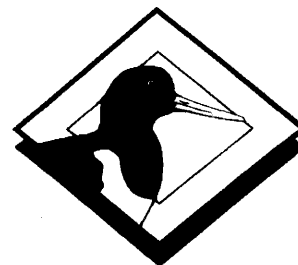

WADER STUDY GROUP



Bulletin 63 December 1991

Minutes of the WSG Annual Meeting, Texel, The Netherlands, 5 October, 1991



ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

A total of 70 members attended the meeting. Apologies were received from S.J. Sutcliffe.

WELCOME

The Chairman, Mike Pienkowski, welcomed the participants and thanked the NIOZ-institute staff for their hospitality.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 6 October 1990 in Comacchio, Italy (published in *WSG Bulletin 60*) were accepted as a correct record.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

The Chairman asked the Officers to highlight the main points of their published reports and to update them in respect of recent developments, and invited members to raise questions on any points.

Chairman's report

The Chairman reported on the success of the policy of having small 'working units' to get all the necessary work (e.g. *Bulletin* production) done. As a result, for the first time in years the *Bulletins* were back on schedule. The Chairman thanked David Stroud and Rodney West for their hard work, supported by the previous editor Nick Davidson. One consequence of this success is, however, that the Group's finances will have to be brought to a more realistic level.

Editor's report

Nick Davidson, on behalf of the editors, reported the efforts of the editorial team. David Stroud took over the role of Editor-in-Chief in 1991 and he and his team managed to mail *Bulletin 62* (August 1991) actually in August. The new and improved layout in which the last few *Bulletins* have appeared is a

result of the enthusiastic work of Rodney West. Nick Davidson also reported good news about the *Bulletin Supplements*. The supplement *Waders breeding on wet grasslands* was presented at the meeting and Hermann Hötter was complimented for this work. This supplement has now been mailed to all members. The supplement *The migration of Knots*, edited by Theunis Piersma and Nick Davidson, is approaching completion. It will be finished by about the end of 1991. This supplement will consist largely of the proceedings of the Knot workshop held in Ribe in 1989, but will also contain a few new key chapters. The third supplement, on Human disturbance of waders in estuaries, which is the result of a one-day RSPB and NCC workshop, will be published early in 1992. It will be edited by Philip Rothwell of RSPB. All three supplements are externally financed and are being issued free of charge to WSG members.

There is an increased flow of material for the *Bulletins*. This means more work pressure on the editorial team. The team is, however, keen to publish all appropriate material they receive. This may mean larger *Bulletins*, for which the group will need more money and more members.



Membership Secretary's report

The slight loss of members which the WSG incurred over the last few years has now bottomed out. An active membership campaign in combination with a *Bulletin* that has both a modernised layout and is back on schedule, has paid off with many lapsed members subscribing again and new members registering. In view of the publishing and other commitments for the future the quest for more members will continue.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, S.J. Sutcliffe, the Chairman outlined the Treasurer's report.

Co-ordinator's report

Herman Hötter reported that he had surveyed the fate of the WSG scientific projects. The outcome of this survey will be published in a future *Bulletin*. There are now four active projects:

- the effects of severe weather on waders;
- Ruffnet: on plumage polymorphism and survival in Ruffs;
- the Inland Wader Counts project; and
- a new Kentish Plover project.

Hermann Hötter outline the arrangements for two future WSG meetings. The first will be held in Odessa in April 1992. The other will be in Hungary in September 1992. The scientific programme of the Odessa meeting is about the comparison between the East Atlantic Flyway and the Eastern Mediterranean Flyway in the light of both research and nature conservation. After discussions with the Ukrainian hosts it has now been decided to have one post-meeting excursion of three days to the Danube-delta instead of the possible excursions mentioned at earlier stages in the

planning. The fee for the excursion is much lower than before (about \$200). Details of the Hungary meeting would be included in future *Bulletins*.

Proposal for a subscription increase

Based on analysis by the Treasurer, the Executive Committee had proposed an increased subscription fee. This is necessary because of the higher production costs of *Bulletins*.

The proposal of a subscription fee of £17 for individual members and £45 for institutes was seconded by B.J. Ens and accepted by the meeting.

Election of Officers and members of the Executive Committee

The Chairman thanked the retiring General Secretary, Phil Ireland, for his work on behalf of the group. The Executive Committee had nominated Hermann Hötter and Steve Sutcliffe for re-election respectively as Co-ordinator and Treasurer, Petra de Goeij as General Secretary, and Pablo Canevari and Gerard Boere as Committee members.

No other nominations had been received and the meeting elected the following:

General Secretary:

Petra de Goeij

Committee members:

Gerard Boere

Pablo Canevari and

and re-elected the following:

Co-ordinator: Hermann Hötter

Treasurer: Steve Sutcliffe

The Chairman noted that, although he had been prepared to be re-elected the Treasurer, Steve Sutcliffe, who had served the Group very well in this role for several years felt that it is time to retire. The Chairman therefore would welcome assistance from members in identifying potential candidates for a new Treasurer.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Because of some recent problems with the mailing and receipt of *Bulletins*, all members present at the meeting were asked to check in the membership list the details of his or her name and address, and those of colleagues.

To ease the difficulties of payment of subscriptions, the Executive Committee is exploring the possibility of opening additional bank accounts in certain countries. It is important that this convenience to members is balanced against the extra work it will cause for volunteer officers. Therefore, a membership of at least 40 in the country concerned is likely to be required to make this practicable.

Petra de Goeij, General Secretary



Subscription increase for 1992 WSG membership

As agreed at the Wader Study Group AGM int Texel (see previous article), new subscription rates come into force for the 1992 subs.

Ordinary member rate:
Surface mail £17.00 (\$44US)

Airmail only to addresses outside Europe
£25.00 (\$65US)

Institutions & Subscriptions Agencies

Europe & surface elsewhere £45 (\$117US)

Airmail to addresses outside Europe £50
(\$130)

