

# Annual Conference of the International Wader Study Group, Jurata, Hel Peninsula, Poland, 4–7 October 2002

The Hel Peninsula is one of the most interesting places for waterbirds along the coast of Poland in the non-breeding season. Large flocks of waterfowl and gulls occur on migration and in winter. The peninsula is also used as a leading line by migrating passerines and birds of prey in spring and autumn and is well known as the best spot for rarities in the whole country. Species that have been recorded include Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*, Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*, Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*, Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* and Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*. Wet meadows and sandy beaches provide excellent conditions for stopover waders and, in 1983, this attracted the interest of students of the University of Gdansk. Wader ringing started then and has since turned into a long-term study. Eventually this led to the establishment of the Waterbird Research Group KULING, which is very pleased to host the Annual Conference of the International Wader Study Group in its birthplace.

## Conference location

The Conference will be held at Jurata, a small holiday village on Hel Peninsula that juts out into the Baltic at the northern tip of Poland. The venue is a Military Holiday Complex located at the end of the village in an old pine forest, with views to both the Gulf of Gdansk and to the open waters of the Baltic. The Annual Conference will take place on Saturday and Sunday (5–6 October), and on Monday 7 October two workshops will be held; one on "Project *Tringa glareola* 2000" and the other on "Declining Populations".

## How to find the conference venue

The conference venue is located ca. 80 km northwest of the conurbation of Gdansk and Gdynia, beside the only road along the Hel Peninsula. It can be reached from Gdynia by local trains and buses that depart about every two hours. The bus station is located at the front of the railway station "Gdynia Główna Osobowa". Gdynia and Gdansk are well linked by local trains (every 10 minutes), so travel to whichever city is the most convenient. Options for travel to Gdynia or Gdansk are:

- ❑ by train – there are a few direct international connections to Gdynia (e.g. from Berlin, Lviv, St Petersburg), or go via Warsaw and then by express train to Gdynia (almost every hour). You can plan your travel (including local trains) using e.g.: <http://reiseauskunft.bahn.de> (Beware that time-tables for Polish trains change on 1st June!)
- ❑ by bus – international bus services are available from many cities of Europe (e.g. London, Paris, Brussels, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Aachen, Köln, Dusseldorf, Dortmund, Frankfurt a.M., Vilnius, Kaliningrad). Go direct to Gdansk and stop by the main railway station; some finish at Gdynia.
- ❑ by plane – there are direct flights to Gdansk airport from

Hamburg and Frankfurt, or via Warsaw (6–7 flights Warsaw–Gdansk a day). In Warsaw, you can also change to the express train by taking a direct city bus from the airport to the main railway station. From Gdansk airport, take the city bus (or taxi) to the railway station and then continue by local train to Gdynia or direct to Jurata. Detailed information on plane connections can be found e.g. on: <http://www.lot.com.pl>.

- ❑ by ferry – there are sailings from Sweden (Nynashamn, Karlskrona) to Gdansk or Gdynia, from Sweden (Malmö, Ystad) and from Denmark (Copenhagen) to Swinoujscie in the west of Poland and then by train to Gdynia. Details of ferry connections can be found at:
  - <http://www.polferries.com.pl> and
  - <http://www.stenaline.com.pl>
- ❑ by car – coming from any direction, go to the town of Wladyslawowo at the base of Hel Peninsula and then continue along the only road on the peninsula until you reach Jurata, where you will see the conference logo.

## Talks and posters

Talks will be given on Saturday and Sunday morning (5 & 6 October) and a poster session is planned for the Saturday evening. Talks should not exceed 20 minutes including discussion. Posters should not be larger than A0 format (70 cm × 100 cm) hung vertically. During the evenings, some time will be available for a few short informal presentations, but the organisers should be notified in advance. An overhead projector, slide projector and multimedia projector with laptop (PowerPoint) will be available for presentations. Those who wish to give a talk at the workshop on "Project *Tringa glareola* 2000" or who want more information on that workshop should contact Magdalena Remisiewicz at [biomr@univ.gda.pl](mailto:biomr@univ.gda.pl). Those who are interested in the workshop "Declining populations" should contact Petra de Goeij at [petra@nioz.nl](mailto:petra@nioz.nl).

## Excursions

The excursion will take place on Sunday evening, 6 October. Buses will take us to Hel harbour (an excellent place for gull watching), a seal aquarium and to "Beka" nature reserve located by the Reda River mouth. The reserve is a mosaic of saline coastal meadows, rushes, reedbeds, and small ponds. Citrine wagtails *Motacilla citreola*, Dunlins *Calidris alpina shinzii* and Red-breasted mergansers *Mergus serrator* breed there. In October, it is a good place to see waders and waterfowl. The most numerous should be Dunlin, Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* and Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*. Wellington boots are necessary equipment for the trip, and a waterproof coat and hat are recommended. In October, the weather in northern Poland is variable. In some years, October is warm and sunny with a mean temperature of 10–11°C, and a maximum daily temperature of over 20°C. In other years, days with minimum



temperature as low as 0°C occur and the monthly mean is 7–8°C. Sometimes there are storms and heavy rain. We will do our best to book a sunny October, but please be prepared also for the worst weather scenario!

### Organisation

The conference is organized by WRG KULING and Dept. of Vertebrate Ecology & Zoology, University of Gdansk. Further information and application forms can be found at: [www.free.ngo.pl/kuling](http://www.free.ngo.pl/kuling). If you have any questions, please contact: **Magdalena Remisiewicz or Włodzimierz Meissner at [kuling@free.ngo.pl](mailto:kuling@free.ngo.pl), Dept. of Vertebrate Ecology & Zoology, University of Gdansk, Al. Legionów 9, PL-80-441 Gdansk, Poland, tel/fax: +48 58 341-20-16.**

### Notice of the 2002 Annual General Meeting of the International Wader Study Group

The Annual General Meeting of the International Wader Study Group will be held at 09.00 hrs on Saturday 5 October 2002 during the Annual Conference at Jurata, Hel, near Gdansk, Poland. Nominations for the election of Officers and other members of the Executive Committee may be made in writing to the General Secretary not less than 14 days before the AGM. Each nomination must be proposed and seconded by fully paid up members and accompanied by the nominee's written consent.

### Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2001 AGM
3. Chairman's report (Hermann Hotker)
4. (a) Treasurer's report (Bob Loos)  
(b) Auditor's report (Martin de Jong)
5. Membership Officer's report (Rodney West)
6. Editor's report (Humphrey Sitters)
7. Project Co-ordinator's report (Ole Thorup)
8. Conference Co-ordinator's report and future conferences (Petra de Goeij)
9. WSG–Wetlands International Liaison Officer's report – 2002 (David Stroud)
10. Subscription rates for 2003 (Bob Loos)
11. WSG Annual Meeting 2003
12. Election of Officers and other members of the Executive Committee
13. Any other business

*Rowena Langston,  
General Secretary,  
Walnut Tree Farm, Hinderclay,  
Diss, Norfolk IP22 1HT, UK  
e-mail: [rlangston@wntfarm.demon.co.uk](mailto:rlangston@wntfarm.demon.co.uk)*

