

All conference booking forms must, therefore, reach the organisers by 30 June 1992 at the latest. If you attempt to book after this date, accommodation may no longer be available.

The Currency in Hungary is the Forint (£1 = approx. 130 Forint), which is not readily negotiable in most countries outside Hungary. To make bookings and payments easier for delegates, all payments for the conference must be made on registration at the "Delibab" Hotel. There is a Bureau de Change at

the hotel where cash or Eurocheques can be exchanged for Forints. We strongly advise, therefore, that delegates bring either cash or Eurocheques (or both) to Hungary.

Bookings for the WSG Conference and the IWRB Symposium are being handled separately. Delegates wishing to attend both meetings should fill in two separate booking forms, one for each meeting. If you are intending to go to both meetings, please mark the booking forms accordingly, so that the

organisers can more easily arrange the appropriate bookings for accommodation and meals.

All booking forms and offers of talks and posters should be returned by 30 June 1991, and preferably well before this date, to the the conference organisers:

WSG Conference Secretariat (Attn. Tamas Szekely), Department of Zoology, Kossuth University, Debrecen, Hungary. (Tel. (36) 52 16666 ext. 334; Fax (36) 52 10936).

NOTES & NEWS & NEWS NOTES NOTES & NEWS & NEWS NOTES

compiled by Nick Davidson

Ringling Totals for 1991

A form for reporting of your ringling totals for January-December 1991 is enclosed as a loose insert with this *Bulletin*. If you have caught and ringed/banded waders during 1991 please complete the form and return it to: *Robin Ward, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, U.K. by 31 August 1992.*

Ringling totals listings for 1990 appear elsewhere in this *Bulletin* and serve to emphasise the ever widening geographical scope of these listings. We would encourage anyone ringling waders but who has not yet submitted their ringling totals to send us their information - we are always pleased to receive information covering also years in the recent past. For wader workers trying to trace likely sources of informa-

tion for different wader species the totals can provide a valuable first step. We hope to include an analysis of the changing geographical patterns of wader ringling and the reporting of ringling totals in a future *Bulletin*.

WSG 1992 Odessa Conference

At the time of writing (early March) the final arrangements are being made for the WSG conference on "Migration and international conservation of waders" to be held in Odessa, Ukraine on 13-17 April 1992. Our latest information is that the conference will be attended by approximately 75 participants from the former USSR and about 35 participants from western Europe, Canada and South Africa. Western delegates plan to reach Odessa by a variety of routes and types of transport including road, rail and air.

The programme includes three and a half days of talks on a wide variety of subjects in the broad categories of wader studies in the former USSR, wader flyways and international wader conservation, and there will be a great variety of posters on display. The conference will also include excursions to

two limans (shallow coastal lagoons) near Odessa and the Danube Delta.

So as to make this great wealth of information about waders in Europe and Asia more widely available than to just those members lucky enough to be able to attend the conference the WSG plans to publish a proceedings volume containing texts of both talks and posters given at the meeting. This will, like other recent volumes, be published as a supplement to the *WSG Bulletin*. We plan also to include reports of the Odessa conference, including abstracts of talks and posters, in the August 1992 issue of the *Bulletin*, and to present a report of the conference during the WSG Annual Conference in Hungary in September 1992.

News of WSG Bulletin Supplements

Final editing of the *Migration of Knots* supplement is now nearing completion and we plan that this 200 page issue will go to press during April 1992. Text preparation for the next supplement - *Disturbance to estuarine waterfowl* - is now in hand and it is now planned to publish this issue in mid-1992. Each will be circulated as part of the standard



membership fees to all WSG members.

Other planned supplements include *Shorebird ecology and conservation in the Western Hemisphere*, based on the 1991 symposium at Quito, Ecuador and being edited by the Canadian Wildlife Service, and the proceedings of the Odessa conference (see above).

An article explaining the overall objectives and conditions for publication of *WSG Bulletin Supplements* is being prepared and will appear in a future *Bulletin*.

In the Stilt

Although *The Stilt* has until recently contained mostly Australian material, the latest issue - No. 19 - is more cosmopolitan and has contributions from several parts of the East Asian Flyway.

Two more papers on biometrics and moult continue a fundamental series that help to understand the strategies of individual Australasian waders. An analysis of Grey-tailed Tattlers *Heteroscelus brevipes* caught mainly in north-west Australia confirms that the birds can fly non-stop from there to the Philippines on their spring migration route. A paper on Oriental Pratincoles *Glareola maldivarum* studies in west Java on the AWSG mini-expedition in 1991 adds substantially to the published data on this species.

Feeding ecology is also well covered in issue No. 19. K. Sampath examines the feeding habits of shorebirds at the Great Vedaranyam Salt Swamp in Tamil Nadu, India. He found that Kentish Plovers *Charadrius alexandrinus* concentrate mainly on the relatively visible chironomid larvae, whilst the Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* feeds almost exclusively on polychaetes by probing into deep mud.

Theunis Piersma shows what can be done opportunistically, with few resources, to increase knowledge about waders. On a visit to New Zealand in November 1990 he spent a few hours watching Red Knots *Calidris canutus* feeding at the Firth of Thames and at the base of Farewell Spit. He collected droppings and sediment samples using an empty tomato can and dried everything in a frying pan at his camp site. Back in the Netherlands after the samples had been carefully sorted and analysed he found that Red Knots in New Zealand tended to eat smaller and thinner-shelled bivalve molluscs than Knots in Europe. He speculates that the warmer weather conditions may allow the birds to be more choosy about the digestibility of their prey.

