



WADER STUDY GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, RIBE, DENMARK,
23 SEPTEMBER 1989

The Annual General Meeting of the Wader Study Group will be held during our annual conference at Ribe, Denmark on Saturday 23 September 1989 at 0900 hours.

AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of the last AGM, held on 3 September 1988 at St. Joseph's College, Ipswich, Suffolk, UK (*Bulletin* 54: 1).
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Membership Secretary's Report.
5. Treasurer's Report.
6. Editor's Report.
7. Co-ordinator's Report.
8. No Officers complete their term of office this year. Hence there is no election of officers this year. Similarly there are no ordinary members of the Executive Committee who finish their term of office this year and the Executive Committee do not propose the election of any further members this year.

Although the Executive Committee do not propose to increase the size of the Committee this year, they will be pleased to hear from persons wanting to assist with the running of the Wader Study Group. If you are interested in helping in this way please write to the General Secretary.

9. Any other business.

P.L. Ireland, General Secretary

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Chairman's report

A major feature of each year is the annual conference, which seems to go from strength to strength. In 1988 our hosts were the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The organisation and friendly hospitality at Ipswich were superb - providing an atmosphere which allowed a great deal of progress on the co-operative ventures which are fostered by successful meetings.

Generally, 1988 was a year of consolidation for the Group, rather than one of major innovations. Your Officers are concerned to ensure that the Group does not take on more responsibilities than it can handle. This is always a potential problem for societies dependent upon the voluntary efforts of its members. In its meeting before the Ipswich conference, the Executive Committee started a review of current activities in order to ensure that these were able to be undertaken satisfactorily and/or completed, as appropriate. Clearly, in doing so, not all activities could be addressed at once. In 1988 (and the start of 1989), significant progress has been made on several activities, some of which are outlined below.

The very success of the WSG Colour-marking Register has given rise to one of our challenges of longest standing. This is because the scale of demand is such that totally amateur effort is no longer sufficient to cope. We are now well on the way to establishing the long-term future of this important function, and more details will be appearing progressively in the *Bulletin*. We received an unexpected setback by a sudden reassessment by the temporary marks co-ordinator that he was no longer able to continue but, despite this, major progress has been made by concentrating on the larger element, the handling of permanent marks.

The major and long-running study, organised at Munster, on inland wader migration was summarised in a major report in the *Bulletin* late in 1987; this also allowed targetting of those gaps which need filling in future work. The formal reports on the WSG project on the exceptional breeding concentrations of waders in the Scottish Hebrides have been completed, and further analyses to make use of the large data-set are underway. The major analyses of the WSG/Birds of Estuaries Enquiry spring migration project are also advancing well.

The Editors have made stalwart efforts to catch up with the publication schedule, with considerable success. There are good prospects of completing the process in 1989.

All this depends on you, the Group members. WSG has no other resource. At the AGM, the terms of office of William Dick and Hector Galbraith ended. Hector, apart from being a leading light in surveys of breeding waders organised for WSG and others, has also served a term in the thankless but vital task of colour-marking co-ordinator. William, a member of the Group from its earliest days, had played a crucial role in the rejuvenation of the Group in the late 1970s and was the first holder of the post of Co-ordinator of the Advisory Panel. Stephen Baillie felt it necessary to retire from the role of General Secretary because of change in his professional circumstances and time available. Stephen has played a major part in putting the organisation of the Group on a level to match its expanded current role. I would like to add my personal thanks for Stephen's continued help in carrying through, after his retirement from office, many of the initiatives already in hand.

Last year I stressed the need for members who are willing to take on any level of duties for the Group to make themselves known to me or another member of the Committee. This continues as those fulfilling roles at present move on to other things, and as new needs arise. Therefore, I repeat this request: there are a great many tasks which need to be undertaken if the Group is to function. These require varying types of skills and different time commitments. Not all are elected posts. Do please contact any of the Officers for a chat if you think you might be able to help, even if you have no idea in what capacity!

M.W. Pienkowski

Membership Secretary's Report

Membership of the Group showed a substantial though exaggerated decrease during 1988. This resulted mainly from the removal from the membership database persons who had resigned some time ago but whose names had remained on the computer listing. The Group is likely to see a healthy increase in membership during 1989 as new reciprocal membership arrangements between WSG and AWSG in 1988 are expected to increase the Group's membership in Australasia.

WSG membership -31 December 1988

	Continuing		New	Leaving	Net Change
Britain & Ireland	212	12	17		-5
Rest of Europe	202	22	58		-36
New World	86	6	8		-2
Rest of World	29	6	6		0
Totals	529	46	89		-43

A more detailed summary of the current membership is provided below. The figures represent the number of current subscriptions to the group, including both individual members and institutions. This should enable future trends in the Group's membership to be monitored more closely.

