups in other parts of the world, with whatever form of association was most appropriate in each case. Throughout the period, the Group tried to maintain contacts with colleagues in central and eastern Europe and northern Asia, especially in view of the movements of 'our' birds between these areas. In the early years, communications were formidably difficult, and we owe a particular debt to our friends at Gdansk for maintaining links with all areas at the most difficult of times. We are now reaping the rewards of these maintained links, as wader studies and

conservation can build on the increased communications. Only a few years ago, the prospects of international studies in the Taimyr or a conference in the Ukraine with such open discussion and clear conclusions were unrealistic dreams. The Group needs to continue building on its strong start here.

As aiding communications and collaborative working are the core of the Group's existence, it is particularly satisfying to record the progress that has been made here, including particular projects; conferences and symposia producing clear and usable recommendations; and the major flagship of the Bulletin. Those of us who still have a copy of Number 1 (or who saw it reissued along with a birthday cake for the 21st anniversary at Texel) will see the strides taken. I would like to congratulate the editorial team for their sustained performance over the last couple of years.

It will be something of a wrench to leave - although I look forward to joining the ranks of ordinary members. I wish my colleagues on the Executive Committee continuing enthusiasm, and have no doubt that they will have this in good measure. I am delighted that Gerard Boere has been persuaded to allow his name to go forward for election as Chairman.

Finally, I would like to thank past and present members of the Executive Committee, and indeed many other members, for their support and encouragement over the years.

Mike Pienkowski Chairman

Co-ordinator's Report

This report is very brief because the main activities of the co-ordinator in 1991 have already been documented elsewhere in the Bulletin. One of the main tasks of 1991 was the production of the proceedings of the Wader Study Group workshop on waders breeding on wet grasslands. These Proceedings



have since been published as a Supplement to *Bulletin* 61. Waders breeding on wet grasslands is the result of a joint effort by many WSG members, with Brigitte Klinner, Nick Davidson and David Fleet being especially involved in the last stages of the production. The wet grasslands Supplement is another example of the WSG's specific activities in nature protection. The booklet aims to be a link between scientific work and political decision making.

These two sides of conservation activity - science and political work - were also topics of the special WSG Conference 'Migration and international conservation of waders' held in Odessa, Ukraine, in April 1992. The final preparations of this conference started in 1991. Besides the co-ordinator, the Chairman and especially the General Secretary, were involved in the work for this conference. More details about the conference, which surely was a milestone in the Group's contacts to the East, are published elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

A review of the more scientific side of the WSG's activities has been completed in 1991. This overview of WSG projects is also to be published in the *Bulletin*. The current projects as well as the talks on the WSG conferences show that the group, besides its nature conservation activities, is still much involved in its original field, which is the scientific research of waders.

In 1991, the WSG received some direct personal aid from the University of Kiel through its Forschungs - und Technologiezentrum Westküste. Gregor Kölsch was employed to assist in the production of the wet grasslands *Supplement* and the projects review. Hopefully the co-operation with the FTZ will continue in the next years.

Hermann Hötter

Editor's Report

As foreshadowed in last year's Editors Report, 1991 finally saw the *Bulletin* coming substantially back onto its publication schedule. This has been due to the devolution of the editing and production tasks amongst a wider editorial team as has been indicated in previous years.

Whilst priority has been given to getting the *Bulletin* back to its specified timetable and avoiding further publication slippage, attention has also been given to further improving *Bulletin* design and layout. In this, as in overseeing the production schedule, the editorial team are greatly indebted to Rodney West, who in addition to his responsibilities as Membership Secretary for WSG also has contributed considerable time and professional expertise to *Bulletin* production.

Whilst bringing the *Bulletin* back to schedule has had its financial cost, as indicated by the Treasurer's Report, the regular appearance and professional design has initiated a greater submission of suitable material for publication. Although this has initially led to a backlog of papers for publication, the increasing numbers of members indicate that there will soon be a sounder financial basis for increases in *Bulletin* size. Since there is a direct relationship between the number of WSG members and the length of the *Bulletin*, members are urged to encourage a friend to join!

As indicated in *Bulletin* 63, progress has been made in using the *Bulletin* as a vehicle for communication with a wider Western Hemisphere network of wader workers and Peter Hicklin has been co-ordinating the regional editorial inputs required to facilitate this.

