

WADER STUDY GROUP ANNUAL MEETING, COMACCHIO - LIDO DEGLI ESTENSI, ITALY, 5-8 OCTOBER 1990

The 1990 Wader Study Group Conference will take place between Friday 5 October and Monday 8 October in Lido degli Estensi (Hotel 'Conca del Lido'), in north-east Italy. This is the first WSG meeting ever to be held in a Mediterranean country. The conference is being hosted by the Istituto Nazionale di Biologia della Selvaggina. Lido degli Estensi is a modern holiday village situated on the Adriatic seaside about 80 km south of Venice. It lies in close proximity to the Comacchio Lagoon, Po Delta and other important wetlands. By October the tourist season will have finished, so life in the village will be generally peaceful (the WSG conference will actually be the life in the village!).

The hotel is quite large and will provide all facilities of accommodation, meals and talks. There is also a bar inside the hotel for the more informal sessions of the meeting. There are also other bars, which hopefully will be still open, a short walk away in the village.

There will be an organised conference excursion to the Comacchio Lagoon and nearby sites (where good numbers of Spotted Redshanks *Tringa erythropus* are guaranteed) on the afternoon of Sunday 7 October. The nearest wetlands are easily accessible from the village, so shorter, informal visits to these are possible at any time.

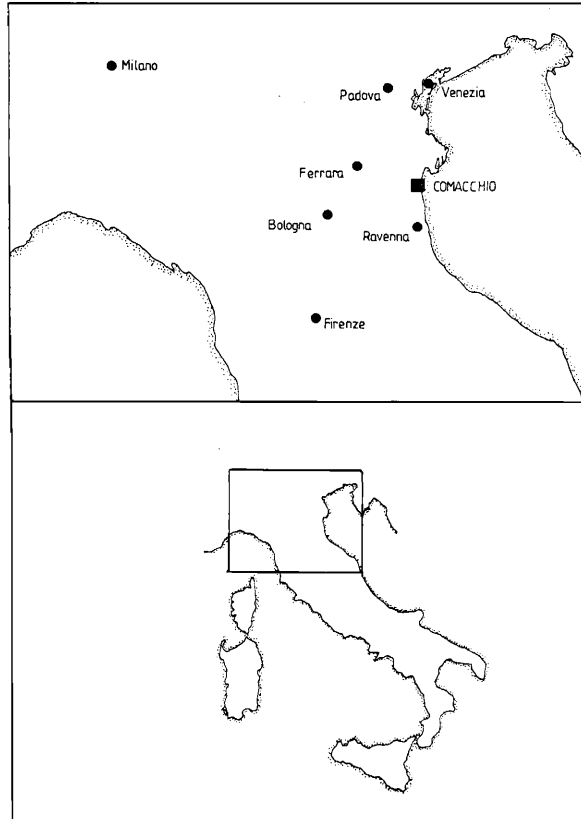
Booking forms and forms for the offer of talks and posters are enclosed with this *Bulletin*.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Since this Italian WSG meeting is the first in a Mediterranean country we hope that many talks and other contributions will concern the migration, biology and general problems of waders within the Mediterranean-Black Sea Region. We will particularly welcome such contributions. The extensive interest and WSG-linked recent work on the migration and breeding of arctic waders mean that this is likely to be another leading subject of the conference. The WSG conference as always, however, offers the opportunity for members to talk on any subject concerning waders, so please do not feel constrained by the special topics described above.

Conference delegates should aim to arrive in Comacchio on the evening of Friday 5 October. As usual the formal part of the meeting begins at 0900 h on Saturday 6 October with the Annual General Meeting of WSG. This will be immediately followed by the programme of talks and presentations during Saturday. Further talks will be programmed for the morning of Sunday 7 October. Sunday afternoon will be devoted for the excursion to the Comacchio Lagoon.

The WSG conference itself finishes with this excursion. To maximise the value of having a

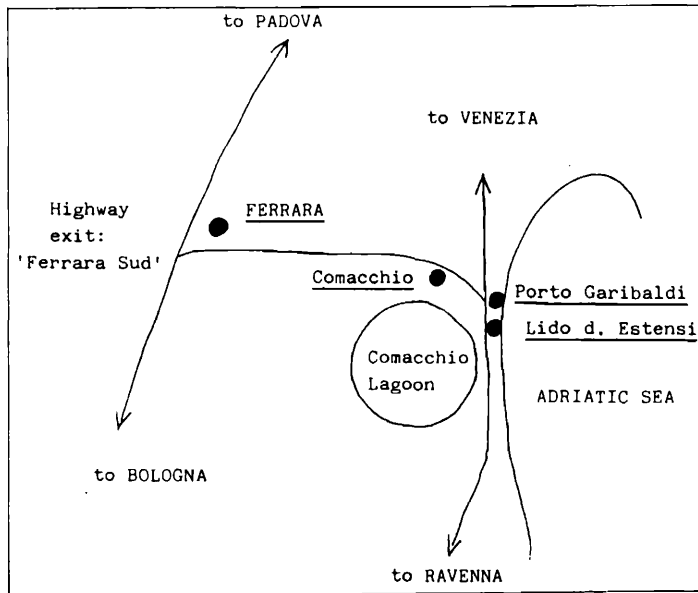


large number of wader-workers gathered on the shores of the Mediterranean we have, however, arranged that the WSG meeting will immediately be followed on Monday 8 October by an *ICBP workshop on the Slender-billed Curlew*. This is a particularly relevant topic for wader-workers worldwide, since the Slender-billed Curlew is one of the world's most endangered waders. Small numbers still (but for how long?) visit several Mediterranean wetlands. The workshop gives the opportunity to hear and discuss the findings of the recent 2-year I.C.B.P. project, and consider the future for the conservation of this rare wader.

