

#### WSG AUTUMN MEETING AT DENSTONE COLLEGE, UPTONETER

Forty-three people, including 6 from the Netherlands, 5 from Germany and 1 from France, attended the second new-style WSG Autumn Meeting, which again proved very successful. We are grateful to Tim Beynon, Headmaster, for making the College available to the Group at such a reasonable cost and to his staff for making us welcome and giving such an efficient service.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting will be published in the April 1981 Bulletin. The AGM was followed by a programme of lectures and extensive discussions. Articles related to some of the talks appear in the current or recent issues; it is hoped to publish articles or abstracts on the rest in the April number. The papers presented were: New WSG project on Movement of Wader Populations in Western Europe, by Mike Pienkowski. Numbers of Oystercatchers and Cockles on the Ribble, by Bill Sutherland. Purple Sandpipers in eastern Scotland, by Ron Summers. Birds and reclamations in the German Wattenmeer, by Peter Prokosch. Report of the Joint Services Expedition to Ellesmere Island 1980, by Brian Witts. Nest-site selection in riverside-nesting Oystercatchers, by Kevin Briggs. A survey of breeding waders and waterfowl of the Caithness uplands, by Fraser Symonds. Netherlands Ornithological Mauritanian Expedition 1979, by Meinte Engelmoer. Implications of the Severn Barrage, by Peter Ferns. Dunlins on the Severn Estuary, by Nigel Clark. Dunlin biometrics at Poole Harbour, by Chris Reynolds.

#### WSG AUTUMN MEETING 1981

Next year the AGM and Autumn Meeting will be held at Münster, W.Germany, at the invitation of OAG Münster (for details about the Biological Station there see WSG Bull. 28 and page 11 of this issue). It is likely that the meeting will be during the weekend 12-13 September 1981 (make a provisional note in your diary). The cost of accommodation will probably be low - more details will follow in the April Bulletin. There may also be a chance of wader catching at the station and/or on the Schleswig-Holstein coast before, after (or during!) the conference. Potential participants may like to be considering a paper to present at the meeting. Send offers to either of the editors as soon as possible please. [NB. if enough people wish to travel to Münster from UK some sort of group transport can probably be arranged at a considerable saving for everyone.]

#### FIFTH MEETING ON FEEDING ECOLOGY AND BEHAVIOUR OF COASTAL BIRDS

A joint meeting of the Wader Study Group and the International Waterfowl Research Bureau Feeding Ecology Research Group will be held in conjunction with the Netherlands Ornithological Union, the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research and the Research Institute for Nature Management on the island of Texel from 26 April to 1 May 1981. This will be the fifth meeting in the international working group series which started in 1972 and has been held about every other year since then, alternately at Durham and Liverpool.

The general subjects to be discussed at this meeting will be: territorial and other forms of density-related behaviour in the non-breeding season; migration; and energy requirements at several seasons of the year.

Accommodation of various types is available in the vicinity of the institutes at Texel where the meeting will be held. Slight preference for the limited amount of cheaper accommodation will be given to those of "student" or other impoverished status and to those travelling furthest. However it is essential that anyone who wishes to attend should contact as soon as possible: Cor Smit, Research Institute for Nature Management, Den Burg, Texel, The Netherlands.

#### CHANGE OF SECRETARY

Marriage and a host of other jobs has meant that Graham Appleton felt he must resign as Secretary of Wader Study Group. We are sorry to see him go. He has been of great help to the Group during a difficult period. His major tasks of dealing with membership matters and arranging for the collation and despatch of the Bulletins have been accomplished with efficiency. Very many thanks, Graham, for all your help.

We have been fortunate in co-opting Nigel and Jacquie Clark jointly as Secretary of the Group and we hope they will do the job until (and perhaps after) the next opportunity for election at the 1981 AGM.

The new Secretarial address is on the inside front cover. Members in North America should also note the change of address of Ted Miller, the N. American Membership Secretary, and the change in postal code for Guy Morrison.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1981

Subscriptions for 1981 become due on 1 January and can be paid now. A form is enclosed with this issue. Despite the continuing high rate of inflation, the subscription for 1981 remains £5-00 (£6-50 for airmail despatch of Bulletins to addresses outside Europe).

Payment by members resident in the Americas can be made in dollars (Canadian preferred but U.S. will be accepted) to Dr. E.H. Miller, Biology Department, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Downsview, Ontario M3J 1P3, Canada. The subscription is \$12.50 (Bulletins by surface mail) or \$16.25 (air mail).

All other subscriptions should be paid in British currency (drafts drawn on a British Bank please) to N.A. Clark, Department of Zoology, University of Edinburgh, West Mains Road, Edinburgh, GB. Members resident in the Republic of Ireland should note that, as Irish and British currencies are no longer tied together without exchange regulations, payments to WSG should be made by drafts in sterling drawn on a British bank.

All cheques (whether sent to American or British address) should be payable to Wader Study Group.