The *Bulletin Supplement* concerning the breeding waders of wet grasslands was published during the year, and progress has continued on a number of other *Supplements*, some of which will be published in 1991. A number of inquiries have been received from

individuals or organisations keen to fund the publication of material in this way. Clearly such publication not only provides the membership with additional benefits at no extra cost, but also provides a means of wide international dissemination of such material. In order that the editorial input to *Supplements* does not delay production of normal *Bulletins*, Nick Davidson has taken responsibility for their production within the editorial team.

During the year, we welcomed Phil Grice to the editorial team, whilst Nicola Crockford has now taken responsibility for the co-ordination of review material.

David A. Stroud

Membership Secretary's Report

The WSG membership stood at 564 at the end of 1991. This represented an increase of 109 members over the previous year. In part, this increase was due to the subscription renewal aberration mentioned in *Bulletin* 62. However, a total of 80 new members joined during 1991 which reflects a healthy interest in the work of the Wader Study Group.

It is important that the WSG continues to promote its profile world-wide, as this will reflect in increased membership. For example, last year a full page description of the Group which appeared in the new Interwader counters manual resulted in a number of new Asian members. Also the publication of the *Bulletin Supplement* 'Waders breeding on wet grasslands' also created further interest in the Group's activities.

Membership leaflets, copies of the logo and other publicity material are available free of charge to anyone who is interested in promoting the Group. A press release summary in English is also available from the Membership Secretary.

A more detailed summary of the current



UK	188	Ireland	4
Netherlands	64	South Africa	4
Germany	53	Brazil	4
USA	51	New Zealand	3
Canada	22	Argentina	3
Spain	17	China	3
		Austria	2
Belgium	16	Bulgaria	2
Italy	15	Hungary	2
Australia	12	Malaysia	2
		Pakistan	2
		Switzerland	2
CIS	12	Japan	2
France	12	Zimbabwe	2
Sweden	12		
Denmark	9		
Poland	9		
Norway	7		
Portugal	6		

membership is provided above. The figures represent the number of current subscriptions to the group, including both individual members and institutions. Countries are ranked by numbers of members, rather than importance for waders (or wader-workers!).

In addition there is one member from each of the following countries: Bahrain, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Korea, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Niger, Peru, Phillipines, Tanzania and the former Yugoslavia.

Rodney West

Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year to 31 December show, as expected, a large deficit of £3,368. This is very largely due to the considerable 'catching up' process which has resulted in more *Bulletins* being produced than in any other years since the WSG was established.

The editorial panel has also continued to follow its policy of publishing most

suitable material that has been received, and so *Bulletin* size has not been reduced. To speed up the publication of each issue, the editorial deadline has been more stringently imposed and the content of some issues has varied to suit the material to hand, but despite this, this has rarely had any affect on Bulletin size.

The size of the *Bulletin* is the most critical item for it affects both printing

Wader Study Group

Receipts and expenditure account for the year to 31 December 1991

	1991	1990
Receipts:-		
Subscriptions	£6,377	£4,955
Interest received	£494	£790
Colour marking register	-	£74
Sale of back Bulletins and publications	£2,834	£434
Profit on sale of car stickers	-	£3
External contributions to publications	£1,440	£1,000
TOTAL INCOME	£11,219	£7,182
Deduct EXPENSES:-		
Bulletin costs		
Printing	£7,592	£4,310
Envelopes	£146	£53
Typing	£152	£244
Postages	£3,252	£1,127
Editorial	£170	£24
Secretarial costs and miscellaneous (Note 1)	£956	£338
Colour Marking Register (Note 2)	£390	£65
Hebrides Project costs (Note 3)	£1,231	-
Conference costs	-	£190
Bank charges	£135	£8
Depreciation on computers and printers	£563	£663
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£14,587	£7,022
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	£3,368	(£160)



Wader Study Group

Balance sheet as at 31 December 1991

	1991	1990
Accumulated Fund (Note 4)		
Per Balance Sheet as at 1 January 1991	£11,954	£10,694
Excess of expenditure over income	(£3,368)	£160
Adjustment	-	£1,100
	£8,586	£11,954
Represented by: -		
Assests: -		
Micro-computers and printers (net after deducting depreciation)	£1,162	£1,632
Cash at bank and on deposit	£5,636	£10,427
Debtors	£3,993	£18
Stock of car stickers	£142	£155
Sub-total	£10,933	£12,232
Deduct liabilities: -		
Creditors	(£1,715)	(£32)
Subscriptions in advance	(£632)	(£246)
NET	£8,586	£11,954

and distribution cost. Thus it is for this sole reason that the deficit in 1991 is so large. The *Bulletin Supplements* have been near to self-funding, with either financial contributions for publication being received, or external sales covering costs.

