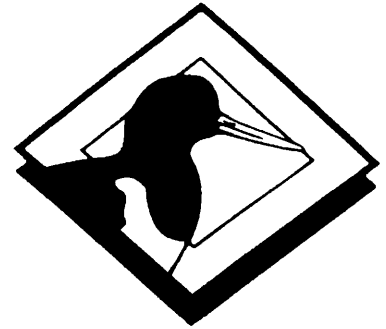


WADER STUDY GROUP



BULLETIN 71 December 1993

Minutes of Wader Study Group Annual General Meeting 1993

The 1993 WSG Annual General Meeting was held in Ipswich, Great Britain on Saturday 20 October.

The Chairman, Gerard Boere, welcomed those attending and made special reference to Russian Executive Committee members, Elena Lebedeva, Pavel Tomkovich and Alexander Yurlov, as well as several other group members who had travelled long distances to attend, including from as far as Hong Kong in one direction, to California in the other.

The Chairman remarked that with the focus of the weekend meeting being related to methodologies and with a workshop on field techniques, the WSG was revisiting its roots.

Apologies were received from the Co-ordinator, Hermann Hötter, Brigitte Klinner, Pablo Canevari and Mark Barter.

The minutes of the AGM held in 1992 were agreed as a true record.

Chairman's report

Gerard Boere noted that 1992 had been a good year. There had been

continued close co-operation between officers. The year had seen the change of both the Group's Chairman and Treasurer. The Group is now acting in the role of the Wader Research Group for the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau. Links with eastern Europe have continued to develop, especially following the April 1992 special meeting in Odessa. Gerard thanked Pavel Tomkovich and Elena Lebedeva for their work in translating the talks given at Odessa for a forthcoming *Bulletin* Special Issue. Work has continued in the implementation of the Odessa Protocol. The Chairman emphasised that the WSG has established a valuable niche for itself and should continue its traditional role, rather than becoming a 'lobbying' conservation body. Needless to say, its work in enhancing knowledge of waders would always be useful to conservation, but this was for others to develop.

Treasurer's report

Bob Loos summarised his report given in *Bulletin* 70. There will be no membership-fee increase in 1994. He could not yet indicate whether there would in part be a need for future increases in membership rates since this would depend on the state of the UK pound and the American dollar.

Membership's report

Rodney West stated that the WSG is

in a healthy situation and there has been an increase in the number of members. He hoped that Group membership will reach 750 members in the medium term. The recent increase is probably the result of the recent publication of several Supplementary *Bulletins* and Special Issues.

Editor's report

David Stroud indicated that the flow of material for the *Bulletin* is still increasing. Current attention is being given to the reduction in the delay between the submission of papers and their publication. A number of Supplements/ Special Issues are in preparation or under consideration. The following are in preparation:

- Disturbance to waterfowl on estuaries. 1993. Edited by Nick Davidson & Phil Rothwell.
- Wader Study Methods: practical papers published in the *Wader Study Group Bulletin*. Part 1: catching and handling birds and data. 1993. Edited by D.A. Stroud & N.C. Davidson.
- Wader Study Methods: practical papers published in the *Wader Study Group Bulletin*. Part 2: feeding, census and survey techniques. 1994. Edited by D.A. Stroud & N.C. Davidson.
- Shorebird ecology and conservation in the Western Hemisphere. 1994. Edited by Peter C. Hicklin.



- Numbers and distribution of waterbirds in the Wadden Sea. 1994. H. Meltofte, J. Blew, J. Frikke, H.-U. Rösner & C. Smit.
- European and Asian wader flyways: recent research and international conservation. 1995. Edited by H. Hötter, N.C. Davidson, J. Gromadzka, P. Tomkovich & E. Lebedeva.
- The Odessa Protocol in many languages. Prepared by H. Hötter.

The Group's exchange journals have now catalogued and will be sent to the Ornithological Station library in Gdansk.

