

MINUTES OF THE WSG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, BALTIC YOUTH CENTRE, GDANSK, POLAND, 26 SEPTEMBER 1987

The Vice-Chairman, Dr. M.W.Pienkowski, chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chairman, G.H.Green. He welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies Apologies were received from the outgoing Chairman, G.H.Green, and from the Treasurer, S.J.Sutcliffe.

Minutes The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 13 September 1986 at Oatridge Agricultural College, Broxburn, Scotland (Bulletin 48:2) were accepted as a correct record.

Officer's Reports

Reports on the group's activities during 1986 by the Chairman, Membership Secretaries, Treasurer, Editor and Co-ordinator had been published previously (Bulletin 49: 3-6). The Vice-chairman drew particular attention to the publication of Breeding Waders in Europe compiled by Theunis Piersma which had been published as a supplement to Bulletin 48. He also drew attention to the publication of The Conservation of International Flyway Populations of Waders, published in 1987 as a supplement to Bulletin 49. This had resulted from the very successful workshop held as part of the 1986 WSG conference. The officers reports were accepted by the meeting.

Change in subscription rates

An increase in annual subscriptions from £10.00 to £12.00 for individuals and from £25.00 to £30.00 for institutions, to take effect from 1 January 1988, had been proposed by the Treasurer and Executive Committee. This was seconded by D. O'Connor and carried nem. con.

Election of officers and members of the Executive Committee

The Vice-chairman thanked Harry Green for his long and outstanding service as the Group's Chairman, and Nigel and Jacque Clark for their service as Membership Secretaries. There had been no further nominations following those of the Executive Committee published in Bulletin 49, and the following were therefore declared to have been elected:

Chairman	Dr. M.W.Pienkowski
Vice-chairman	Drs. Th.Piersma (also continuing as Co-ordinator)
General Secretary	Dr. S.R.Baillie
Membership Secretary	J.S.Kirby

Ordinary members of the Executive Committee:

D.Bredin  
P.L.Ireland  
P.Jonsson  
Dr. M.E.Moser  
Dr. J.P.Myers  
C.Thomas

Date and Venue of the next Annual General Meeting

It was agreed to hold the 1988 conference and Annual General Meeting in the south of England in September, on a date to be arranged later. It was hoped to hold the 1989 meeting in Denmark in conjunction with the Wader Ecology Workshop planned for October 1989.

No members wished to raise items under Any Other Business, and the Chairman therefore closed the meeting.

Stephen Baillie - General Secretary.

WADER STUDY GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, IPSWICH, U.K., 3 SEPTEMBER 1988

The Annual General Meeting of the Wader Study Group will be held during our annual conference at St.Joseph's College, Ipswich, Suffolk, U.K. on Saturday 3 September 1988 at 0900 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM, held on 26 September 1987 at the Baltic Youth Centre, Gdansk, Poland (Bulletin 52: 2).
3. Chairman's Report
4. Membership Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Editor's Report
7. Co-ordinator's Report
8. Election of officers and members of the Executive Committee. The Editor, Dr. N.C.Davidson, and the Treasurer, S.J.Sutcliffe complete their terms of office this year as do committee members H.Hotker, H.Galbraith and W.J.A.Dick. The General Secretary, Dr. S.R.Baillie, has indicated that he will be unable to continue in office

after this year's AGM. Last year Drs. Th. Piersma took on the role of Vice-chairman while still continuing as Co-ordinator. The Executive Committee now propose the appointment of a new Co-ordinator. The Executive Committee therefore propose the election of the following officers:

General Secretary	P.L.Ireland
Editor	Dr. N.C.Davidson
Co-ordinator	H.Hotker
Treasurer	S.J.Sutcliffe

Six additional ordinary members of the Executive Committee were elected last year, and therefore the Executive Committee do not propose the election of any further members this year. No officers or Executive Committee members are due to retire next year, and the election of some further members of the Executive Committee next year would give a better spread of elections than at present.

Alternative nominations for the officers listed above and for ordinary members of the Executive Committee may be made by any members of the Wader Study Group. Nominations must be signed by a proposer and a seconder and must include a signed statement by the candidate that they are

willing to stand. All these people must be paid up members of the Wader Study Group. Nominations should be sent to the General Secretary, Dr. S.R. Baillie to arrive by Friday 26 August 1988.

