

BTO WADER CONFERENCE

in association with WSG

From 14-16 February 1986, the British Trust for Ornithology will be holding their biannual Spring Conference at the Hayes Conference Centre (Swanwick, Derbyshire). The title is **WADERS: THEIR BREEDING AND SURVIVAL STRATEGIES**. This is a conference aimed to bring both amateur and professional wader enthusiasts together to review research progress in recent years and to share some nuggets from innovative wader projects. In view of the strength of the WSG in Britain and the large number of WSG members who have been asked to contribute, the conference will officially be held 'in association with the WSG' - you may provide your own interpretation of this phrase, but it certainly promises many amicable hours in the bar!!

A total of 17 papers have been invited under three headings: Breeding Strategies, Migration Strategies and Survival in Winter. Although a high proportion of the 250 participants are expected to be British, wader-workers from the continent and further afield will be warmly welcomed.

A programme and booking form are available from the conference organisers: *Rob Fuller and Mike Moser (BTO, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts. UK.)*. The approximate cost of full board and lodging at the conference will be £35.

CANNON-NET MATERIAL FOR SALE

After much searching, the Wash Wader Ringing Group has managed to obtain a supply of netting suitable for cannon-nets. As a considerable quantity has had to be purchased to get the netting made, the group are anxious to sell netting surplus to their requirements.

A full-sized net (27.5m x 14m) costs £280. The Wash Wader Ringing Group is also prepared to sell half-sized nets (13.75m x 14m) at £150 each. Both prices are for netting only, and do not include carriage to the purchaser. VAT is included.

All enquiries should be made to *Phil Ireland, Wash Wader Ringing Group, 27 Hainfield Drive, Solihull, West Midlands B91 2PL, U.K.*

CORRECTION

In *Bulletin* 43, page 31, the area of 16. Biebrza Marshes should be c. 1000 km² and not c. 100 km². We apologise for our inadvertent apparent 'reclamation' of this very important wetland. Eds.

GHANA SIGNS BIRD PROTECTION AGREEMENT

The High Commissioner of Ghana in London, Kenneth Dadzie, has signed a joint agreement with the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) designed to "Save the Seashore Birds".

The Directors of both conservation organisations, Christoph Imboden of ICBP and Ian Presst of RSPB, took part in the signing ceremony at the High Commission on 11 June 1985. Earlier, the Agreement had been ratified by the Provisional National Defence Council of Ghana.

The Agreement is a conservation breakthrough because it is the first bilateral agreement to protect migratory birds on European/African flyways. The project is designed to protect shore birds that migrate between Britain and Ghana at both ends of their annual range. Of special concern is the Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* which has been declining drastically in Europe. Only 580 pairs bred last summer, mostly on British nature reserves.

The Agreement calls for the provision of training for Ghanaian personnel, equipment for surveys of wintering shore birds, and

conservation education materials. The programme will enhance the Ghanaian Government's existing conservation efforts. Endangered species such as marine turtles are also likely to benefit from the programme, as the people living along Ghana's 800 km coastline become involved in wildlife protection.

Training will start this summer and work on the ground is expected to have begun by the time the first terns reach Ghana in winter 1985/86.

As part of this conservation development project, research and survey work will be conducted to identify the key areas requiring immediate protection. The research work will be executed by staff members of the Ghanaian Wildlife and Game Department, but assistance from foreign volunteers is very welcome. ICBP/RSPB would be very pleased to learn if any members of the Wader Study Group are willing to assist in this project during winter 1985/86. More details can be obtained from ICBP Secretariat.

For further information contact: *Paul Goriup, ICBP, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, U.K. (Tel. 0223 277318)*.