

The WADER STUDY GROUP (WSG) is an association of amateurs and professionals from all parts of the world interested in the Charadrii (waders or shorebirds). Membership of the WSG is currently over 600 people, approximately a third of which live in Britain (where the group was formed in 1970) with the others in Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and Australasia. The interests of the Group have diversified from an original concentration on migration-related studies to embrace all aspects of wader biology.

The aims of the WSG are:

- ◆ To maintain contact between amateurs and professionals studying waders.
- ◆ To help organise co-operative studies.
- ◆ To provide a vehicle for exchange of information.

The main means of achieving these aims is by the publication of the *Wader Study Group Bulletin*. WSG maintains contacts with many regional, national and international bodies interested in bird research and conservation, and often works alongside them in co-operative studies. The Group has been involved also in the organisation of expeditions to remote areas to fill gaps in our knowledge of waders.

Projects co-ordinated by WSG currently with active fieldwork include:

- ◆ Monitoring of inland wader migration sites in Europe
- ◆ Collation of breeding wader population sizes in Europe
- ◆ Ruffnet (a study of polymorphism of male Ruff)
- ◆ Kentish Plover studies in Europe

WSG also co-ordinates (on behalf of several national authorities) the colour-marking of waders, and attempts to forward sightings of these.

The *Bulletin* provides a forum for news, notices, ringing recoveries, recent publications, new catching and study methods, articles and preliminary or interim publication of results from all parts of the world. The editors try to maintain a balance of material ranging from newsletter, informal descriptions of research activities, meetings and expeditions to formal presentation of results or preliminary analyses.

The *Bulletin* appears in April, August and December. The deadlines for inclusion of notices are 1 January, 1 May and 1 September. Articles however, must be received well before these dates. Articles, notes, papers, notices, requests for information, books for review, reprints of papers and other items should be sent to the Editor-in-Chief:

David Stroud,
Wader Study Group Bulletin,
c/o JNCC,
Monkstone House, City Road,
Peterborough, PE1 1JY,
U.K.

Material relating to the Western Hemisphere may be sent to the editors of the Western Hemisphere section: P Hicklin, Canadian Wildlife Service, PO Box 1 590 Sackville, New Brunswick E0A 3C0 Canada or G Ruiz, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, PO Box 28, Edgewater, Maryland 21037-0028, USA. Matters relating to the circulation of the *Bulletin* should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

The Editors are always pleased to discuss possible contributions with potential authors, and to advise on presentation. Manuscripts should be typed or written clearly, with all lines double-spaced, leaving wide margins, and following the style of *Bulletin* 66, December 1992 or later issues. Pay particular attention to the style of headings and reference lists. Scientific names may be given there instead. Tables and figures should, wherever possible, be designed to fit a single column width of 88 mm. Guidelines to contributors are available on request.

The *Bulletin* is produced using Computer Concepts *Impression* Desktop Publishing package on an Acorn Archimedes A420/1, and

camera-ready artwork is produced on a PostScript laser printer. The copy is typed directly into *Impression*, and onto *Wordwise Plus*, on BBC Microcomputers. Authors may submit copy in machine readable form on one of the following disc formats: IBM PC-DOS 5¼" 360k, IBM PC-DOS 3½" 720k, Acorn ADFS 5¼" 640k, Acorn ADFS 3½" ADFS, Acorn ADFS 3½" 800k, BBC DFS 5¼" (40 or 80 track, single or double sided, single density), Nimbus MS-DOS 3½", Atari DOS 3½". Other disc formats are currently being investigated. Authors using Computer Concepts *Inter-Word*, *Wordwise Plus*, *Word for Windows* or *Word Perfect* may submit copy in the original file format, users of other wordprocessors should submit plain ASCII text files, without printer control codes, or extra line feeds or carriage returns. Authors should in any case provide a print-out of the article (including formatted tables), with text effects (eg. italic, bold, underline, superscript, subscript) marked clearly on the output in red pen.