David thanked the editorial team but made also a plea for help. Even occasional or limited help is appreciated. He also noted that suggestions for improvements in the *Bulletin* are always welcomed by the editorial team.

From the floor, Peter Evans raised the question of the title of the Supplementary *Bulletins*. He thought that current practise did not adequately describe the extremely high quality of the contents of many recent special issues. He suggested that another name, for example *International Wader Studies*, might better describe the nature and quality of these Supplementary *Bulletins*.

Co-ordinator's report

In the absence of Herman Hötter, Theunis Piersma summarised the Co-ordinator's report in *Bulletin* 70 which noted that the number of WSG co-ordinated projects are decreasing. It is the aim of the Committee to give a clear overview of the present situation. Some of the remaining projects will be finished soon. A new project being developed will be 'Breeding waders in Europe 2'.

Elections to the Executive Committee

The following Officers whose period of service had elapsed were re-elected for a further term:

Vice Chairman: Theunis Piersma
Editor-in-chief: David Stroud
Membership Secretary: Rodney West

The following Members were re-elected for a further term:

Nicola Baccetti
Mark Barter
Jadwiga Gromadzka
Brigitte Klinner

Nick Davidson was elected as the IWRB-WSG Liaison Officer.

Paul-Eric Jönsson from Sweden stepped down from the Committee after six years of participation. Gerard Boere thanked him, on behalf of the Group, for his contributions to the work of the Committee, which has always been undertaken in a very modest way, although with solid and clear opinion.

As a Scandinavian successor, Ole Thorup from Denmark will participate in the Committee during 1993 and 1994 as a co-opted member.

There were no other matters raised and the meeting was closed by the Chairman.

The Annual Meeting was followed by the official signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between IWRB and WSG by Gerard Boere for WSG, and Janine van Vessem for IWRB.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT between the International Waterfowl & Wetlands Research Bureau and the Wader Study Group relating to Research Group Co-operation

- **CONSCIOUS** that waders are an international heritage and that nations along the flyways of wader populations share a responsibility for the conservation of these migratory birds and their habitats, as recognised in international agreements such as the Ramsar and Bonn Conventions;
- **AWARE** that the integrity of these flyways is at risk from habitat loss, unregulated hunting pressure, pollution and other human activities;

- **RECOGNISING** that there is an urgent need for collaboration at international, national, regional and local levels in scientific research to underpin conservation actions for the effective safeguard of waders and the habitats upon which they depend;
- **NOTING** the need to maximise the effective use of available limited resources for research on waders and their habitats, and that this use is most effective where it involves the co-ordinated activities of volunteer and professional researchers;
- **STATING** that the goals of their two organisations are compatible; and
- **RECOGNISING** that some of the activities of the Wader Study Group (hereafter called WSG) are the equivalent of those of a Research Group of the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (hereafter called IWRB);

IWRB and WSG have agreed the following:

1. To formalise the links between IWRB and WSG such that WSG will, as regards its liaison with IWRB, act in the role of an IWRB Research Group.
2. To appoint a WSG-IWRB Liaison Officer to act in the role of an IWRB Research Group Co-ordinator.
3. That the activities of the WSG-IWRB Liaison Officer will be those set out in the attached Annex.
4. That the WSG-IWRB Liaison Officer shall be proposed by the WSG Executive Committee for election at the next available WSG Annual General Meeting.
5. That the WSG-IWRB Liaison Officer shall be nominated for appointment by the IWRB Executive Board (or by the IWRB Standing Committee).
6. That the appointment shall be for a three-year (renewable) term in



line with the WSG and the IWRB Constitutions.

