

WADER STUDY GROUP

BULLETIN 83 August 1997

1997 WSG Annual General Meeting, Denmark

The 1997 WSG Annual General Meeting will be held at 09.00 on Saturday 9 August 1997 during the annual conference in Denmark.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 8 November 1996 (Bulletin 81:1-3)
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Membership Secretary's Report
6. Editor's Report
7. Project Co-ordinator's Report
8. Survey Co-ordinator's Report
9. WSG-IWRB Liaison Officer's Report
10. Election of officers and members of the Executive Committee
11. Subscription rates for 1998
12. Adoption of new constitution

The General Secretary, Petra de Goeij, finishes her term of office this year and her position falls vacant. She has indicated her willingness to stand for a further term. The Editor, David Stroud will step down as Editor this year. Fortunately Julianne Evans, currently Assistant Editor, has indicated her willingness to take over the task as Editor. Hermann Hotker will step down as Co-ordinator this year. His task is taken over by the Survey Co-ordinator Jan van Gils and Project Co-ordinator Ole Thorup (both elected in 1996). The Committee proposes the election of the following Officers:

Editor: Julianne Evans
General Secretary: Petra de Goeij

The term of office of Pablo Canevari is completed this year. He has indicated his willingness to stand for a further term of office on the Executive Committee. Therefore the Executive Committee proposes the election of Pablo Canevari for a further term of office. The Executive Committee also proposes to elect Hermann Hotker as a member of the Committee. He has indicated his willingness for this post. Alternative nominations for the posts of Officers and Executive Committee members listed above may be made by any members of the Wader Study Group. Nominations must be signed by a proposer and seconder and must

include a signed statement by the candidate indicating that he or she is willing to stand. All of these people must be paid up members of the Wader Study Group. Nominations should be sent to the General Secretary, Petra de Goeij, to arrive by 7 July 1997.

OFFICER'S REPORTS FOR 1995

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Gerard Boere

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Rodney West

Balance sheet as at 31 December 1996

| | 1995 | 1996 | | 1995 | 1996 |
|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Computers & printers | 1 725 | 650 | Capital | 16 364 | 13 455 |
| Stock of back <i>Bulletins</i> and publications | p.m. | p.m. | Subscriptions in advance | 1 432 | 567 |
| Cash at bank and on deposit | 20 673 | 20 761 | Conference fund | 1 982 | 1 982 |
| | | | <i>Bulletin</i> No.69 | 2 000 | 2 000 |
| | | | (methodology reprints) | | |
| | | | Breeding waders in Europe | 150 | 256 |
| | | | Arctic waterfowl monitoring | 470 | 470 |
| | | | Great basin shorebirds | - | 2 681 |
| | £22 398 | £21 411 | | £22 398 | £21 411 |

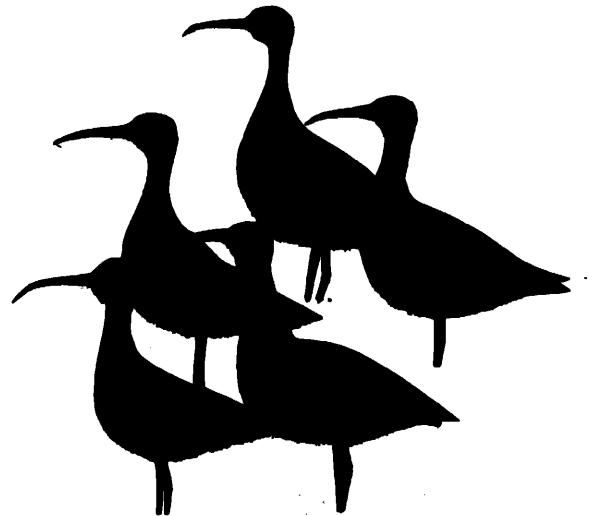
Receipts and expenditure account

Receipts

| | 1995 | 1996 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Subscriptions | 9 017.01 | 10 388.72 |
| Subscriptions from past year | 407.50 | 33.05 |
| Subscriptions from next year | 1 432.43 | - |
| Interest received | 714.91 | 625.51 |
| Colour Marking Register | 545.43 | 389.42 |
| Sale of back <i>Bulletins</i> and other publications | 1 056.76 | 270.55 |
| External contributions to publications | 1 250.00 | 750.00 |
| Conference | 1 982.73 | - |
| Miscellaneous | 209.00 | 488.85 |
| Exchange profit | 262.01 | - |
| Round off | 0.07 | - |
| TOTAL INCOME | £16 877.85 | £12 946.10 |

