

The amount of detail presented in these reviews differs, depending on how extensive is the knowledge of the flyways. For poorly-known flyways such as those through East Africa and the Middle East, the review assembles for the first time much published and unpublished detailed information about the numbers and identities of waders and their migration routes. In contrast, such a detailed review of the vast number of studies of waders using the East Atlantic flyway is not possible within the confines of space in this volume, and accordingly this review provides a broad overview of the migration routes and staging areas. We are grateful to the authors of these regional reviews, who have been prepared to take considerable trouble to collaborate with each other, and other workers who have freely provided further information, to reduce the bulk of the material to a limited number of reviews of readable length. Such efforts amply illustrate the great value of such international collaboration in the study of wader migration systems.

To complement these overviews of wader flyways, and to illustrate the kind of research studies that are currently expanding knowledge of wader flyways, the second section of the proceedings presents some recent work on the distributions and migrations of waders. In addition to reports of individual studies, we have also included in this section a summary of the recent WSG publication that assesses the breeding populations of waders throughout much of Europe, a progress report of a major analytical study of the origins of waders in the Wadden Sea, and a listing of other papers on flyway populations published recently in *Wader Study Group Bulletin*.

Having described the research and knowledge of wader populations, the third part of the proceedings turns to the conservation of these populations and the habitats they use. Summaries of the current threats to wader populations on breeding, staging and wintering areas are followed by assessments of the various attempts to conserve waders and their habitats worldwide, from international conventions and national measures on the conservation of existing habitats to habitat restoration and restoration. The final paper in this section, considering the socio-economic

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The rapid production of a volume of proceedings of a workshop such as this could not have been achieved without the great help of many people. In particular we wish to thank all the participants in the workshop, who contributed to a most lively and informative meeting. The authors of the papers in these proceedings have given a great deal of their time to produce the papers, many of which summarise the substantial amounts of both published and unpublished material about waders throughout the world. We thank them for all their efforts.

The workshop was held at Oatridge Agricultural College, Broxburn, Scotland, whose staff provided a most pleasant atmosphere for the meeting. Our thanks particularly go to Nigel and Jacquie Clark who dealt with the organisation of the venue on behalf of the Wader Study Group.

The substantial amount of editorial work on the volume has been much aided by the efforts and

aspects of conservation, leads onto the final part of the proceedings: a discussion of future directions and priorities for those aspects of wader research and conservation relevant to the workshop. This focusses particularly on whether the amount of information now available on wader numbers and distributions is sufficient for effective implementation of wader and wetland conservation, and where the priorities for the limited amount of funding for research and conservation should lie.

Rather than reporting the workshop discussions verbatim, we have attempted to bring together the views of the workshop participants under a number of topics. Likewise, authors have incorporated in their papers in the proceedings relevant information arising from the discussions at the workshop. The discussion was lively and we hope that this is clear in the summary, despite the need to cut this to a reasonable length.

Although we have tried as far as possible to achieve a consistency of approach and presentation, we should make it clear that the views expressed in this volume, particularly in the 'Approaches to Flyway Conservation' section, are those of the authors. These are not necessarily the views of WSG or IWRB, but rather represent the range of views and ideas current in wader research and conservation throughout the world.

We hope that these proceedings will provide a useful summary of what is known about migrations of wader populations throughout the world, and of the measures used to conserve them. We hope also that the information will encourage and direct wader workers towards filling the gaps in current knowledge that are highlighted here. The workshop, and these proceedings, have brought together those working on the biology of waders and those conserving them, and resulted in a much clearer understanding for many who attended of the future needs of wader research and how it can be best utilised. There is great value in continuing such dialogue. The need for close liaison between researchers and conservationists is clear, and is essential if measures to conserve waders and their habitats are to succeed in the face of the many threats that face them worldwide.

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