7. That the WSG-IWRB Liaison Officer shall be a voting member of the IWRB Executive Board and an elected officer of the WSG and hence a member of the WSG Executive Committee.
8. That the WSG-IWRB Liaison Officer should as far as possible be working professionally in the field of the WSG and have the moral/logistical support of his/her institution. Where possible time should be allocated by the host institute for the execution of WSG-IWRB liaison. Such activities should bring benefits to the host institute, the IWRB and the WSG.
9. That the former IWRB Wader Research Group will cease to exist, and its role will be continued by the WSG through the WSG-IWRB Liaison Officer.
10. In line with the roles in other IWRB Research Groups, that the work of maintaining the IWRB Wader Database will be undertaken by an IWRB Wader Database Co-ordinator, a role separate from that of the WSG-IWRB Liaison Officer. The IWRB Wader Database Co-ordinator will provide at least annually reports on the database for publication in the *Wader Study Group Bulletin*.
11. That WSG will provide IWRB Headquarters, and Research Group Co-ordinators and Standing Committee members via IWRB Headquarters with complimentary copies of *WSG Bulletin*. IWRB Headquarters will provide the WSG-IWRB Liaison Officer with complimentary copies of *IWRB News* and technical publications.
12. That the WSG-IWRB Liaison Officer will co-ordinate links with Wetlands for the Americas, the Asian Wetland Bureau and the Australasian Wader Studies Group for the purposes of IWRB Research Group liaison, and will identify and agree with IWRB a research group co-ordination structure to maintain these links.

13. That this Memorandum shall become effective from the date(s) of signature of both parties and shall be valid in the first instance for a period of three (3) years from the date(s) of signature.
14. That this Memorandum may be terminated by either party subject to written notice of a period of at least six (6) months.
15. That nothing in this Memorandum shall affect in any way the independent status and role of the WSG.

ANNEX: GUIDELINES FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WSG-IWRB LIAISON OFFICER

The activities of the WSG in relation to its discharge of the role of an IWRB research group shall be discharged by the WSG-IWRB Liaison Officer. The activities are as follows:

- To prepare a triennial programme of activities for incorporation in the IWRB Forward Plan.
- To submit a triennium report on the activities of the WSG to each ordinary meeting of the IWRB Executive Board through the IWRB Research Group Report.
- To liaise on a regular basis with the IWRB Wader Database Co-ordinator and the IWRB Headquarters; to keep the WSG Executive Committee informed about IWRB activities, and to keep IWRB informed about WSG activities.
- To inform IWRB on WSG projects, workshops/symposia, conferences and publications, to co-operate in joint projects and to summarise information in joint publications.
- To maintain a list of correspondents, and annually to provide IWRB Headquarters with an updated address list of these correspondents.
- To arrange circulation of *WSG Bulletin* to IWRB Headquarters, to the other IWRB Research Group Co-ordinators and to members of

the IWRB Standing Committee.

- To participate in meetings of the IWRB Executive Board, and in regional and scientific meetings whenever possible.
- To provide specialist advice to IWRB Headquarters staff and other members of the IWRB network.
- To assist IWRB headquarters in raising funds for joint IWRB-WSG projects and activities.
- To provide articles on WSG activities for *IWRB News*, and to liaise with IWRB to provide articles on IWRB activities and the IWRB Wader Database for the *WSG Bulletin*.
- To stand for nomination on the IWRB Standing Committee.

***Wader Study Group
Annual Meeting 1993:
Ipswich, Suffolk***

The highly successful 1993 WSG meeting was held at St. Joseph's College, Ipswich, England. The Suffolk Wildlife Trust once again played host to the meeting., having also organised the 1988 meeting at the same location. The great success of the meeting, which had the largest and most geographical diverse attendance of any WSG meeting yet, was in large part due to the great care and attention to detail on the part of the SWT organisation team.

A full report was on the meeting and excursions (including the first ever WSG official excursion to a brewery!), and the abstracts of papers and posters presented at the meeting will be published in *Bulletin 72* in April.

On Monday 1 November, following the weekend meeting, a one day workshop on Dunlin migration patterns was attended by a large number of participants. The abstracts of this workshop are presented in this *Bulletin*.