

netting) will be carried out at the three main locations mentioned above.

Help is needed at any time during the March/April period. Come for as long as possible, minimum two weeks.

Costs, apart from travel to/from Broome, are moderate. There is a good airport at Broome with daily flights to/from Perth and Darwin. We will camp (fee \$5 per day when at Broome, nil elsewhere), cook communally (\$15 per day), and make a contribution of \$100 per week (max. \$300) towards 4WD vehicle hire and other costs. [1 sterling = 2.2 \$Australian]. There will also be opportunities for hide photography of waders and passerine banding/watching (180 species on the Broome Bird Observatory list).

To finally whet the appetite of waderologists I've listed below some of the more attractive species for those from Europe/North America, etc.

*Present in thousands (sometimes tens of thousands)*

Great Knot  
Large Sandplover  
Little Curlew

Oriental Plover  
Oriental Pratincole  
Terek Sandpiper  
Grey-tailed Tattler  
Rednecked Stint  
*Regularly present (many in hundreds)*

Asiatic Dowitcher  
Broad-billed Sandpiper  
Eastern Curlew  
Mongolian (Lesser) Sandplover  
Long-toed Stint  
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper  
Pacific Golden Plover  
Marsh Sandpiper  
Swinhoe's Snipe and endemics such as Red-necked Avocet, Banded Stilt, Sooty Oystercatcher, Red-kneed Dotterel, Black-fronted Plover, Masked Lapwing and Beach Stone-Curlew.

If you are interested in participating please write to:

Clive Minton, 165 Dalgetty Road, Beaumaris, Melbourne, Vic 3193, Australia or Martin Barker, 21 Chivalry Avenue, Glen Waverley, Vic 3150, Australia

*Clive Minton*

## Great Arctic Reserve established

On 1 July 1993 the Great Arctic Reserve was opened. It comprises 4,100,000 hectares (about the size of Switzerland) of arctic tundra and coastal waters on the Taymyr Peninsula in Northern Siberia.

It was mainly ornithological research that gave rise to the idea of a large scale nature reserve at the north-eastern end of the East Atlantic Flyway (and the northern end of several other flyways). Initiatives by the Russian Academy of Science (Academician E.E. Syroechkovsky), WWF-Germany (Peter Prokosch), and the Dutch Government (our chairman being strongly involved), led in an unbelievably short time to the Resolution 431 of the Russian Government, which established the reserve.

This is a major contribution to the conservation of high arctic wader habitats and all involved deserve praise for their foresight and energy in establishing the reserve. We hope to carry further information on the Great Arctic Reserve in a future *Bulletin*.

## Slender-billed Curlew workshop

A workshop on the Conservation of the Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris* was held in Arosio, Italy on 28 March 1992 and was organized by the Fondazione Il Nibbio. The meeting agreed on a Declaration to recommend that urgent steps should be taken to conserve this globally threatened species, listed in Appendix I of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

(Bonn), mentioning the specific measures required to protect the species in Italy. Most of the background information was based on the extensive report and action plan published by the International Council for Bird Preservation in 1991 (reviewed in Bulletin 66), and research carried out by the Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica.

*Janine van Vessem, IWRB*

THE AROSIO DECLARATION ON THE CONSERVATION OF THE SLENDER-BILLED CURLEW  
*Numenius tenuirostris*

AWARE that *Numenius tenuirostris* is currently considered as threatened with extinction, as a consequence of the rapid decline of its population at the beginning of this century;



CONSCIOUS that the most likely causes of this dramatic decline were the loss and degradation of the species' habitats, as well as the direct and indirect impact of intensive hunting, and that some or all of these factors continue to play a significant role today;

RECOGNISING the measures that have already been taken by Range States for the conservation of *Numenius tenuirostris*;

RECOGNISING further the considerable value of the International Council for Bird Preservation's research and survey projects on this species, in particular its identification of key sites and proposed Action Plan, followed by its 1990 Resolution calling for the conservation of the species;

REALISING that there is an urgent need for effective international conservation actions which will require close collaboration among international conservation bodies, national and regional authorities, site managers, conservation and hunter organisations and relevant research institutions;