WSG Membership - 31 December 1988

UK	212	Norway	8
USA	58	Italy	7
The Netherlands	54	Portugal	6
FR Germany	29	South Africa	6
Canada	26	Brazil	4
France	15	Austria	3
Spain	15	New Zealand	3
Belgium	14	Pakistan	3
Sweden	14	Switzerland	3
Denmark	13	Yugoslavia	3
German DR	11	Bulgaria	2
Poland	11	Chile	2
USSR	11	China	2
Ireland	10	Japan	2
Australia	8	Malaysia	2

In addition, the following countries each have one member:

Argentina, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Phillipines, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

J.S. Kirby

Treasurer's Report

For the first time in many years the Group had a surplus of Expenditure over Income in 1988. Increased costs were expected as secretarial services and membership register maintenance were absorbed. We can expect some further increases in these costs in the next two years.

The other major change in costs has been in the increased cost of *Bulletin* printing but this has in the main been due to a series of larger *Bulletins*. This is in line with the officer's decision to try to publish as much of the appropriate material received as possible. The December 1988 *Bulletin* was not printed and distributed until well into the New Year and is excluded from the costs.

It is somewhat disappointing that the 1988 conference made a fairly substantial loss and steps will be taken to try to minimise such costs in the future. It is notoriously difficult to fix costs several months in advance, and the Group attempts to keep the costs of such conferences as low as possible.

The Group remains in a good financial situation but with its officers being in full time employment and needing all the help they can get there will be some additional computer expenditure in 1989 to try to somewhat ease the load. There is no immediate need to review subscription rates further and a forward look during 1989 will help the *Bulletin* editors to balance production costs against the Group's income for at least a few years.

S.J. Sutcliffe

Editor's Report

The healthy state of contributions to the *Bulletin* continues, with the issues for 1988 containing a wide range of articles and papers from most parts of the world in which waders occur. The three *Bulletin* issues contained 43, 31 and 69 pages respectively: a total of 143 pages which, although slightly less than the record number of 174 in 1987, was considerably more than in 1986. It is particularly pleasing to be able to note the enlargement of the New World Section under the guidance of its two editors appointed in 1986, Peter Hicklin and Greg Ruiz. The Notes and News section is proving a useful forum for reporting a wide range of issues and information, and we would like to expand this to provide a topical means of publicising anything to do with waders, and especially the current activities of members. *WSG Bulletin* serves as the main means of contact between members, so do keep us informed of your interests, research and observations.

It is less pleasing to report that despite valiant efforts to bring the *Bulletins* back on schedule, there were again delays. Nevertheless, the August *Bulletin* reached our printers almost on schedule. To prove, however, that there is always a new source of delay just when we thought that we had found them all, a mailing error for this *Bulletin* resulted in a startled part of the membership in Britain receiving a second copy of the April *Bulletin*. A major priority for 1989 is again to bring publication back onto schedule.

We have now reached a style for the *Bulletin* which we think gives an attractive and readable appearance, and we do not plan any substantial changes for the immediate future. One change in the production system brought into effect at the end of 1988 was the purchase of a new computer. This has some important future consequences. It was agreed in late 1988 to transfer one of the two BBC computers used for *Bulletin* preparation to the Membership Secretary, to increase the efficiency of maintaining the membership records. (A first product of this transfer was the inclusion in the December 1988 *Bulletin* of a full membership list.) To replace this computer we have taken the opportunity of acquiring an IBM-PC compatible desk-top computer. We are currently setting up this machine, and will shortly be able to accept machine-readable text from IBM-compatible computer software. We will give more information about this in future *Bulletins*. We intend that we will gradually phase out use of BBC computers in *Bulletin* production, and change to more versatile and widely-used IBM-compatible systems as time and

Receipts and Expenditure Account for the Year to 31 December 1988

<u>Receipts:</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>
Subscriptions	5277	5142
Interest Received	589	577
Colour-marking Register Income	-	22
1988 Conference - Income	3080	688
(Expenses)	(3576)	(819)
Hebrides Project <i>Note 1</i>	100	1200
Sale of Back Bulletins	362	315
Sale of Other Publications	174	1888
Profit on Sale of Car Stickers	34	23
Sale of Catching Equipment <i>Note 2</i>	-	250
Miscellaneous	-	30
TOTAL INCOME	£6040	£9316

Deduct Expenses:

Bulletin Costs - Printing <i>Note 3</i>	3685	1892
Envelopes etc.	106	36
Typing	255	185
Postages <i>Note 4</i>	688	1396
Editorial Expenses	193	240
Secretarial Costs & Miscellaneous	1133	168
Co-ordinator's Costs	-	339
Colour-marking Register Costs	-	10
Hebrides Project Costs	53	1030
Cost of Special Publications	-	2451
Bank Charges	4	-
Depreciation of Micro-computers and Printers	482	482
TOTAL EXPENSES	£6599	£8229
Excess of Expenditure over Income (1987 surplus)	£559	£1087

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1988

<u>Accumulated Fund</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>
Balance as at 1 January 1988	10623	9536
Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	(559)	1087
	£10064	£10623

Represented by:

<u>Assets</u> - Micro-computers and Printers (Net after deducting depreciation)	1701	1081
Cash at Bank, on Deposit and In Hand	9703	10361
Debtors	54	570
	11458	12012
<u>Deduct</u> - Creditors	(1252)	(1295)
Subscriptions in Advance	(142)	(94)
	£10064	£10623

Notes:

- The Hebrides Fund now stands at £2647 which is reserved in the accumulated fund for future work on the islands.
- The Cannon Net Fund now stands at £774.
- Printing costs increased greatly in 1988 partly due to the Group's decision to increase the size of the *Bulletin* and partly due to a change of printer.
- The cost of postage for *Bulletin* distribution has not reduced: it is in part absorbed by the Secretarial Expenses of which postages, including postage of *Bulletins*, are a major item.
- Co-ordinator's costs for 1988 have not been advised.

resources allow. I should stress, however, that we are still happy to accept material in BBC-readable format and have no immediate plans to discontinue this.

N.C. Davidson

Co-ordinator's Report

During June/July 1988, the old Co-ordinator contributed to a draft summary of the status and migration of waders along the East Atlantic flyway. This is co-authored by C.J. Smit (Old World co-ordinator of IWRB Wader Research Group) and will be published in the proceedings of the flyway workshop at the Ramsar conference in Regina, Canada (1987). In addition, limited progress was made with the evaluation of the information collected during the WSG project on the spring migration of waders along the East Atlantic flyway.

The activities of the new Co-ordinator in 1988 were restricted to the last third of the year. The healthy state of the Group with a number of well running projects did not require any special and urgent efforts to be undertaken by the Co-ordinator, so there was time for planning future actions.

A substantial part of the work in 1988 was devoted to the initial organisation for some of the WSG meetings for the next few years. During the next WSG conference, which will be held jointly with the IWRB/WSG feeding ecology workshop at Ribe in Denmark, there will be a workshop on waders breeding on wet meadows. Plans for this workshop had already begun in autumn 1988.

The highly successful WSG conference in Gdansk, Poland in 1988 produced many new contacts between wader researchers in Eastern and Western European countries. For this and many other reasons the Gdansk meeting was probably one of the most remarkable conferences ever held by WSG. The great success of this conference has encouraged us to try to organise another conference in an Eastern European country during the next few years. Efforts are being made also to hold one of the next conferences in the Mediterranean area.

Another theme with which a new Co-ordinator is confronted is the WSG advisory panel. The old and the new Co-ordinators have summarised their thoughts about the functioning of this body in the following text. We invite discussion and comments on these Draft Guidelines.

Hermann Hotker & Theunis Piersma

DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE ADVISORY PANEL OF THE WADER STUDY GROUP

1. The aims and the tasks of the Advisory Panel

Advisory Panel members should ideally act as intermediaries between the officers of the Wader Study Group (who for technical reasons are often concentrated in specific regions - mostly NW Europe at present - and represent specific professions, mostly biologists) and the more diverse membership of the Group. This means that Panel members should be prepared to catalyse enquiries in two directions: firstly from WSG members or other wader researchers to the Executive Committee of the WSG; and secondly, *vice versa* from the Executive Committee to the membership. The process includes the following activities:

- 1.1. panel members should act as initial consultants for people who want to start WSG (and other related) projects.
- 1.2. Panel members should act as agents for existing WSG projects. They should actively promote these projects in their regions or specific fields of activity.
- 1.3. Panel members should promote the WSG in their regions or specific fields of activity. This means for example that they should inform potential members about the Group and try to arrange contacts between the WSG and wader researchers outside WSG.
- 1.4. Panel members should report to the Co-ordinator any specific needs for projects or any actions that they wish to be undertaken by WSG.
- 1.5. Panel members should act as monitors of the work of the Executive Committee. To assist the Executive Committee, Panel members should provide a regular feedback on its actions and decisions. Panel members should also suggest improvements in the functioning of the Executive Committee.
- 1.6. The Panel should function to supply ideas for future developments and directions of WSG.

2. The status of the Advisory Panel

The Panel has no formal position within the constitution of WSG. Its work should ideally be in the role of assisting the Group, such that it undertakes only those activities that would not otherwise occur. In most cases this means that the Panel does not act as a single body, but rather actions are undertaken by individual Panel members. Hence the Panel is chiefly a list of contact addresses rather than a fixed group of people. To identify the Panel, and to assist its members in their communication role, a list of Panel members is published in each *WSG Bulletin*.

3. Selection of members of the Advisory Panel

Members of the Panel are appointed by the Executive Committee, usually with the advice of the Co-ordinator. Any member of WSG may propose new members of the Panel. The Panel should normally total 20 - 30 people. The main criteria for selection of Panel members are that a Panel member should a). represent a geographical area or a specific (scientific and/or nature conservation) field of work or a working group; and b). be able and willing to keep in regular written contact with WSG officers. These criteria mean that whilst Panel members are not a random selection of WSG members, they do represent the background and main areas and topics of interest of WSG.

4. Duration of service of Advisory Panel members

Appointments are made to the Advisory Panel for three years, but may be renewed.

Hermann Hotker & Theunis Piersma