Ingrid Tulp and Petra de Goeij, working from the Broome Bird Observatory in north-western Australia found that Red Knots there ate fewer bivalves, and smaller prey generally, than the same species in Europe. Since Knots have to swallow shelled molluscs whole and crack or digest them in the stomach smaller prey may be preferred when there is plenty of food available and there is less pressure from severe weather conditions and migratory imperatives increase protein intake. One implication of this finding is that optimum feeding conditions for a particular species may differ during the year and along the migration route.

Stephen Davies of the Miranda Banders of New Zealand, in an article on Wrybills *Anarhynchus frontalis*, finds that these uniquely asymmetric little birds show a very high degree of fidelity to their wintering site. About 5% of the Miranda wintering flock now carry rings and this continuing study shows also that the birds are relatively long-lived. Their mean life expectancy for adults is over 5 years. One bird is at least 12.5 years old.

WSG has a special reciprocal membership arrangement with AWSG. A membership form is enclosed with this *Bulletin*, if you wish to join the AWSG, complete and return it with your subscription to : WSG Membership Secretary, PO Box 247, Tring, Herts HP23 5SN, U.K.

Wader ringing in Bahrain: volunteers wanted

A pilot ringing scheme for waders in Bahrain took place during three weeks in September and October in 1991. In 1992 it is planned to repeat the study, from 1 September to 15 October. For this experienced ringers willing to travel at their own expense and stay for for at least three weeks each in Bahrain are required. Previous ringing experience is essential, and preference will be given to those who have experience of wader ringing. Persons prepared to stay for periods of longer than three weeks also will be given preference. Although no pay can be offered for this exciting opportunity, visa, accomodation and local transport will be provided free of charge.

Anyone interested should contact *Dr Saeed Muhammed and Erik Hirschfeld, Biology Department, College of Sciences, Bahrain University, PO Box 32038, State of Bahrain* for more detailed information.

IWRB News

The latest issue of *IWRB News* (No 7, January 1992) is packed full of information about waterfowl and wetlands. As well as news from many of IWRB's research groups and networks, there are features on the 1991 conference on the Conservation of Wetlands and Waterfowl in South and West Asia held at Karachi, Pakistan, a report on the



October 1991 Volga Delta workshop, and on biological monitoring of wetlands, updates on the Oceania Wetland Inventory, the US Wetland delineation debate, items on the lakes of the Turguy and Irgiz, the Neotropical wetland program, Albanian wetlands, Mongolia, farmers and wildfowl, Dalmation Pelicans and North American Waterfowl population trends.

If you wish to subscribe to *IWRB News* contact: *IWRB, Slimbridge, Glos. GL2 7BX, U.K.*

Conserving the European coastal zone - a NATUROPA special

The latest issue of the Council of Europe magazine *Naturopa* (No 67, 1991) is devoted to conservation issues in the coastal zones of Europe, published to coincide with a major conference on European coastal conservation held in the Netherlands in November 1991 under the auspices of the Dutch government and the European Union for Coastal Conservation (EUCC). Many species of migratory waders depend on European coasts yet many parts of the coastline are under pressure from land-claim, recreation and development. The issue contains 14 articles covering a wide range of topics, areas and issues about coastal conservation.

Naturopa is published in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. For further information contact *Centre Naturopa, Council of Europe, BP 431 R6, F-67006 Strasbourg Cedex.*

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Bruno Ens of the University of Groningen for recently

being awarded his doctorate for a thesis entitled *The Social Prisoner. Causes of natural variation in reproductive success of the Oystercatcher*. This is beautifully illustrated throughout with photographs by Jan van der Kam and contains seven papers covering many aspects of Oystercatcher breeding behaviour and ecology. The thesis concludes with probably the most comprehensive acknowledgements section ever printed.



1992 WSG ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL WATERFOWL ECOLOGY SYMPOSIUM - HAJDUSZLOBOSZLO, HUNGARY, SEPTEMBER 1992

As announced in *Bulletin* 63 it has been possible to arrange the 1992 WSG Annual Conference to run sequentially with the 9th International Waterfowl Ecology Symposium. The waterfowl symposium is the successor to the series of International Waterfowl Feeding Ecology Symposia, the most recent of which took place in Ribe, Denmark, in September 1989 and was also linked to the WSG Annual Conference. Since the interests of many WSG members spans the topics covered by both the WSG Conference and the Waterfowl Ecology Symposium the linking of the two meetings at the same venue offer WSG members the opportunity to attend both meetings whilst minimising travelling costs.

The WSG Conference will, as usual, take place over a weekend so that it is possible for both amateur and professional members of the group to attend. In 1992 the WSG meeting will take

place over the weekend **preceding** the International Waterfowl Ecology Symposium. Both meetings will be in the Hotel Delibab, Hajduszoboszlo in eastern Hungary, at the invitation of Kossuth University, Debrecen. The conference schedule is:

Saturday 5 September - Sunday 6 September 1991: WSG Annual Conference;

Monday 7 September - Friday 11 September 1991: IWRB International Waterfowl Ecology Symposium.

CONFERENCE BOOKINGS

Full details of the WSG Annual Conference are given on pages 2-3 of this *Bulletin*. Booking forms and talk offer forms for the WSG meeting are enclosed with this *Bulletin*. Would members please note that firm bookings for attending the WSG meeting must be received by the organisers before 30 June 1992.

Members intending to attend both the WSG Conference and the International Waterfowl Ecology Symposium should note that bookings for each meeting are being handled separately. Members wishing to book for both meetings should note that it is essential to return both the WSG conference booking form and the IWRB booking form, both are enclosed with this *Bulletin*.

