

WADER STUDY GROUP

BULLETIN N° 35

AUGUST 1982

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WADER STUDY GROUP: DURHAM, U.K., 23 OCTOBER 1982

The Annual General Meeting of the Wader Study Group will be held at Durham, UK, on 23 October 1982.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM held 12 September 1981 (WSG Bull 33:3)
3. Chairman's report
4. Secretary's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Editor's report
7. Election of officers and committee members.
No further nominations other than those presented by the officers in WSG Bull 34:1 have been received. We therefore propose the following be elected at the AGM.

Chairman	G.H.Green
Vice-chairman	M.W.Pienkowski
Treasurer	S.J.Sutcliffe
Editor	N.C.Davidson
Assistant Editor	G.H.Green
Co-ordinator	Th. Piersma
Committee members	W.J.A.Dick, H.Galbraith, H.Hötter

8. Subscription increase

The reasons for raising the subscription were set out in WSG Bull. 34. A questionnaire was circulated with that Bulletin seeking members' advice. At the time of writing (12 July 1982) 73 replies have been received. Of these 73% (53% - one gave equal first choice) favoured a basic annual subscription of £10. A further 13% (9% favoured a subscription of more than £10. 4% (3 members) said they would resign if subscriptions rose to as much as £10 per annum.

In view of this response and the necessity of raising subscriptions, the officers propose an annual subscription of £10 commencing January 1983. Members wishing to receive the Bulletin by air mail will be required to pay a further £3 to cover the difference in cost between surface and air mail.

9. Any other business.
10. Date and venue of next year's AGM.

The texts of the officers' reports follow.

Chairman's report

In the questionnaire we asked members what should be reduced or removed from the Bulletin if lack of money forced us to decrease its size. Most responders mentioned the officers' reports! We can take a hint - reports will be shorter this year! Co-ordinator William Dick says he has nothing to say! The secretaries and treasurer have been extremely concise. The chairman will try and contain himself - mind you, those of us involved with other organisations run by volunteers are well aware that in the absence of reports members soon start complaining that they are not being told what is going on - its an imperfect world!

The year under review has been one of consolidation for WSG projects. The study of movements of waders in Western Europe based at Durham University and funded by the Nature Conservancy Council and the EEC Environmental Programme has continued. Regular reports by M.W. & A. Pienkowski has appeared in the Bulletin and data has been pouring in. The study of wader movements at inland sites, organised by OAG Münster, has also developed and is steadily accumulating data - reports have appeared in the Bulletin. The survey of breeding waders of Scottish Agricultural land (organised by Hector Galbraith with the blessing of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club) passed through a pilot survey in 1981 to a greater effort in 1982. WSG is represented on the steering committee of a complementary survey of waders breeding in wet meadows in southern Britain, organised by the British Trust for Ornithology and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Reports on WSG's study of spring passage of certain shore waders in 1979 have been completed by the organiser P.N.Ferns.

WSG now registers and attempts to co-ordinate colour-ringing and colour-marking schemes. We appeal to everyone contemplating such a scheme to contact us before they start to avoid overlap and utter confusion.

All these projects are proceeding. In winter 1982-83 we plan to co-ordinate the study of the effects of severe weather on waders in winter. This project has been prompted by government bans on wildfowling and wader-catching in severe weather. During 1981-82 N.Clark & N.Davidson collected some valuable data: we feel an integrated, planned programme will be useful and instructive. It will replace fancy with fact.

The AGM will see some major changes in the WSG committee (details in the Agenda and in Bulletin 34). Mike Pienkowski is resigning as editor. He has been the main force in creating the present style of the Bulletin and I view this change with some trepidation, not because I doubt the abilities of his proposed successor, Nick Davidson, who has been learning the ropes for some time now, but because Mike and I have worked together very harmoniously for many years, and he has done most of the work! Although my name appears as an editor Mike has been the editor: I have been the assistant. Because the present officers have heavy workloads we propose a post of Vice-Chairman and Mike Pienkowski as the first occupier of the post. This job will be no sinecure: the vice-chairman will help to deal with the many enquiries, policy discussions and decisions which arise. Mike has already been doing this sort of thing and by officially transferring it to a vice chairman's job, thus reducing the editorial workload, the jobs of chairman, vice-chairman and editor will be better balanced and all should be able to cope more easily. William Dick has resigned as co-ordinator - another sad event forced on us by workload problems. He is a remarkable traveller and his overseas