The participants of the workshop on the conservation of the Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*), held on 28 March 1992 in Arosio, Italy:

1. Stress the need for full legislative protection of *Numenius tenuirostris*, and for protection and appropriate management of the key sites identified for the species, throughout its entire range;

2. Urge the Italian authorities to take immediate steps to eliminate all factors which may adversely affect the following key sites, as identified by the Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica, and implement a monitoring programme to assess the effects of measures taken: Golfo di Manfredonia, Laghi

Pontini, Arno and Serchio wetlands, Maremma Toscana, Comacchio and Ravenna coast;

3. Encourage the adoption of similar measures in other Range States to improve the species' conservation status throughout its flyway;

4. Recommend that such measures include, as a minimum, enforcement of relevant international, national and, where appropriate, regional legislation, and provide for adequate wardening of key sites;

5. Recommend further that consideration be given to introducing, on a national or regional scale, moratoria on the hunting of species which might be mistaken for, and lead to the accidental killing of, *Numenius tenuirostris*, and in this regard congratulate the Government of Italy on its protection of *Numenius arquata*;

6. Encourage the early development of measures to enhance awareness among special interest groups, in particular hunters and other land-users, and the general public;

7. Call upon the Commission of the European Communities to ensure that any initiatives undertaken under its auspices in relation to the conservation of *Numenius tenuirostris* take into account the outcome of this workshop;

8. Congratulate the initiative taken by the Fondazione Il Nibbio to organise this workshop.

Arosio, Italy 28 March 1992

The workshop on "Conservation of the Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris*" was held in Arosio, Italy on 28 March 1992 and was organised by the Fondazione Il Nibbio, with the assistance of the

Regione Lombardia and the Amministrazione Provinciale di Como and with the technical support of the Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica.

The workshop was attended by representatives of the following organizations: European Commission (DG XI); UNEP/CMS (Bonn Convention) Secretariat; Ministero Agricoltura e Foreste, Italy; Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, the Netherlands; Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica, Italy; Office Nationale de la Chasse, France; Regione Lombardia, Italy; Federation des Associations de chasseurs de la Communauté Européenne (FACE); International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP); International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB); Unione Nazionale Associazioni Venatorie Italiane (UNAVI); and Fondazione Il Nibbio per la ricerca ornitologica sulle migrazioni e per la tutela dell'ambiente.



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# Wetlands for the Americas: a new organisation devoted to wetland conservation

*Pablo Canavari*

In July 1992 the Council of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) took a major decision. Recognizing that WHSRN has reached a stage in its development where it is prepared to take on a broader challenge, the Council launched a new organization, Wetlands for the Americas, and adopted a new mission statement:

“To promote the conservation of wetland ecosystems in the Americas“

Wetlands for the Americas (WA) is really an expansion of WHSRN. Our new focus will be on developing wetland strategies that advance the health of wetland ecosystems (particularly in South America) as well as the biodiversity that depends on them.

Our operating philosophy remains unchanged. WA will continue to implement programs that enhance local capacity and conservation while maintaining international linkages. Our goals will be achieved through developing projects that have substantial multiplicative effects; policy, laws, regulations, conservation strategies, action plans, education, and on-site programs.

WHSRN continues as a program of WA, and its general policy remains unchanged. The network of reserves is still growing in the Americas, and we predict that will continue doing so.

## SHOREBIRDS SPECIALIST GROUPS IN SOUTH AMERICA

In the last five years WHSRN have

been active in the Americas. One of its activities has been supporting groups of shorebird specialists. These groups are shifting to their attention more widely to wetlands and its biodiversity following the WA philosophy. But they are still involved with shorebirds, or they have good contacts with shorebird specialists.

During the last IWRB Board Meeting I had the pleasure of meeting Gerard Boere and he suggested that I publish the addresses of the group co-ordinators in the Bulletin. In this way any WSG member interested can exchange information or use these people as appropriate contacts to develop research in any of these countries.

Some of these groups are publishing small newsletters in Spanish (Portuguese in Brazil) related to activities concerning wetland conservation in their countries.