Stephen Baillie - General Secretary

#### OFFICERS' REPORTS FOR 1987

##### Chairman's Report

The year 1987 was an eventful one for the Group, with many achievements and some problems. Following Breeding Waders in Europe, the second special supplement to the Bulletin was produced, this being the volume on International Flyway Populations of Waders resulting from the symposium at our 1986 conference. The strain of producing two major supplements in less than one year have told on our hard-working editorial team - who also have had high priority and time-consuming tasks on wader conservation in each of their professional lives in 1987. This resulted in the "December 1987" Bulletin breaking records for lateness. Your officers are extremely concerned at this, and plans have been made to restore the proper schedule within 1988.

I should not overlook the progress that has been made on other aspects of the Bulletin during the year, with improvements to the type-face and print quality, a more convenient and attractive type of binding and lively illustrations. Progress is not limited to the packaging, and a wide variety of papers, reports, reviews, notes and news have appeared, and in increased quantity. Looking back from issue 50 in August, the steady progress from the cyclostyled news-sheet, which was the Bulletin's form for its first few years, is especially satisfying. This is particularly so in that the wide mix of type of items has been retained throughout.

At the Annual General Meeting, the terms of office of the Chairman, Harry Green, and the Membership Secretaries, Nigel and Jacquie Clark, came to an end. The Group is very grateful for all their efforts, especially those behind the scenes. Nigel and Jacquie had been responsible, amongst other things, for computerising the membership records, and thus making life easier for their successors. Harry Green's involvement with the Group has been long and crucial; a note of thanks appeared in the December Bulletin.

In putting forward nominations for officers, the Executive Committee is always concerned that there may be members not well known to individual committee members whose talents and enthusiasm are being overlooked. There are a great many tasks which need doing for the Group to function. These require varying types of skills and different time commitments. Not all are elected posts, and assistance is always welcome in many of the tasks. I would urge any member who would like to help in any way (even if he or she does not know what way this would be) to write to or telephone myself or one of the other officers to explore possibilities.

I think that none of those who were fortunate enough to be present would criticise my describing the highlight of the year as the conference in Gdansk. This was notable in so many ways, that I can best point to the reports in the December Bulletin as a summary. The contacts made and friendships strengthened

will, I am sure, enhance the Group's activities, and wader studies generally, for many years to come.

M. W. Pienkowski

##### Membership Secretary's Report

Membership of the group showed a net increase of 48 members in 1987, higher than for a number of years. Most new members were from Europe with little or no net change of membership in Britain and Ireland, the New World or the rest of the world. The WSG annual meeting in Gdansk resulted in 3 new members from Poland, 3 from the USSR and 4 from the German Democratic Republic, an increase in membership of 80%, 43% and 38% from those countries, respectively. The WSG grows from strength to strength.

##### WSG Membership 31 December 1987

	Continuing	New	Leaving	Net Change
Britain and Ireland	215	14	10	+4
Rest of Europe	212	48	10	+38
New World	85	9	9	0
Rest of World	27	8	2	+6
Total	539	79	31	+48

J.S. Kirby

##### Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the years to 31 December 1987 record a surplus of £1087 which is a satisfactory situation given the healthy surplus accumulated during the past five years or so. The special publications sent to members during 1987 are the result of a positive decision by the Executive Committee to take every opportunity to provide additional information to the membership. A 50 issue index currently being prepared by Arjo Bunscoe and due for publication during late 1988 is another example.

The several special funds which are incorporated in the Accumulated Fund (see Notes) represent £3575 of the total of £10,623 so that there remains over £7,000 of general reserves carried forward into 1988. The subscription increase to £12 this year will consolidate this reserve for several years to come and so the Group remains in a sound financial situation.