contacts have been a great help to the Group. He also master-minded the international study of Knot migration a few year's ago. If our proposals are accepted Theunis Piersma will become Co-ordinator. To further spread the load and to involve others in running WSG we propose to enlarge the committee by adding three members other than officers. We hope in this way to retain William Dick's help and to introduce two new members - Hector Galbraith and Herman Hötter. Bryan Murray resigned as Treasurer during the year and we hope the AGM will confirm Steve Sutcliffe as his successor. On behalf of the Group sincere thanks to all officers, past and present, and to the many other people who are helping WSG to grow into an effective international organisation.

G.H.Green

Secretaries' Report

Since our report a year ago there has been a slight rise in membership (table 1). The pattern remains much the same as last year with the number of members resigning (largely through lapsed payments) being balanced by new members in UK and Ireland, Rest of Europe and N.America. Elsewhere we have unfortunately lost nine members and only gained one, substantially reducing our African/Australasian membership.

Table 1: Wader Study Group Membership as at end of June 1982 (1981 figures in brackets)

	<u>UK & Ireland</u>	<u>Rest of Europe</u>	<u>North America</u>	<u>Elsewhere</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Existing members paid 1982	173	81	110	14	378
New members 1982	27	25	10	1	63
Existing members unpaid 1982	36	37		14	87
Total	236 (235)	143 (135)	120 (112)	29 (37)	528 (519)

N. & J. Clark

Treasurers Report

Unfortunately Bryan Murray resigned as treasurer in the middle of 1981. He passed on the Group's books in immaculate order and my job in taking over was all the easier as a result.

The accounts are much as expected with costs increasing whilst income remained at roughly the same level and the forecast made by Bryan that the Group can be self-sufficient until 1982 but not beyond was well judged. At the end of 1982 it is likely that the accumulated fund could again show a debit balance i.e. the group owes more money than it has available, hence the recent anxiety over subscription levels for 1983 onwards.

Receipts and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 1981

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1980</u>
Receipts - Subscriptions received	2053	2389
Interest received	119	65
A	<u>£2172</u>	<u>£2454</u>
Deduct - Bulletin costs - Printing	(1458)	(1055)
Envelopes, Paper, etc	(106)	(104)
Typing	(175)	(132)
Postage	(595)	(466)
Editors Expenses	(97)	(207)
Sundries	(1)	(78)
B	<u>£(2432)</u>	<u>£(2042)</u>
Add Income/Profit on back issues	210	28
Profit on autumn meeting	-	39
C	<u>£ 210</u>	<u>£ 67</u>
Excess of expenditure over receipts (A + B + C)	<u>£(50)</u>	<u>£ 479</u>

Balance sheet at 31 December 1981

<u>Accumulated Fund</u>		
Balance at 1/1/81	236	(243)
Excess of expenditure over receipts for the year	(50)	479
	<u>£186</u>	<u>£236</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash at Bank in hand and on deposit	864	1174
<u>Deduct liabilities - Creditors</u>	(478)	(375)
1982 Subscriptions in advance	-	(84)
Royal Society Loan (due July 1982)	(200)	(400)
Balances due to officers	-	(79)
	<u>£ 186</u>	<u>£ 236</u>

S.J.Sutcliffe

Editors' Report

The issues of the Bulletin published in the last year have comprised 48, 52 and 48 pages. There has been no difficulty in finding material for these and, indeed, we shall look forward to exploring members' suggestions for space saving. There has not yet been time to analyse in detail the results of the questionnaire circulated with the last issue, but we will report on this - and the results of our enquiries based on suggestions made - in a future issue. Anyone who has not returned the questionnaire but would like their views included should return it immediately. There appear to be no parts of the Bulletin which are not wanted by at least part of the membership. The items which, it seems at first glance, members want to see least are the Officers' reports - and it will be noted that these are much shorter this year!

One major problem which has developed this year concerns circulation, particularly in America. We have taken interim measures which we hope will improve matters for the remainder of this year, and a major change in the system of record-keeping for members in N.America is planned before the next renewal date. All members have probably suffered late delivery of some issues. In part this resulted from overwork of Editors which should be reduced by the changes to be put to the AGM. The late despatch of the April issue was, in fact, due more to attempted economies in shipment than to editorial inefficiency!