TRAVEL & GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

The registration desk at the hotel will be open from 18.00 h on Friday 5 October.

Lido degli Estensi can be easily reached by car: leave the Padova-Bologna highway at 'Ferrara Sud' and drive on the new road to Porto Garibaldi. At the end of this road turn right (in a southerly direction) onto the 'Romea' road. At the main crossroad do not turn right to Comacchio. Instead drive straight on for a further 2 km, and then turn left at the first signpost to 'Lido



degli Estensi'. The sketch map shows this suggested route. Once in the village of Lido degli Estensi there should not have too many problems in reaching the hotel, although the village does quite resemble a labyrinth.

If you are travelling by train or by air we suggest you travel to Bologna. Bologna is the nearest airport. Alternatively you can fly to Milano and then travel by rail to Bologna. We will arrange for a coach to pick up delegates from the railway station and the airport on the evening of Friday 5 October. The pick-up will provisionally be at 18.30 h, after the arrival of the main trains. There will be an additional charge of 10,000 Lire (c. £5) for those using the bus, payable on registration at the hotel.

If you are travelling at other times, you can reach Comacchio or Lido degli Estensi by train to Ferrara. At Ferrara you must take another train to Codigoro, the nearest station to Comacchio. Departure times of some trains from Ferrara to Codigoro are: 07.54, 11.51, 14.17, 15.18, 17.34, 18.15, 19.20, 20.23; the journey lasts about 1 hour. From Codigoro (c. 15 km from Lido degli Estensi) you can call the hotel by phone after the beginning of the conference and we will arrange for your collection.

If you wish to be collected from any of these locations please indicate this in the appropriate place on the booking form.

Overall travel by rail from Bologna or from Padova to Codigoro is likely to take about 2.5 hours.

ACCOMODATION, MEALS AND COSTS

There is a small conference registration fee, to cover administrative costs, of 10,000 It. Lire (approx. £5), payable on registration at the hotel.

The hotel has 59 bedrooms for 1-3 people each. Costs include all meals, but not drinks. Costs per night differ depending on your length of stay and whether you occupy a single, double or triple-bed room. Costs *per night* are as follows:

Single room:

2 nights: 49,000 It. Lire per night
3 or more nights: 47,000 It. Lire per night

Double room:

2 nights: 39,000 It. Lire per person, per night
3 or more nights: 37,000 It. Lire per person, per night

Three-bedded room:

2 nights: 37,500 It. Lire per person, per night
3 or more nights: 35,500 It. Lire per person, per night

All rooms have *en suite* bathrooms.

At present currency exchange rates (£1 sterling = 2065 It. Lire), these rates mean that the costs for a delegate arriving on Friday evening (5 October) and leaving after the ICBP workshop on Monday afternoon (8 October) will be c. £54 for all meals and accomodation in a double room.

There may also be a small additional charge to cover the travel costs of the excursion on Sunday afternoon.

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Delegates can offer talks and/or posters for the WSG meeting. Talks will generally be limited to 15 minutes (plus 5 minutes for questions and discussion). The usual projection facilities of overhead projector and 35 mm slide projector.

Posters should not exceed 120 x 70 cm to fit the display boards available.

The scientific programme for the meeting is being arranged by WSG's International Co-ordinator, Hermann Hotker. All offers of talks and posters should be made on the enclosed form, preferably before 31 July 1990 to:

Hermann Hotker, WWF-Wattenmeerstelle, Norderstr. 22, D-2250 Husum, Federal Republic of Germany, and not to the meeting organisers in Italy, before 31st July 1990.

On the talk/poster offer form please send also a short abstract of not more than 200 words for each contribution. These will be reproduced for distribution to delegates at the conference.

BOOKINGS

Bookings should be made on the enclosed Conference Booking Form, with one form for each delegate, and should be returned as soon as possible, and preferably before 31 July 1990, to:

Segreteria WSG Meeting, Istituto Nazionale Biologia Selvaggina, Via Ca' Fornacetta 9, I-40064 Ozzano Emilia BO, Italy.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

- Istituto Naz.le Biologia Selvaggina: (0)51-798746 (ask either for Nicola Baccetti, Fernando Spina or Alberto Massi).

Hotel "Conca del Lido": (0)533-327459.

We look forward to see you all in Lido degli Estensi.

Nicola Bacetti