S.J. Sutcliffe

##### Editor's Report

The *Wader Study Group Bulletin* is the main medium through which the Group maintains contact and spreads information. Therefore it is pleasing to report that, from the yardstick of the *Bulletin*, the Group goes from strength to strength. In 1986, members received a record 242 pages of *Wader Study Group Bulletin*. This comprised 126 pages of *Bulletins*, with a further 116 pages of the *Breeding Waders in Europe* supplement to the December 1986 issue. In 1987 we have exceeded even this substantial increase in material: the 1987 *Bulletins* of 44, 54 and 76 pages produced a total of 174 pages. In addition, we published, in association with the

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 1987

<u>Receipts</u>	1986	1987
Subscriptions	5142	4742
Interest received	577	627
Colour marking register income (Note 2)	22	52
1987 Conference - Income (Note 4)	688	2548
(Costs)	819 (131)	(2209)
Hebrides project - Grants received (Note 1)	1200	2200
Sale of back bulletins	315	74
Profit on sale of car stickers	23	30
Sale of publications (including grant of £740)	1888	35
Sale of cannons (Note 3)	250	200
Miscellaneous	30	-
(A) TOTAL INCOME	£9316	£8349
<u>Deduct Expenses</u>		
Bulletin costs - printing (Note 5)	1892	2259
envelopes, paper etc.	36	61
typing	185	165
postage	1396	1088
editorial expenses	240	705
Secretarial costs and miscellaneous	168	234
Coordinator's costs	339	98
Colour-marking Register costs	10	67
Hebrides project costs	1030	1247
Cost of special publications	2451	89
Bank charges	-	30
Depreciation of micro computer and printers	482	282
(B) TOTAL EXPENSES	£8229	£6325
Excess of Income over Expenditure (A)-(B)	£1087	£2024

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1987

	1986	1987
<u>Accumulated Fund</u>		
Balance as at 1 January 1987	9536	7512
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	1087	2024
	£10623	£9536
<u>Represented by</u>		
<u>Assets</u> - Micro-computer and printers (Net after subtracting depreciation)	1081	563
Cash in bank, on deposit and in hand	10361	13742
Debtors	570	465
	12012	14770
<u>Deduct</u> - Creditors (liabilities)	(1295)	(5027)
Subscriptions in Advance	(94)	(207)
	£10623	£9536

Notes

- (1) Hebrides Fund - The income received during the period 1983-1987 inclusive exceeds the expenditure by a total of £2547 which is reserved to cover field expenses during 1988 and report publications.
- (2) The Colour-marking Register now shows a surplus of £254.
- (3) The Cannon Net fund now amounts to £774.
- (4) 1987 Conference income and costs shown represent only part of the income and expenditure which was organised in Germany and Holland. Any adjustment necessary, when all the details are to hand, will be shown in the 1988 accounts.
- (5) The printing and postage costs of the December 1987 Bulletin, which was not posted until May 1988, are not included in the accounts.
- (6) No account has been taken of stocks of publications held and remaining unsold.

International Waterfowl Research Bureau, the 151 page *The Conservation of International Flyway Populations of Waders* as a supplement to the April 1987 issue. So for 1987 members received a massive 325 pages of, we hope interesting, reading matter.

*The Conservation of International Flyway Populations of Waders* is the expanded proceedings of the workshop of the same name held during the 1986 annual meeting in Edinburgh. The editing and production of this supplement, closely following the production of *Breeding Waders in Europe*, as well as producing ordinary *Bulletins*, proved a gigantic task. Nevertheless, thanks to the considerable efforts of the Assistant Editors, David and Judy Stroud, the supplement was printed on schedule, before the Ramsar Convention meeting at Regina, Canada in May 1987. Regrettably, for reasons outside our control, we gather that very few copies of the issue reached Regina in time. However we believe that the supplement will continue to help in its broader objective, that of drawing together the current state of information on flyway populations of waders and the measures to conserve them.

Publication delays have continued to keep harassed editors even more harassed. As ever, these have arisen for a multitude of reasons. Increasing problems in the quality and reliability of printing meant that we were forced to change our printer before the December issue. With the change in printer, we have taken the opportunity of improving the quality of the paper on which the *Bulletin* is printed, so that the print shows through less. This, coupled with the improvements to the type-face introduced with the supplements, and with the April 1987 issue, make the *Bulletin* much easier to read.