Expenditure

| | 1995 | 1996 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Bulletin</i> costs - printing | 5 049.50 | 6 319.00 |
| - supplement | 1 026.96 | - |
| - typing | - | 80.00 |
| - dispatch | 2 980.87 | 2 515.95 |
| Editorial | 82.23 | 52.89 |
| Secretarial costs and miscellaneous | 2 279.79 | 1 937.53 |
| Colour Marking Register | 451.57 | 866.01 |
| Bank charges | 190.93 | 166.03 |
| Depreciation on computers etc. | 1 075.00 | 1 075.00 |
| Exchange loss | - | 1 128.19 |
| Investments | 160.36 | - |
| <i>International Wader Studies</i> | 542.29 | 1 564.91 |
| Reservation Breeding Waders | - | 150.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | £13 839.50 | £15 855.51 |



| | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE | £3 038.35 | £2 909.41 |
|--|------------------|------------------|

BUDGET 1997

| | | | |
|---|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Subscriptions | 10 625 | Bulletin costs - printing | 6 000 |
| Interest received | 700 | - typing | 100 |
| Colour Marking Register | 750 | - dispatch | 2 500 |
| Sale of back Bulletins and publications | 425 | Editorial | 200 |
| | | Secretarial costs and Miscellaneous | 1 550 |
| | | Colour Marking Register | 800 |
| | | Bank charges | 200 |
| | | Depreciation | 650 |
| Total income | £12 500 | Total expenses | £12 000 |

TREASURER'S REPORT

At first glance, the excess of expenditure over income looks rather dramatic, but fortunately this year seems to be an exception. Printing costs increased by 25% (GBP 5,049 in 1995) due to an increased number of printed pages of our *Bulletin*. For example, in 1995 204 pages were published whereas during 1996 this increased to 295 pages! The April *Bulletin* in particular, was responsible for a large increase in pages (120pp). But we are happy to receive GBP 600 from Wetlands International as a financial support for the publication of the abstracts from the Aveiro IWRB/WSG Feeding Ecology Symposium.

The current strength of the British pound sterling has also had an effect on our exchange rates due to some extent to our choice of having outstanding claims against the bank partly in the UK and partly in The Netherlands.

The third factor was the additional cost undertaken by the Group to bring the Colour Marking Register back on line. This caused an initial expenditure but in future it is hoped and expected that the Colour Marking Register is financially self-supporting.

After removing the three factors mentioned, the financial result for 1996 gives a more balanced picture. The total subscription income for the current year again exceeded GBP 10,000, notwithstanding the increased rate of the British Pound. In contrast with previous years, the receipt of subscriptions from the next year (1997) is not processed in the R&E account, but will be found in the

Balance, where this amount has nothing to do with the current year but with the forthcoming year. The interest received is a little lower due to the lower interest rates.

Besides the GBP 600 we received from Wetlands International (see above) we also received GBP 150 from them as financial support for the publication of the Kasterlee meeting abstracts. Miscellaneous concerns an allowance for travel expenses. The IWS expenses concerned for the greater part the postage for IWS No. 8 *Shorebird ecology and conservation in the Western Hemisphere*.

Due to another way of book-keeping the Balance is slightly changed with respect to the Balance published in the previous Treasurer's Report. The subscriptions received in advance for 1997 are less than last year, caused by the later sending of the renewal forms in November 1996. We received from the University of Nevada GBP 2,681 as a contribution to the publishing costs of the *IWS* volume on Great Basin shorebirds.

New in the Treasurer's report is the Budget, as shown at the Kasterlee meeting. It will not be necessary to increase the subscription rate for 1998, although the currency exchange rates of different countries may force us to surcharge membership fees when these are paid in foreign currencies. It may, nonetheless, be necessary to increase membership fees in 1999, but you can help us avoid this again by paying on time and actively seeking new members for the Group so as to broaden further our financial base.

Bob Loos

WSG/WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

The role of WSG in fulfilling the role of Wader Specialist Group for Wetlands International, and through this to provide input to IUNC's Species Survival Commission, has continued well, despite some major changes. The most substantive change has been the relocation of Wetlands International in September 1996 from Slimbridge, UK to Wageningen, The Netherlands.

The major task for WSG in its Specialist Group role this year has been in developing new population estimates for wader populations, so as to provide overdue input to the global Waterfowl Population Estimates report provided by Wetlands International to the Ramsar convention at three-yearly intervals. Whilst the Wader Database managed by IBN-DLO on Wetland International's behalf is being redeveloped, WSG held a highly successful and stimulating workshop on new population estimates, as part of the 1996 annual conference in Belgium in October 1997. This workshop brought together national count co-ordinators from most of the key regions/countries on the East Atlantic Flyway, and in the space of one day produced some new provisional estimates for those wader populations that overwinter predominantly on European Atlantic coasts. These are now being prepared for reporting in a future *Bulletin*. To assist in providing expert guidance on populations of different species I have begun establishing a Wader Expert Network of WSG

members with knowledge of particular species.

