

WADER STUDY GROUP

The WADER STUDY GROUP (WSG) is an association of amateur and professional workers on the Charadrii (waders or shorebirds) from all parts of the world. By 1982, membership of the WSG was over 500 people, more than half of the members living in countries other than Britain (where the group was formed in 1970), and including people in the Americas, Asia, Africa and Australasia as well as Europe. North American members have their own section within the WSG. Interests of the Group have diversified from the original concentration on migration-related studies to embrace all aspects of research on waders, e.g. counts, breeding biology, feeding ecology and behaviour.

The aims of the WSG are to maintain contact between both amateur and professional individuals and groups studying waders; to help organise co-operative studies; and to provide a vehicle for exchange of information. The main means of achieving these aims is by publication of the Wader Study Group Bulletin (see below). WSG maintains contacts with many regional, national and international bodies interested in bird research and conservation, notably the International Waterfowl Research Bureau (IWRB), and often works alongside them in co-operative studies. The Group has also been involved in the organisation of expeditions to remote areas to fill gaps in the knowledge of waders. Projects co-ordinated by WSG have included studies of the spring migration of Siberian-breeding Knot through Europe and Africa, and of other species passing through western Europe. Current projects include a comprehensive assessment of the networks of coastal sites used by shorebirds in Western Europe in the non-breeding season; a large-scale investigation of spring migration through the Americas; a long-term monitoring of the usage of inland sites in Europe; and an investigation into the effects of severe winter weather in Europe. Most of these studies have immediate relevance to conservation as well as increasing basic understanding of wader biology. These comments also apply to the current WSG co-operative projects concerning breeding waders; two surveys of breeding wader distributions and densities in lowlands in England and Wales, and in Scotland; and an intensive study of similar matters in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland where rapid changes are being made, due to agricultural practices. WSG also co-ordinates (on behalf of several national authorities) the use on waders of colour-marks visible in the field, and attempts to forward sightings of these.

MEMBERSHIP of the WSG is open to all individuals or groups interested in waders and application forms can be obtained from the Secretaries, N. & J. Clark, Department of Zoology, University of Edinburgh, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JT, U.K. The subscription is mainly devoted to the cost of production and circulation of the Bulletin. The annual subscription is £10 (or US\$17 or Canadian \$21). Outside Europe, bulletins will be sent by airmail for a total subscription of £13 (or US\$22 or Canadian \$27). All cheques should be payable to "Wader Study Group" and must be in British, US or Canadian currency. Alternatively, payments may be made by bank giro (in English pounds) to Lloyds Bank Ltd., 7 Victoria Place, Haverfordwest, Dyfed SA61 23Z, UK (Bank sorting code no. 30-93-98), with reference to WSG account (no. 0095972). Please ensure that your name and initials appear on the transfer form and that an application form is sent directly to WSG. Persons with bank accounts in Britain may use the bankers order form provided with the application form.

The WADER STUDY GROUP BULLETIN provides a forum for news, notices, recent ringing recoveries, recent publications, new methods of catching and study, articles and preliminary or interim publication of results from all parts of the world. The editors try to maintain a balance of material ranging from newsletter, informal descriptions of research activities, meetings and expeditions to formal presentation of results or preliminary analyses.

The Bulletin appears three times per year, in April, August and December, the deadlines for copy being the first of February, June and October respectively, for notices, but articles must be received well before these dates. Articles, notes, papers, notices, obituaries, requests for information, books for review, reprints of papers and other items should be sent to the Editor, Dr. N. C. Davidson, Dept. of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, UK. Material relating to America may be sent to the editors of the N.American section (Dr. J. P. Myers, Vertebrate Biology, Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th and the Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, U.S.A.; and Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 1725 Woodward Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E7). Matters relating to the circulation of the Bulletin should be sent to the Secretaries (address above).

The Editors are always pleased to discuss possible contributions with potential authors, and to advise on presentation. Manuscripts should be typed or written clearly, well spaced on the page, leaving wide margins, and following the style and format of recent Bulletins. Pay particular attention to the style of headings and reference lists. Scientific names should appear at the first mention of each species or, if all species occur in a table, scientific names may be given there instead. Line illustrations and figures should be produced neatly in black ink on good quality white or tracing paper, with linear dimensions about 1.5 times intended publication size. These can then be used directly in printing. Lettering should be stencilled or by dry transfer (e.g. Letraset), and be at least 1.5mm high after final reduction. If stencil or dry transfer is not available, leave the original illustration unlabelled, and mark the required lettering on a separate copy. Please send original illustrations, and retain a copy in case of loss or damage in transit. It would be helpful if two copies of each manuscript could be submitted.

Publication of interim results in WSG Bulletin is not intended to pre-empt publication of final results as journal papers. Readers are requested to bear in mind that results and analyses published in WSG Bulletin may be of a preliminary nature and to take account of this if making reference to these articles in publications of their own. If editors of other publications wish to reprint items from WSG Bulletin with suitable acknowledgement, this can usually be arranged; the persons concerned should contact one of the WSG Editors.

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EDITOR:

N.C. Davidson Department of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, U.K.
(Tel: office 0385-64971 ext. 579; home 0207-520702).

ASSISTED BY :

G.H. Green Windy Ridge, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcs. WR10 3EW, U.K.
(Tel: home 038674-377; office 0905-25238)

Thanks for help in the production of this issue or the circulation of the last to Ann Perry, Ray Bishop, John McMeeking, Steve Carter, Harry Green, Nigel and Jacqui Clark, Mike and Ann Pienkowski, Sue Davidson and Mr. R. Davis of Lake Shore Graphics.

Deadlines for Bulletin 39 (December 1983)

All items should be received before 1 October 1983. Articles must be received well before 1 October to stand a reasonable chance of inclusion in the December issue.

NOTES:

IF YOU HAVE YET TO PAY YOUR 1983 SUBSCRIPTION, A FINAL REMINDER WILL BE ENCLOSED WITH THIS ISSUE. PLEASE PAY IMMEDIATELY - OTHERWISE YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL LAPSE.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO BOOK FOR THE WSG NOVEMBER MEETING: PLEASE RETURN THE BOOKING FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.