For some time we have been aiming to expand the editorial team so as to spread the increasing workload of editing and preparing a *Bulletin*, and to provide cover for the increasing work pressures of the Editors. Work pressures have enforced a number of changes to the team during the year: Mike Moser's need to concentrate on his recent appointment as Director of the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau means that he has resigned from his role as an Assistant Editor. Both our long-time New World Editors, Guy Morrison and Pete Myers, have felt the need for a change and have relinquished their role of encouraging and preparing New World contributions. My great thanks to all three outgoing Editors for giving their valuable time to the sometimes onerous task of *Bulletin* editing, and for their considerable contributions over the years. In their place it is a pleasure to welcome to the team as New World Editors Greg Ruiz of Friday Harbor Laboratories and Peter Hicklin of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

The production and style of the *Bulletin* have undergone substantial changes and improvements, and the editorial team has been about as mobile as most waders. Our major aims now are to bring production back onto schedule, and to maintain the high quality and variety of contributions. WSG depends on and exists for its members, so please keep us informed about all your activities, thoughts, results and ideas: there is a place for everything in the *Bulletin*.

N.C. Davidson

#### Co-ordinator's Report

In 1987 a start was made with the detailed analysis of data on wader migration collected during the "International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic flyway" project in 1985 and 1986. In February, researchers from France, Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands assembled behind the computer of the University of Groningen for a first, and productive, workshop on Siberian Knots (see WSG Bull. 49: 9-10). A paper on the current population levels, distribution and migrations of coastal waders along the East Atlantic flyway was prepared jointly with C.J. Smit, international co-ordinator of IWRB's Wader Research Group. The paper was presented at the Ramsar conference held in Regina, Canada in May/June 1987, where the WSG was represented (see WSG Bull. 51: 10-14). Brett Lane's long stay in Europe in the summer of 1987 contributed greatly to the establishment of firmer contacts between WSG and the Australasian Wader Studies Group. The 1987 Annual Meeting in Gdansk in Poland, made possible a lot of new contacts with colleagues from the eastern European countries. The interest in wader studies is clearly also growing in other parts of the world. The increasing number of requests for membership especially from Asia and South America is encouraging, and helps to broaden the scope of wader studies.

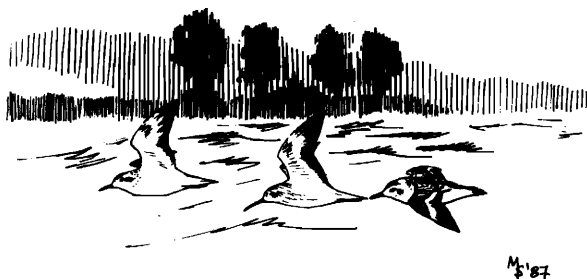
Theunis Piersma

#### LIST OF PUBLICATIONS FOR 1987

This list includes all publications concerning Wader Study Group Projects and also studies which have used the WSG Ringing Data Archive or extensive reports from the WSG Colour Marking Register.

- Davidson, N.C. and Pienkowski, M.W. (eds.) 1987. *The Conservation of International Flyway Populations of Waders*. Wader Study Group Bull. 49, Suppl./IWRB Special Publ. 7. Peterborough. 151 pages.
- Davidson, N.C., and Piersma, T. 1987. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic flyway: news from Spring 1987. Wader Study Group Bull. 50: 5-6.
- Davidson, N.C. and Piersma, T. 1987. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic flyway: plans for spring 1988. Wader Study Group Bull. 51: 5-7.
- Dick, W.J.A., Piersma, T. and Prokosch, P. 1987. Spring migration of the Siberian Knots *Calidris canutus canutus*: results of a co-operative Wader Study Group project. *Ornis Scand.* 18: 5-16.
- Dubois, P.J. 1987. WSG international project on Black-winged Stilts: second progress report. Wader Study Group Bull. 49: 27-28.
- Fuller, R.J. 1987. WSG surveys of breeding waders in the Outer Hebrides, 1986. Wader Study Group Bull. 49: 8.