In 1992, with the increase subscription level and a normal schedule of *Bulletin* production, I expect the Group to show a small surplus again. There will be some capital costs to absorb and there is the *Knot Supplement* to fund, but overall I consider the Group to be in a reasonable financial state.

S.J. Sutcliffe

Notes:

1. The secretarial costs are very much intertwined with editorial costs and it is not possible accurately to allocate expenses under one or the other heading. The principle of charging all costs incurred by the Membership Secretary under the secretarial costs heading has therefore been adopted for practical reasons.

2. The colour marking income has been slow to appear despite invoices being issued to workers marking waders. Costs however continue to be incurred and over 200 sightings records have been handled.

3. More of the Hebrides data has been analysed and will appear shortly in the form of a published paper.

4. The Accumulated Fund includes the remainder of the Hebrides Fund which now stands at £951. The old Cannonnet Fund has been incorporated in the General Fund.



Wader Study Group Annual Conference, Hajduszoboszlo, Hungary 4-6 September 1992

As we go to press the closing date of 30 June for bookings for the 1992 WSG Annual Conference is fast approaching, and we hope that members have sent their booking forms and offers of talks and abstracts to the organisers by now. Members will recall that the early booking date is necessary because the meeting is being held in a spa hotel in a popular holiday resort: rooms will otherwise be booked by other visitors to the water cures so that those book late may be disappointed.

Full details of the conference, which

immediately precedes the 9th International Waterfowl Ecology Symposium being held at the same venue, and booking forms were given in *Bulletin* 64 (April 1992).

As outlined in that *Bulletin* there is no special theme or workshop planned for the conference this year, so members will have plenty of opportunity to talk about all aspects of wader life and times. We do, however, plan to devote part of the meeting to reporting on the special and highly successful WSG Odessa Conference held in April this year. For those unlucky enough to have missed the opportunity to go to Odessa, this will include an outline of the key features and successes of the conference, and an outline of the content and implications of the "Odessa Protocol" drawn up and unanimously

endorsed by the conference delegates. The Hungary conference gives the opportunity to report on the achievements in the six months since the protocol was established, and to discuss the ways in which WSG can take forward the recommendations of the protocol into collaborative action for improving our understanding and safeguarding of migratory waders.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Hajduszoboszlo.

If you have any queries about conference bookings please contact the local organisers:

WSG Conference Secretariat (Attn. Tamas Szekely), Department of Zoology, Kossuth University, Debrecen, Hungary (tel (36) 52 16666 ext. 334; fax (36) 52 10936).

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compiled by Nick Davidson

WSG Odessa Conference

The WSG conference held in Odessa in April 1992 was a great and exciting success. Some reports, a text of the "Odessa Protocol" drawn up by the conference delegates, and abstracts of all the talks and posters are included in this *Bulletin*. There will be further reports of the conference in *Bulletin* 66, and there will also be a report-back session on the Odessa Conference during the WSG Annual conference in Hungary in September 1992. We hope that at that time also to develop a set of priorities for follow-up action by WSG. All this will be reported in future *Bulletins*.

News of WSG Bulletin Supplements

As this is written in late June, we are about to go to press with the next of our ever expanding series of Supplements to WSG Bulletins, supplied free to fully-paid-up members. This is *The migration of Knots*, a 210-page supplement based on the workshop on knots held during the 1990 WSG meeting in Denmark. This contains 28 papers, and is illustrated throughout with black-and-white photographs by Jan van der Kam, with a full-colour cover also featuring Jan van der Kam's photographs. This is scheduled for publication in August 1992 and will be circulated free to all WSG members. Additional copies will be available for sale at £15 including postage and packing.

The Supplement on *Disturbance to waterfowl on estuaries*, summarising recent research on this important but poorly understood conservation topic, is progressing well. This is a joint production between WSG, RSPB and the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee,

and is being edited by Phil Rothwell and Nick Davidson. It is on schedule for publication late in 1992.

As mentioned elsewhere in this *Bulletin* we are now planning to add another Supplement to the series - the proceedings of the Odessa Conference, *Migration and international conservation of waders*. We are in the early stage of planning this supplement, which will be edited by Hermann Hötter, Pavel Tomkovich, Nick Davidson and Jadwiga Gromadzka. We plan to arrange for translations of papers in Russian and to publish this supplement in English with Russian summaries. We are hoping to publish this volume late in 1993.

Plans are also being discussed for updating and expanding the first WSG *Bulletin* Supplement - *Breeding waders in Europe* - since much new information has come to light since its publication in 1986. Further information about this exercise will be given in a future *Bulletin*.

