

"The Stilt"

We were delighted to receive recently issue no.1 of "The Stilt", the Bulletin of the Australasian Wader Studies Group of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (RAOU). Included were abstracts from a RAOU Wader Scientific Day in Sydney in May 1981, covering topics including banding and wader counting in various areas, habitat selection, diet, the use of rainwater lakes by waders, the use of morphometric, weight and moult data by wader workers and the microbes of waders. A report on the progress of national wader counts (which, in addition to their almost inevitably fascinating results, have already been used in land-use planning cases), some short notes, a brief history of the formation of AWSG and a list of office-holders. Forthcoming attractions for issue 2 include a report on the first national winter wader counts and notes on the ageing of Red-necked Stints and Curlew Sandpipers (in the hand and in the field).

If any of our readers in Australasia and adjacent areas are not already subscribers to "The Stilt", we would be surprised. They can, however, correct this omission by sending \$(Australian) 3 a year to AWSG, RAOU, 21 Gladstone Street, Meronee Ponds, Vic. 3039, Australia.

## MINUTES OF THE WADER STUDY GROUP ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT MÜNSTER, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, ON 13 SEPTEMBER 1981

On behalf of the Chairman, G.H.Green, who was unable to be present, Dr. M.W.Pienkowski welcomed members to the meeting. There were apologies for absence from Mr. Green, the Treasurer B.E.Murray, Mrs. J.A.Clark, N.C.Davidson, Dr. P.J.Dugan, Dr. P.R.Evans, Dr. R.W.Furness, H.Galbraith, Mrs. A.E.Pienkowski and D.J.Townshend. Approximately 40 members attended the meeting, these being drawn from Belgium, France, Germany, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Thailand and the United Kingdom. The officers' reports had already been published in the Bulletin, and were presented in summary.

### Chairman's Report (G.H.Green)

In G.H.Green's absence, M.W.Pienkowski presented his report. Attention was drawn to the Group's new status as a contributor member (non paying) to the International Wildfowl Research Bureau (IWRB), following many years of co-operation between the two organisations. (IWRB was already an honorary member of WSG.) Attention was drawn to WSG's activity in its current projects, to the Netherlands Expedition to Morocco and to the expedition by W.J.A.Dick and O.Fournier to Guinea Bissau, where another large wader wintering area had been discovered. It is hoped to develop work in this area in the future.

### Administrative Secretary's Report (N.A. Clark & J.A.Clark)

The continuing spread of membership around the world was noted, new countries represented being Ecuador, Papua New Guinea and India.

### Treasurer's Report (B.E.Murray)

In B.E.Murray's absence, M.W.Pienkowski presented his report. It was noted that the present state of finances closely matched those predicted by the Treasurer in his previous report. The subscriptions will probably have to be raised in 1983, because of continuing inflation.

### Editors' Report (M.W.Pienkowski)

The Editor reported that the Bulletin is reaching a state in which more material of a high standard is being received than can be published in issues of the current size, and suggested that this should be discussed following the officers' reports.

### Co-ordinator's Report (W.J.A.Dick)

W.J.A.Dick summarized his published report.

### Matters arising from the reports

In view of the matters discussed in the Editor's report, Dr. Pienkowski invited comments as to whether members would like the issues of the Bulletin to remain at their present size with some material being turned away. Alternatively, the size of each issue could be increased somewhat without increasing the cost of postage at surface rates, but incurring increased publication costs. This would mean increasing the subscription somewhat more than would be necessary simply to allow for inflation. The meeting strongly recommended an increase in Bulletin size and requested the officers to prepare a proposal for increased subscriptions for the next AGM.

The possibility of opening a Giro account, particularly to assist international payment, was again raised. Dr. Pienkowski reported that the officers had made several enquiries of the Post Office in Britain about this, so far without reply. The matter would be pursued energetically.

### Election of officers

There was only one nomination for Administrative Secretary, so that N.A. & J.A.Clark were jointly elected unopposed.

### Next Meeting

An invitation from Dr. P.R.Evans and others to hold the 1982 AGM in Durham, U.K., was readily accepted, probable dates being 23/24 October. Members from the Netherlands and France suggested the Delta area and Vendée, respectively, as possible venues for 1983 or later, and these ideas were warmly received.

### Any other business

A suggestion had been received from Michael Smart, Assistant Director (Conservation) of IWRB, that an area in south Tunisia greatly warrants studies. It forms the only area in the Mediterranean Sea with a substantial tidal range, and appears to be a very important site for migrant and wintering waders. His suggestion of a joint WSG/IWRB expedition, possibly in autumn 1982, to assist workers in Tunisia in investigating this area was enthusiastically received. This will be investigated further.

At the end of the meeting M.W.Pienkowski thanked the members of OAG Münster for all their hard work in organising the conference and for the excellent hospitality in their fine research station. Thanks were also extended to the University of Münster for providing the lecture theatre and facilities for the scientific meeting.