

# Preface

## Background

In April 1992 the Wader Study Group organised a conference in Odessa, Ukraine, involving 79 delegates from 13 countries chiefly from western and eastern Europe and northern Asia. A major theme of the conference was the international conservation of waders, especially as related to integrated conservation measures along migratory flyways. One outcome of the conference was the drafting and agreement of an 'Odessa Protocol on international co-operation on migratory flyway research and conservation' (see *Wader Study Group Bulletin* 65).

One theme of the Odessa Protocol is the importance of making training and reference material available more widely so as to promote common standards of research and information exchange. Access to such training material is often a particular problem in the countries of eastern Europe and north Asia.

Since its first issue in 1971 there have been a great many articles and papers published in the *Wader Study Group Bulletin* describing new and improved methods for working on waders. The circulation of the *Wader Study Group Bulletin* was initially limited to the United Kingdom and more recently has been in western Europe. There has until recently been a very limited circulation in eastern Europe and north Asia and early issues are especially difficult for researchers to access, wherever they are based.

We are therefore republishing methodological papers that have appeared in the *WSG Bulletin* since its first issue a quarter of a century ago. Our aim is to make more readily accessible the detail of a wide variety of tried and tested wader study methods. The balance of coverage in the volumes inevitably reflects the main areas of interest and knowledge of active Wader Study Group members over the last quarter of a century. There are, of course, also many other methodological papers relevant to wader research that have been published elsewhere and a particularly valuable source of guidance is the Asian Wetland Bureau's *Shorebird Studies Manual* (Howes, J. & Bakewell, D. 1989. Asian Wetland Bureau, Kuala Lumpur).

## Structure of the volume

This volume contains 69 papers covering the catching and handling of birds and data. Topics covered include wader catching; ringing and marking; cramp studies; telemetry; statistics; and morphometrics.

Reprinted papers are grouped according to theme. Within a theme papers are generally presented in chronological sequence.

We have checked, where possible, with original authors that the methods described in their papers are still relevant and appropriate. Where necessary parts of papers that have become dated or are not relevant to the methodologies have been changed or deleted. These changes are clearly identified in the text with square brackets "[. . .]". In addition some minor typographical errors discovered in original texts during re-editing have been corrected and a somewhat erratic house-style standardised!

Methods papers that have been superseded by modern practice or where techniques are now regarded as hazardous, e.g. in the use of some chemicals, are not being republished.

To make sure that all papers, especially those originating from the very early *Bulletins* when production was more primitive than now, are equally legible all papers have been retyped and are reprinted in current *Wader Study Group Bulletin* style.

## Citations for reprinted papers

The new sequential pagination in this volume does introduce the potential for considerable confusion in how correctly to cite a paper reprinted in the volume. **To avoid bibliographic chaos please use the original paper citation that is to be found at the beginning of each paper.**

Nick Davidson & David Stroud  
1993

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## Additional preface – 2003

Plans for this Special Issue of the *Wader Study Group Bulletin* were laid 10 years ago. It has had an exceptionally long incubation period. At last we can fill the gap in our bookshelves for *Wader Study Group Bulletin* 69. The papers reprinted here remain valuable and interesting, although of course many new methods have been invented in the past decade.

The addresses of authors in the papers reflect their affiliations at the time the papers were originally written. Virtually all the addresses have changed, and sadly several of the authors are no longer with us.

Wader Study Group Executive Committee 2002/03

