

explained to the AGM why the Committee considers registering WSG as a Society in The Netherlands as preferable from both a practical and administrative viewpoint. Proceeding in this direction would mean minimal changes for the operation and practical running of the Group. Current arrangements for Officers, the Executive Committee, membership, addresses would not need to be changed.

The Chairman noted that the December *Bulletin* will publish a draft constitution for use in registering the Group as a Society in The Netherlands. Members are asked to give comments (if any) on this draft before April 1997. In the light of these comments the Constitution will be revised and circulated to members in advance of the August 1997 AGM where it will be presented for adoption. Formal registration of WSG as a Society in The Netherlands would take place in late 1997.

12. Future conferences

Ole Thorup invited everybody to Denmark where the 1997 conference will be held from 8-11 August. For 1998 Hermann Hötter is exploring possibilities in France. It was stressed that any offers to hold the annual meeting will be warmly welcomed, for 1998 as also for later years. There will be an extra meeting in August 1998 in South Africa prior to the International Ornithological Congress.

13. Any other business

The Chairman thanked Jane Marchant who has done a fantastic job running the Colour Marking Register for many years. This is a key task in for the Group, although not always a very high profile one. Without it, the scope for international collaborative ringing research would be much more limited by the problems of colour-ring confusion. After many years of hard work she has passed this job to Stephen Browne and Harriet Mead. The meeting recorded their thanks for Jane's contribution with acclamation.

1996 WSG Annual Conference, de Hoge Rielen, Kasterlee, Belgium



The Annual Conference was a great success with a wide international attendance. The venue followed WSG traditions in being both completely dissimilar from any previous location and highly memorable!

Full accounts of the meeting will be published in the April *Bulletin*.

Bulletin 80 and IWS 8 printing problems

A significant number of members reported problems with missing pages in *Bulletin* 80. If you had such problems, please advise the Membership Secretary.

Likewise through problems with Canadian printers, some volumes of *International Wader Studies* 8 (Shorebird ecology and conservation in the Western Hemisphere) consist only as a multiple of one section bound together. If you have such a copy and would like read of other ecological and conservation issues elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere, please also contact the Membership Secretary.

Thank you!

Many thanks to all those who have helped recently with all stages of recent *Bulletin* publication:

EDITORIAL

Nigel Clark, Nick Davidson, Julianne Evans, Mike Evans, Barbara Ganter, Patricia González, Phil Holland, Henk Koffijberg, Martin Mays-Smith, Lys Muirhead, Mike Pienkowski, Theunis Piersma, Peter Prokosch, Rui Rufino, Thomas Stroud (computing consultant), Des Thompson, Martin Tither, Robin Ward and Mike Weston.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

Reg Davies and Rodney West.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Eugeny A. Koblik, Alexei Mosalov (RBCU), Mark Hulme and Jens Gregersen.

And apologies, as ever, to anyone inadvertently omitted!

Are you a wader species expert?

Do you know about a particular species and its populations, or do you know of someone who is?

As part of its role as Wader Specialist Group for Wetlands International, WSG has responsibility for preparing expert assessment of wader population sizes and for making recommendations for changes to 1% population thresholds used in identifying internationally important

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