



Editorial

The Wader Study Group Bulletin Volume 100, April 2003: A big issue on the big issues

First published in 1970, the *Wader Study Group Bulletin* celebrates its 100th volume in April 2003. To mark this event in a really useful and stimulating way, volume 100 will contain an array of articles on the theme:

“The big issues in wader science and/or conservation”.

All members are invited to contribute articles on any aspect of wader science and/or conservation that they regard as a “big issue”. This, however, can be interpreted very broadly. Certainly the consequences for waders of global warming are a big issue as are the conservation and protection of vital wader habitats, as is unravelling phylogenies and migration strategies as well as reaching an understanding of the complexities of wader mating systems. However, there are many other important issues that may not be so obvious. For example, despite the effort to research and understand our waders, relatively few of the world’s 200-odd species, especially many that are restricted to the tropics and southern hemisphere, have been studied in any depth. Even politics may be of vital importance to shorebird conservation:

for example, how can we persuade poor countries to take such matters seriously when faced with overwhelming human need? Likewise even apparently local issues may be really of much greater importance where, for instance, vital stopover sites are threatened.

There is no need to agree on a topic with the editors before setting pen to paper: if you think that it is a sufficiently important issue, it is! Nevertheless we will be happy to discuss and/or suggest a suitable topic if you wish.

Generally we anticipate that most contributions will be in the range 1,000 to 3,000 words, but this is flexible. However, please consult us if you want to exceed 3,000 words by a wide margin. Hopefully, most contributions will be illustrated with apposite graphs, tables, drawings or photographs.

We would like to receive contributions as soon as possible (of course we would!), but for Volume 100, the final deadline is the end of December 2002 at the very latest. We look forward to hearing from you!

Humphrey Sitters, Rowena Langston and Robin Ward

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