The workshop focused on European-wintering coastal populations. During winter 1996/7 a joint WSG/WIWO team worked with the national park authorities in the Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania to make new counts of wintering waders. The work was very successful and its findings, which fills in one of the major gaps in recent flyway information, will be reported soon in the *Bulletin*.

Another exciting development for WSG in its population work is now coming up. Through Wetlands International WSG is being asked to co-ordinate preparation of a Wader Flyway Atlas that will support the Bonn Convention African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement. This will follow on from the impressive Anatidae Flyway Atlas published by Wetlands International in 1996. To produce the wader atlas requires a functioning database of site counts, so that important localities as well as population sizes and trends can be generated for each species. We are in discussion with Wetlands International and IBN-DLO (the database managers) about how to develop this in the necessary short timescale.

During the year we have been discussing with the Australasian Wader Studies Group ways of developing network links, and jointly with Wetland International's Threatened Waterbird Specialist Group the development, through IUCN's Species Survival Commission, of an action plan for globally threatened waders.

Nick Davidson

CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

1996 was a year of WSG Projects without field activities. Two projects came to an end in 1994-1995. How the results from the *Inland Wader Counts* will be published has not yet been decided. Writing up the results from the *Kentish Plover Project* is almost finished and the editorial work

for an issue of *International Wader Studies* is proceeding well. There are still some funding problems that have to be solved, but the Kentish Plover volume can be expected in the near future.

The project *Migration of Red Knots in South America (Bulletin 78)* has developed a network of enthusiastic participants but there is still a lack of funding.

The network of national co-ordinators for the project *Breeding Waders in Europe 2000* was almost completed in 1996. The only major wader country still missing on the list of co-ordinators is Iceland. Late in the year the concept of the first phase of the project was decided. Information on this "update phase" and a list of national co-ordinators is found in *Bulletin 82*.

Late in 1996 a new WSG-project developed: *Ruff census spring 1997/1998*, co-ordinated by Eddy Wymenga. The project is planned to involve field work between March and May 1997 and 1998 in order to get a better picture of Ruff migration in western and central Europe. More information in the *Bulletin*.

The preparations for the field work for the *Winter 1997/98 European Non-estuarine Coastal Waterfowl Survey (NEWS)* are progressing well. The project has an almost Europe-wide coverage. Updates are found in *Bulletin 80, 81 & 83*.

Ole Thorup & Jan van Gils

EDITOR'S REPORT

As in previous years, the main task for the editorial team in 1996 was the production of the *Bulletin* to timetable - a task achieved in large part. A total of 295 pages were published during 1996 - an increase on the total of 204 pages published the previous year.

Work progressed on a number of volumes on *International Wader Studies* currently in preparation. Substantial progress was made on the Odessa proceedings - a volume

whose production has proved far more complex than the international editorial panel ever expected. Thanks to substantial grant-aid from Wetlands International, it is anticipated that the volume will be produced in the second half of 1997.

After ten years of assisting the editorial process in a variety of capacities, I decided to step down as editor following the April 1997 *Bulletin*. The current assistant editor, Julianne Evans, who has been assisting especially with editing the Odessa Proceedings, will be proposed as *WSG Bulletin* editor by the Executive Committee at the 1997 AGM.

When I took over as editor from Nick Davidson, the *Bulletin* was printed from a BBC Micro using the most primitive of word processors. Dot-matrix output was cut and paste onto A3 masters and then photo reduced.

The last decade has seen the advent of Desktop Publishing, laser printers and the supply of virtually all material for publication on disk. In parallel with the advance of technology, the *Bulletin* has also substantially modified its format and design, under the guidance of Rodney West, and now whereas papers and submissions from outside Europe were rare, these are now regular in every issue. Indeed, since *Bulletin 59* (August 1990) there have been global political changes that now mean that we can regular report on wader work in parts of the world from which little information formerly could be disseminated internationally.

What has not changed is the great mix of material published - Notes and News, reviews, regular features such as the round-up of Recent Publications so thoroughly collated by Henk Koffijberg, as well as the great diversity of submitted notes and papers. To maintain such variety has meant, however, a lot of chasing and encouragement of submissions: remember that this is your *Bulletin* - the new editor will welcome all ideas for content or submissions. Do start writing. Who knows, maybe I will now have time to contribute something!

David A. Stroud