

WADER STUDY GROUP

BULLETIN No. 36

DECEMBER 1982

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE, DURHAM, U.K., 23-24 OCTOBER 1982

The minutes of the AGM, and a report on other matters, will be published in the April 1983 Bulletin. Meanwhile, this note is to inform members of several important decisions taken by the AGM.

1. The new WSG committee and officers were elected without opposition. Details appear on the inside of the front cover of this Bulletin.
2. The AGM agreed that subscriptions should be £10 per year from 1 January 1983. Of 103 replies to the questionnaire, 81% favoured a subscription of £10 per year or more. (Members outside Europe wishing to receive the Bulletin by air mail must pay an additional charge of £3 per year.)

In proposing the new subscription, the treasurer explained that by the end of 1982 the Group would face a deficit of about £400. The Chairman and the Treasurer both drew attention to the many costs involved in producing the Bulletin besides the actual cost of printing, e.g. typing, photocopying, editors' postal and telephone, envelopes, adhesive address labels etc. Our present printing costs are reasonable and (most importantly) our printer is reliable, quick and efficient. However, should he increase his charges, we have received interesting information about several alternative printers and we shall not hesitate to change if it is in the interest of the Group that we should do so.

In addition to the cost of producing the Bulletin, WSG faces an increasing load of administrative costs relating to its projects and the colour marking register. We try hard to avoid passing on the costs of these to WSG members and aim to cover expenses by grants or within other schemes. Nevertheless we may be unable to avoid all expenses in future. We should also like to build up a small fund to meet urgent demands for specific important wader research projects to which we could perhaps give small grants or loans. Providing inflation does not increase, we hope to maintain the new subscription rate for several years.

3. Survey and monitoring of numbers of waders breeding in the Outer Hebrides.
Papers presented by R.Fuller and N.Buxton at the conference drew attention to the outstanding importance of the west coastal region of the Outer Hebrides for breeding waders (see also Bulletin 35:5). Proposals for extensive survey work during the summer of 1983, and the establishment of a monitoring programme, were agreed. WSG will be working closely with the Nature Conservancy Council and applying for grant aid to fund the project from several ornithological and other organisations.

G.H.GREEN
Chairman

NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Subscriptions for 1983 are now due and a renewal form is enclosed. Members may pay the subscription for one year (£10) or compound their subscription for three years (£30). Members wishing to receive the Bulletin by air mail must pay an additional £3 per year and this must be paid for three years if you compound your subscription.

If they wish, UK members may now pay by Bankers' Order - a form is included with the renewal form (if you compound your subscription, please do not use the Bankers order).

European members can pay by giro - details and giro number are given on the renewal form.

North American members can pay in dollars, and their subscription must now be sent directly to the Secretaries, Nigel and Jacque Clark, and NOT to Ted Miller in Canada. (More details about this change are given at the beginning of the North American section.)

The Rest of the World (and N. American and European members if they wish) can pay by Bankers' Draft in English pounds sterling, drawn on a British Bank. The sender must bear the cost of the transaction - WSG cannot afford to do so.

We face an overdraft in January 1983 (or sooner!) so please pay your subscriptions promptly!

WSG MEETING 1983

The Group has accepted the kind invitation of members in the Netherlands and Belgium to hold its 1983 meeting in the Delta area of Zeeland, SW Netherlands. Details have yet to be finalised, but the provisional dates for the meeting are 19 - 20 November 1983. The Delta is, of course, an extremely important area for wintering waders, and there are also some spectacular gatherings of ducks and geese at that time of year. We should also be able to see something of the study areas of WSG members, and the large engineering works concerned with the tidal surge barriers on the Eastern Scheldt estuary.

CORRECTIONS TO BULLETIN 35

Preliminary estimates of the number of waders wintering in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland

p.7, Table 1: total 30,016 - 31,387 should read 29,013 - 31,387.

Wader and Waterfowl counts in the International Wadden Sea Area: The Results of the 1981-1982 Season

Title: 1981-82 should read 1980-81.

p.15, Table 1: A.querquedula 391 should read 26; add A.clypeata 391.

p.16, Table 2: L.marinus 2970 should read 2940; A.clypeata 497 should read 771.

p.17, Table 4: C.canutus 8093 should read 8073.

Recent Recoveries of Waders Ringed in Britain and Ireland

p.23: Redshank FR24473 should appear as an Oystercatcher.