Line illustrations and figures should be produced neatly in black ink on good quality white or tracing paper, with linear dimensions about 50% larger than the intended publication size. Their final size should relate either to a one column width of 88 mm or a double column width of 181 mm. These can then be stencilled or by dry transfer (e.g. Letraset), and be at least 15 mm high after final reduction. If stencil or dry transfer is not available, leave the original illustration unlabelled, and mark the required lettering on a separate copy. Please send original illustrations and retain a copy in case of loss or damage in transit. It would be helpful if two copies of each manuscript could be submitted. Good quality black and white photographs may also be published, but please consult the Editor before submission. Photographs should be high contrast glossy prints and should be submitted at twice their intended published size.

Publication of interim results in *WSG Bulletin* is not intended to pre-empt publication of final results as journal papers. Readers are requested to bear in mind that results and analyses published in *WSG Bulletin* may be of a preliminary nature, and to take account of this if making reference to these articles in publications of their own. If editors of other publications wish to reprint items from *WSG Bulletin* with suitable acknowledgements, this can usually be arranged; the persons concerned should contact the Editor-in-Chief.

Membership of the WSG is open to all individuals or groups interested in waders, and application forms can be obtained from the **Membership Secretary, Wader Study Group, PO Box 247, Tring, Herts, HP23 5SN, U.K.** This address should be used for all correspondence, except that concerning editorial matters. The subscription is devoted mainly to the cost of production and circulation of the *Bulletin*. The annual subscription is £17 (or US \$30, Canadian \$35). Outside Europe, *Bulletins* can be sent airmail for a total subscription of £25. Rates for institutions and payments through subscription services are £45 (or US \$81 or Canadian \$90 or airmail £50, US \$90., CAN\$100).

All cheques should be payable to 'Wader Study Group' and must be paid in British, US or Canadian currency. Alternatively, payments may be made by bank giro (in English pounds) to Lloyds Bank Ltd., 7 Victoria Place, Haverfordwest, Dyfed SA61 23Z, U.K. (Bank sorting code no. 30-93-98), with reference to WSG account (no.0095972); or by British Post Office Giro to account no. 471204404. Please ensure that your name and initials appear on the transfer form and that a membership application form is sent directly to WSG. Persons with bank accounts in Britain may use the Bankers Order form provided with the application form.



The Wader Study Group acts as the Wader Research Group of the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau

W A D E R S T U D Y G R O U P
B U L L E T I N

VOLUME 82

C O N T E N T S

APRIL 1997

Change of editor	1
Notice of the 1997 WSG Annual General Meeting, Denmark	1
1997 WSG Annual Conference, V. Vedsted, Denmark	1-2
Four nice days under the pine trees... <i>M. Desholm</i>	3
An Alaskan View of the 1996 Wader Study Group Conference. <i>C. Handel</i>	3-5
Special WSG Meeting, Langebaan, South Africa, 12-15 August 1998	5
Obituary: George Underhill	6
Notes & News	6-7
News from the Wetlands International Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group. <i>H. Kalchreuter</i>	7-8
WSG international Ruff census spring 1997 call for help and information. <i>E. Wymenga</i>	9
Breeding Waders in Europe 2000. <i>O. Thorup, M. O'Brien & N. Baccetti</i>	10-11
The WSG Colour-marking Register. <i>S. Browne & H. Mead</i>	12-13
Reviews	13-16
Are migratory waders tropical or arctic birds?	16
Recent publications on waders 68. <i>H. Koffijberg</i>	17-22
The many unknowns about plovers and sandpipers of the world: introduction to a wealth of research opportunities highly relevant for shorebird conservation. <i>T. Piersma, P. Wiersma & J. van Gils</i>	22-33
Proposal for international action plan and specialist network for globally threatened waders. <i>D.A. Stroud</i>	34-37

African-Eurasian flyways

Why do Crab Plovers <i>Dromas ardeola</i> breed in colonies? <i>P.A.R Hockey & S.J. Aspinall</i>	38-42
Erratum: Status and distribution of Redshanks <i>Tringa totanus</i> breeding along Mediterranean coasts.	43
Sanderlings in Iceland. <i>J.R. Wilson</i>	44-45
Zackenbergl Ecological Research Operations (ZERO): A new research facility in High Arctic Greenland. <i>H. Meltofte</i>	46-50

Asian-Pacific flyways

The N.W. Australia Wader Study Expedition in March and April 1996. <i>C. Minton, H. Sitters & R. Jessop</i>	51-55
--	-------