

CHANGES IN WADER STUDY GROUP ORGANISATION

Clive Minton, Chairman of the WSG since its inception, is going to live and work in Australia for two probably three years. His absence will leave a considerable void in British wader studies, the Wader Study Group and of course in the Wash Wader Ringing Group which owes its existence and success to him. His advice is often sought in many fields by many people and many of the studies of waders in the British Isles during the last twenty years have sprung from his own enthusiasm and his ability to enthuse others and goad them into action either by the inspiration of example or by stimulating desperate and exasperated attempts to attain similar successes! We owe him thanks for many things. We shall miss him in Britain but look forward to new Australian studies and his eventual return.

Clive has recently consulted the officers of the WSG and together they have asked me to take on the Chairmanship of the WSG in an 'acting' capacity until the Group either ratifies my 'appointment' or throws me out! There will be an opportunity to do one or the other at the January 1979 meeting. Anyone who wishes to comment on this and future arrangements should contact the Secretary.

It so happens that a variety of changes within the WSG organisation have coincided with Clive's passage to Australia. William Dick has become co-ordinator of research (for want of a better phrase) and he has pointed out in Bulletin 22 that many people feel that the Group has perhaps lost a little of its initial impetus and that we now need to do some general planning and to have a close look at the Group's objectives. Hopefully we can pin-point gaps in current research and then encourage action where it is most needed. To these ends a committee of British residents and corresponding members from other countries is being organised by William Dick.

A. J. Prater has been secretary-cum-editor-cum-general correlator and co-ordinator for the Group since it started, so performing an excellent service in turning the WSG into a useful international organisation. He now has a great deal of material to prepare for publication and he is becoming involved in other work at the British Trust for Ornithology. The work he did for the WSG is therefore being divided amongst others. He will remain Secretary at the BTO address but all the general service to members will be done by Graham Appleton who will act as Administrative Secretary, Membership Secretary and Circulation Manager. Queries about membership, receipt and non-receipt of the Bulletin, applications for membership, changes of address and completed Wader Study Group Data Forms should be sent to him. The Bulletin will be edited by M. W. Pienkowski and myself.

Ron Birch recently retired from the job of Group Treasurer and this has been taken on by Bryan Murray who will be pleased to receive subscription renewals. The name and addresses of all these people involved in the new arrangements appear on the inside cover of this Bulletin.

Members will (we hope) have noticed an improvement in the appearance of the Bulletin lately culminating in the stiff card covers new to this edition. We are most grateful to R. M. Bishop for the cover design and we hope members approve. We are now back on publication schedule largely because of dynamic work by M. W. Pienkowski, G. F. Appleton and Paul Pratley (Printer). The Bulletin is now being edited by M. W. Pienkowski and myself and contributions will be gratefully received by either of us.

The main expenditure of the WSG is the publication of its Bulletin. This is the Group's most important function. It is a vehicle which circulates information at all levels between members. We aim to continue with the same mixture of items as in the past with contributions ranging from short papers, preliminary communications, lists of recoveries, bibliography to 'Newsletter' type items. We are not aiming to become a fully fledged 'scientific journal' but to provide a place where people interested in waders can communicate with each other thus spreading news of current work. The Group's membership is about two-thirds from the British Isles and one-third from all-over-the-world. This edition contains a paper from Hans Meltote of Denmark, who is well known for his ornithological work in north-east Greenland, about the current state of wader research in Denmark. We welcome this development and would like to expand the international side of the Bulletin. We shall be starting a North American section in the near future and we should like to receive either regular or occasional contributions from anywhere in the world although of course the editors must reserve the right, on behalf of the Group, to decide what to publish.

In conclusion, your Officers hope that you like the 'new-look' Bulletin and hope that you will continue to support it with your contributions. Finally I am sure everyone will join me in wishing Clive Minton and his family a happy and fascinating two or three years 'down-under'.

G. H. GREEN
Acting Chairman