

WADER STUDY GROUP

BULLETIN 54

DECEMBER 1988

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1989

Subscriptions for 1989 are now due and remain at the same basic rate as in 1988. Hence please complete and return the enclosed renewal form together with your payment at your earliest convenience. Such prompt payment of subscriptions makes the membership secretary's task somewhat easier and reduces the Group's administrative costs. It also means that you won't be pestered with reminders!

For members with a British bank account, we encourage payment by Banker's Order. A Banker's order form appears on the enclosed renewal form.

MINUTES OF THE WSG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, IPSWICH, U.K., 3 SEPTEMBER 1988

Apologies

Apologies were received from Dr. M.E.Moser.

Minutes

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 26 September 1987 at The Baltic Youth Centre, Gdansk, Poland (Bulletin 52:2) were accepted as a correct record.

Officer's Reports

Reports on the group's activities during 1987 by the Chairman, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Editor and Co-ordinator had been published previously (Bulletin 52: 2-6). Each of these officers outlined the salient features of their reports.

The Chairman, Dr. M.W.Pienkowski, drew attention to the publication during 1987 of the important volume on The Conservation of International Flyway Populations of Waders (Supplement to Bulletin 49) which had resulted from the symposium at the 1986 conference. Work on this supplement contributed to delays in the normal schedule of Bulletin publication, for which he apologised. Another important event was the very successful annual conference held in Gdansk, Poland. There is always a need for more members to help with the running of the group, either through membership of the Executive Committee or in other ways. The Chairman encouraged members to make nominations for the Executive Committee and to offer to help with other aspects of the work of the group.

The Membership Secretary, J.S.Kirby, reported a welcome net increase of 48 members during 1987. A few members had reported postal delays in the delivery of their Bulletins relative to other members whose Bulletins were posted at the same time. Jeff Kirby explained that all Bulletins were posted at the same time, and asked any other members who had experienced such delays to let him know so that the matter could be investigated.

The Treasurer, S.J.Sutcliffe, stated that the surplus in the accounts for 1987 would have been a slight deficit if publication costs of

ERROR IN MAILING BULLETIN 53

It is conceivable that some members received a second copy of *Bulletin 52* (April 1988) instead of *Bulletin 53* (August 1988) during the mailing of the latter in early October 1988. If this happened to you, and you have not already returned the surplus *Bulletin 52* and received your issue of *Bulletin 53*, then please return your surplus copy of *Bulletin 52* to the Membership Secretary, WSG, PO Box 247, Tring, Herts., HP23 5SN, UK.

We must apologise profusely for this mistake, which happened whilst enthusiastically trying to get the *Bulletin* to you as rapidly as possible. We will endeavour to do better in the future!

the delayed December 1987 Bulletin had been paid during the financial year. He anticipated that over the next three years income would be just sufficient to balance expenditure. Steve Sutcliffe reminded European members that the best way to pay their subscriptions was by Post Office Giro or Eurocheque. If other methods were used WSG received only about half the full amount due to bank charges.

The Editor, Dr. N.C.Davidson, apologised for delays in the publication of recent Bulletins, and was pleased to report that publication was almost back on schedule. He had with him the final proofs of the August 1988 Bulletin, which was now at the printers. Nick Davidson encouraged members to submit more material for the Bulletin, and asked for more volunteers to assist the hard-pressed editorial team.

The outgoing Co-ordinator, Drs. Th. Piersma, reported that good progress had been made with a number of WSG projects during the year. He drew particular attention to the project on "International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway", which involved the integration of results from a number of groups and individuals that were working on this topic. A successful workshop to review the data on Siberian Knots had been held during the year, and it was hoped the collaborative efforts to analyse the data for other species would follow.

There were no questions on the officer's reports which were accepted by the meeting.

Election of officers

The Chairman thanked outgoing committee members Dr.H. Galbraith and W.J.A. Dick for their service to the group. Hector Galbraith had organised the colour marking register for several years, and had recently developed proposals for its future operation which the Executive Committee hoped to implement shortly. William Dick had played a particularly important role in the reorganisation of the Group and in the establishment of the Advisory Panel a few years ago. The Chairman also thanked the outgoing General Secretary, Dr. S.R.Baillie, for his contribution to the