The following list gives the names and addresses of group co-ordinators and a short description of the main activities of the groups.

### **ARGENTINA** (*Grupo Argentino de Limícolas, GAL*)

The group have been very active since its creation in 1989. They publish a regular newsletter, have supported shorebird research, and are very close to having a new site proposed as part of WHSRN. They are organizing a project to identify Red Knot *Calidris canutus* migration timing and major stopovers in coastal Patagonia.

Patricia Gonzáles

CC. 84, Pedro Morón 385  
(8520) San Antonio Oeste  
Río Negro

Daniel Blanco  
Monroe 2142  
(1428) Capital Federal  
Phone 54 1 781 9171  
Fax 54 1 781 6115

### **BRAZIL** (*Grupo de Estudos de Aves Limícolas*)

Part of the Sociedade Brasileira de Ornitologia, the group publish a very nice newsletter. With a very close relationship with the Research Center for the Conservation of Birds (CEMAVE), they have been involved in shorebird research in coastal Brazil, and have been instrumental in the inclusion of two Brazilian sites into WHSRN.

Inês de Lima Serrano do Nascimento and Paulo de Tarso Zuquim Antas  
CEMAVE  
Parque Nacional de Brasília  
Via Epia, S.M.U.  
Brasília- DF - CEP 70.630  
Phone 55 61 233 3251  
Fax 55 61 233 5543

### **CHILE** (*Red Chilena de Aves Playéras, RECAP*)

Very active in shorebird research along the extensive Chilean littoral. They have organized two shorebird workshops in co-operation with other Chilean governmental and non governmental organizations, and are involved in trying to include Chilean sites into WHSRN.

Elier Tabilo Valdivieso  
David Llewelling 870  
El Llano, Coquimbo, IV Región



Phone 56 51 31 1697  
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Dr. Michel Sallaberry  
Universidad de Chile  
Facultad Ciencias  
Depto. Ciencias Ecológicas  
Casilla 653  
Santiago  
Phone 56 2 271 2865 anexo 312  
Fax 56 2 271 2983

#### **COLOMBIA** (*Calidris*)

This is the last group to become associated to WA. The members are mainly students from the Universidad del Valle, but now they are in the process of enlarging the scope of the membership. They are conducting research and shorebird surveys in very poorly known areas of the Colombian littoral.

Dr. Luis Germán Naranjo  
Depto. de Biología  
Universidad del Valle  
A.A. 25360  
Cali

#### **PERU** (*Grupo de Aves Acuáticas del Perú*)

This group organize monthly talks, publish a newsletter, is organizing a data base concerning Peruvian waterbird information, and working with other researchers on wetlands

and waterbirds. They have also have been working in shorebird banding in coastal Perú.

M.S. Victor Pulido Capurro  
Dir. Investig. Fauna Silvestre, INIAA  
Apartado Postal 11-0150  
Lima 11  
Phone 51 14 31 8417

#### **VENEZUELA** (*Red Venezolana para el Estudio de las Aves Migratorias, REVEAM*)

The group publish a newsletter and are working towards the inclusion of Los Olivitos in the WHSRN – a place in the west coast of Venezuela where large numbers of shorebirds have been reported. There is no final confirmation of the numbers and REVEAM is encouraging surveys in this remote place.

Deborah Bigio  
Red Venezolana para el Estudio de las Aves Migratorias  
Apartado 80374  
Caracas 1080-A  
Fax 58 2 77 0736

Alejandro Luy  
Soc. Cons. Audubon de Venezuela  
Apartado 80450  
Caracas 1080-A  
Fax 58 2 91 0716

#### **URUGUAY**

This small but highly enthusiastic group is formed by students from the Montevideo National University. They are conducting research in the Laguna de Rocha, were they have succeeded to obtain the support of local authorities for their research.

Mariela Devesa, Adrián Stagi,  
Marta de Vasconcelos & Isabel Loinaz  
Depto. Zoología de Vertebrados  
Facultad de Ciencias  
Tristán Narvaja 1674  
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