I would like to end this report on a personal note. I have now been involved in the editing of the WSG Bulletin for 9 years - which is far too long for the health of either myself or the Bulletin. My previous attempt to escape was foiled when my co-opted potential replacement was promptly co-opted as Acting Chairman as well. However, this time I seem to have made it. I do not think I will miss the self-inflicted torture of flexible deadlines; evenings stretching almost till dawn battling with scissors and paste to finish page assembly (with the risk to my marriage arising from persuading my wife to do the last minute typing corrections); or even the attempts to anglicize the style of some articles when all too often I found my wording falling into broken English instead. I do, however, know how lucky I have been. Throughout all, I have had the support of the other officers of the group; I know now that not all editors are as fortunate. I wish the same blessing upon my successor. Good luck, Nick: you will need it!

M.W.Pienkowski

WADER STUDY GROUP ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE: DURHAM, U.K., 22-24 OCTOBER 1982

There is still time to book for this year's meeting which will be held at Durham School from the evening of Friday 22 October until Sunday 24 October. We are grateful to Peter Evans of Durham University for help in organisation. Accommodation has been arranged in newly refurbished dormitories in this boys' boarding school (during the boys' half-term holiday), so as to keep costs reasonably low but provide comfortable facilities. (If anyone who would like to attend feels unable to use such accommodation, please let us know on the enclosed booking form as soon as possible; it may prove possible to arrange accommodation for them with WSG members living locally or, if preferred but at more expense, in local hotels.)

The school is set in pleasant surroundings in the small, but historic, city of Durham. Those for whom wader discussions become too trying can walk the wooded banks of the River Wear or explore the Cathedral, the largest Norman building in Europe (or anywhere, for that matter). Those dedicated persons staying at the meeting will have the use of a well equipped lecture theatre and, for the important discussions, a room set aside as a bar.

The school has readily made arrangements to suit the varying needs of WSG members. A cold buffet will be provided, probably from about 19.30 onwards, on Friday evening to allow for various times of arrival, and almost any combination of periods of stay will be possible. Costs are as follows (Value Added Tax is included where appropriate).

Friday supper	£1-40	Saturday supper	£1-40
Friday-Saturday bed & breakfast	£4-60	Saturday-Sunday bed & breakfast	£4-60
Saturday lunch	£1-75	Sunday lunch	£1-75
Conference fee (to cover communal facilities and administration)			£2-00
		TOTAL	£17-50

The Annual General Meeting of the Wader Study Group will take place during the Conference but most of the programme will, as usual, be devoted to lectures and discussion. The programme is now in preparation. We hope to include talks and discussions on:

- Breeding Common Sandpipers and their food supply (Phil Holland);
- Breeding waders of the Yarrow Valley, South Scotland, and the effects of the cold winter (Bob Furness);
- The new WSG project on the effects of severe winter weather (Nick Davidson & Nigel Clark);
- The feeding of Oystercatchers under marginal circumstances (Meinte Engelmoer);
- Weight regulation of Oystercatchers and Turnstones in captivity and/or Energetic costs of locomotion of Turnstones on a treadmill (Marcel Kersten & Theunis Piersma);
- Wader research and the role of the IWRB research groups and the WSG (Cor Smit);
- Experiments on accuracy of shorebird counts in the Dutch Waddenzee (Kees Rappoldt);
- Changes in use of the Clyde Estuary by wader populations (Neil Metcalfe, Bob Furness, Hector Galbraith & Ian Gibson);
- Shorebird studies at Teesmouth (Peter Evans);
- Biometrics and migration system of Turnstones and/or Knot in the Dutch Waddenzee (Meinte Engelmoer);
- Survey of waders breeding on Scottish agricultural land (Hector Galbraith);
- Netherlands Wader Expedition to Morocco, spring 1982 (Marcel Kersten & Theunis Piersma);
- The Sanderling in southern Africa (Ron Summers).

A booking form for the meeting is enclosed with this issue and should be returned, as soon as possible and with payment (cheque to 'Wader Study Group') to M.W.Pienkowski, Dept. of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, UK. (Members from overseas may pay on arrival, but definite bookings are required in advance.)