



WADER STUDY GROUP ANNUAL MEETING AND THE 8TH INTERNATIONAL WATERFOWL FEEDING ECOLOGY SYMPOSIUM, RIBE, DENMARK, 18-24 SEPTEMBER 1989

The 8th International Feeding Ecology Symposium, arranged under the auspices of the Feeding Ecology Group of the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB) and WSG was followed by the 1989 WSG Annual Conference during the week of 18-24 September 1989. Both meetings were held in the International Youth Hostel at Ribe, the oldest town in Denmark, and were hosted by the Kalo Game Biology Station of the Danish Ministry of the Environment. Between the two meetings a workshop on Knot migration was held, and the WSG meeting included a workshop on Breeding Waders in Wet Grasslands.

Over 160 people, including delegates from Australia and China, attended the meetings over an exhausting but very stimulating week. Our thanks to Karsten Laursen, Jesper Madsen and their colleagues for their very great amount of hard work in handling all the administration of the meetings so enthusiastically, and to the staff of the International Youth Hostel for providing such a friendly and hospitable atmosphere and such delicious and copious food.

A number of reports concerned with the various parts of the meetings appear in this *Bulletin*. In addition, several items will be published in future *Bulletins*. As is usual we are publishing abstracts of the talks and posters given at the Feeding Ecology Symposium and WSG Conference. In addition, as there will be no formal proceedings published from the Feeding Ecology Symposium we have agreed to publish longer papers than just abstracts of some of the presentations given at the meeting, which of course covered all waterfowl. Hence there will be some papers on the feeding ecology of wildfowl as well as waders in future *Bulletins*.

As is also now traditional, the WSG editors pounced on an unsuspecting conference delegate and persuaded him to provide a rather less formal account of what the meetings were really like, to give a feel of the atmosphere of the meetings to those members who could not attend. Bruno Ens' scurrilous account of the week appears elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

Two workshops were held during the week of meetings. One was *Recent Advances in Understanding Knot Migrations*, arranged by Nick Davidson and Theunis Piersma. The other was *Breeding Waders on Wet Grasslands* arranged by Hermann Hotker as a key topic for the WSG part of the meeting. Proceedings volumes based on presentations given at each of these workshops are currently in preparation. We are planning to publish each of these volumes as a *Supplement* to the *WSG Bulletin* within the next year. This will follow in the footsteps of *Breeding Waders in Europe* in 1986 and *The Conservation of International Flyway Populations of Waders* in 1987, and will, we hope, give WSG members increased value for their membership fees.

Nick Davidson, on behalf of WSG Executive Committee