- Fuller, R.J., Reed, T.M., Buxton, N.E., Webb, A., Williams, T.D. and Pienkowski, M.W. 1986. Populations of breeding waders Charadrii and their habitats on the crofting lands of the Outer Hebrides, Scotland. *Biol. Cons.* 37: 333-361.
- Langston, R. 1987. Spring passage of Knots through northern Norway. P. 39 in Branson, N.J.B.A. (ed.) *Wash Wader Ringing Group Report 1985-86*.
- Moser, M.E. and Summers, R.W. 1987. Wader populations on the non-estuarine coasts of Britain and Northern Ireland: results of the 1984-85 Winter Shorebird Count. *Bird Study* 34: 71-81.
- OAG Munster. 1987. The timing of autumn migration of some wader species in inland Europe: provisional results. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 50: 7-16.
- Piersma, T. 1987. Breeding waders in Europe. Pp. 92-93 in Davidson, N.C. and Pienkowski, M.W. (eds.) *The Conservation of International Flyway Populations of Waders*. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 49, Suppl./IWRB Special Publ. 7. Peterborough.
- Piersma, T. 1987. Greidefugels en oare briedende steltridders yn Fryslan en de rest fan Europa. [Meadowbirds and other waders in Friesland and the rest of Europe.] *Vanellus* 40: 5-8.
- Piersma, T. 1987. Puzzelen aan Kanoeten-trek problemen. [Puzzling Knot-migration problems.] *Limosa* 60: 101-102.
- Piersma, T., Beintema, A.J., Davidson, N.C., OAG Munster and Pienkowski, M.W. 1987. Wader migration systems in the East Atlantic. Pp. 35-56 in Davidson, N.C. and Pienkowski, M.W. (eds.) *The Conservation of International Flyway Populations of Waders*. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 49, Suppl./IWRB Special Publ. 7. Peterborough.
- Piersma, T., Bredin, D. and Prokosch P. 1987. Continuing mysteries of the spring migration of Siberian Knots: a progress note. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 49: 9-10.
- Prys-Jones, R.P. 1987. Movement patterns of Turnstone through Britain revealed by the West Coast Spring Passage Project. (Abstract). *Wader Study Group Bull.* 51: 22.
- Smith, K. 1987. Monitoring breeding waders. *BTO News* 149: 3.
- Utley, J.D., Thomas, C.J., Davidson, N.C., Strann, K-B. and Evans, P.R. 1987. The spring migration system of nearctic Knots *Calidris canutus islandica*: a re appraisal. Pp. 80-84 in Davidson, N.C. and Pienkowski, M.W. (eds.) *The Conservation of International Flyway Populations of Waders*. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 49, Suppl./IWRB Special Publ. 7. Peterborough.



## WADER STUDY GROUP ANNUAL MEETING, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK, UK, 2-4 SEPTEMBER 1988

The 1988 Wader Study Group Annual Conference will take place from Friday 2 September to Sunday 4 September 1988 at St. Joseph's College situated in south-west Ipswich. The meeting will be organised by staff from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) and Landguard Bird Observatory, two organisations active in wader research and conservation. Delegates are advised to arrive on Friday. Dinner will be at 1930 hrs and will be followed by an informal slide show by the SWT entitled "An introduction to Suffolk's birdlife". As in previous years, the formal part of the meeting will begin with the AGM on Saturday morning (3 September), and will be followed by a series of general talks on various aspects of wader biology. Saturday evening will be devoted to informal discussion and there will be a bar available. Further talks will take place on Sunday morning, with field trips to nearby Suffolk estuaries on Sunday afternoon. The field trips will end at 1600 hrs and this will mark the end of the conference.

### Travel arrangements

The registration desk at the College will be open from 1700 hrs on Friday 2 September and delegates are advised to arrive shortly after then. St. Joseph's College (Birkfield, Belfield Road) is situated in the south-west of Ipswich approximately 1 mile south of the railway station and 1 mile north of the A45 southern by-pass. If arriving by car, the college should be approached by the A45 turning north at the A137 junction into south Ipswich. If arriving by sea, either from the ports of Harwich or Felixstowe, Ipswich can be reached by train, bus or car within half to one hour. If you wish to be collected from either ferry port or the railway station then please indicate this on the booking form. Please see the maps below for further details.

### Food and accomodation

The college can accomodate up to 120 people, occupying 54 single rooms and numerous other rooms with 3 or 4 beds. Please indicate on the booking form if you are unwilling to share a