

International Wader Study Group Officer's reports for 2001

Chairman's report (Hermann Hötter)

When Gerard Boere asked me to accept nomination for election as chairman of the WSG, I enquired whether there were any major problems that might render the job too difficult for me. Gerard gave his assurance that everything was running very smoothly and that, provided all other officers are doing their job, the role of chairman is not particularly onerous. I must admit that he was mostly right. I joined a team that works well together and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their efforts and cooperation.

The most obvious proof of the high standard of work that the WSG delivers is the *Bulletin*, which appears on time, offers a great variety of different material and looks better than ever before. I would like to thank Humphrey Sitters, Rodney West and all the others somewhat more behind the scenes for this enormous task. In my thanks, I would also like to include Julianne Evans, the previous editor, who built up the basis for the excellent publication we have today.

Our second publication series, *International Wader Studies*, is also booming, issues are coming out with increasing regularity and there are no less than seven volumes in the pipeline for the next few years. Note well: all issues are free to members! Thanks are due to David Stroud for all the work he does on *IWS*, particularly for the compilation of the revised wader population estimates that he is currently undertaking in collaboration with Nick Davidson. David is also our Wetlands International Liaison Officer, rather a difficult job at present, as may be seen from his report.

Besides the *Bulletin* and *IWS*, the annual conferences are an important feature of the WSG. For many years, Petra de Goeij has ably co-ordinated the organisation of our conferences including exploration of future venues. The list of conference locations planned for the next few years is remarkably long!

Ole Thorup's report shows that the WSG is not only publishing the results of members' wader research but also carrying out its own studies. We are also grateful to Theunis Piersma, our vice-chairman, who strengthens ties with our membership in the Americas and Australia as well as linking us with the frontiers of science.

The more technical parts of the group's management are also working well, thanks to Rowena Langston who keeps her eyes on deadlines, agendas and minutes, and thanks to Rodney West who deals with our worldwide membership. Our thanks go also to Stephen Browne and Harriet Mead who, based at BTO, have successfully managed the WSG colour marking register for many years.

Perhaps the most astonishing part of the group's management is the finances. In spite of many activities and a high gratis output, the financial situation is quite healthy. It is no secret that the topic "possible increase in membership fees" is a regular item on the agendas of most recent EXCO meetings, but again this year we did not see the need for an increase. There are, however, several challenges that might

force us to increase membership fees in the near future. There are two reasons for our good financial situation. The first is simply the fact that nearly all of the activities mentioned in this and the following reports are based on voluntary work. The second reason is the excellent management of our financial affairs by our treasurer, Bob Loos.

There are many challenges for the WSG in future. One of them is the ambitious plan, mentioned above, to publish several important volumes of *IWS* and to distribute them free to members. Besides the time and energy involved in this, there are clear financial implications. One way of putting WSG into a more comfortable financial situation is to increase membership. ***I would like to encourage each member to help in this by advertising the WSG amongst colleagues, friends, at meetings and on every other suitable occasion.*** One factor that should help increase WSG membership, especially in those parts of the world where there are few members, is the proposed two-tier membership subscription, which is to be discussed at the AGM in Hel.

All the activities mentioned above and in the other reports absorb a lot of time and energy. Nevertheless we want to keep the WSG as open as possible to all good initiatives for promoting wader research.

Treasurer's report (Bob Loos)

Receipts and Expenditure account

During 2001 the financial state of the International Wader Study Group continued to be satisfactory. Membership income remained stable as in previous years, but as a bonus we received £132 in donations from members consequent upon our plea in the membership renewal form. We are grateful for this extra money, which will be put towards the cost of Volume 100 of the *Wader Study Group Bulletin*, a larger and especially attractive issue to be published in 2003.

At £695, interest received was lower than the £800 forecast because £120 was withheld in respect of tax. This was contrary to the arrangements we had made with our British bank. We expect this money to be released during 2002. Nevertheless it is not included under Debtors in our balance sheet because we are not quite sure about our rights in the matter. When received, it will be booked as interest received in our Receipts & Expenditure account for 2002.

Selling back bulletins and *International Wader Studies* remains a welcome extra source of income; if you need these publications just contact Rodney West; he will be very pleased to help you!

The bulletins published in 2001 consisted of 200 pages, 30% more than in the previous year. They also included the first colour illustrations (in Theunis Piersma's obituary of Pablo Canevari). Together, these factors resulted in an increase in printing costs. The dispatch expenses relate to four bulletins (volume 93, December 2000 up to and including volume 96, December 2001). Usually, the printing and post-



Accounts of the International Wader Study Group for the year 1st January to 31st December 2001

(All figures are in British pounds).

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Receipts	1999	2000	2001
Subscriptions	7,856.03	8,567.18	8,538.44
Subscriptions from past year	322.03	675.78	262.08
Donations	0	0	132.21
Interest received	725.75	546.08	695.45
Colour Marking Register	1,023.51	336.77	247.39
Sale back Bulletins and publications	72.61	247.70	333.53
External contributions to publications	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	24.23	41.29	20.82
Exchange profit	0	0	0
Wader Atlas	0	0	0
Total income	10,024.16	10,414.80	10,229.92
Expenses	1999	2000	2001
Bulletin costs – printing	3,870.00	2,920.00	3,765.00
– dispatch	2,245.62	2,916.47	3,126.89
Editorial	0	0	0
Secretarial costs and miscellaneous	1,306.79	1,743.34	1,595.65
Colour Marking Register	613.45	241.22	150.10
Bank charges	137.10	252.21	238.92
Depreciation on computers etc.	480.00	480.00	240.00
Exchange loss	175.27	16.87	65.42
Investments	0	0	0
International Wader Studies	0	0	0
Wader Atlas	0	0	0
Reservation Breeding Waders	150.00	150.00	150.00
Miscellaneous	0	0	14.58
Total expenditure	8,978.23	8,720.11	9,346.56
Excess of income over expenditure	1,045.93	1,694.69	883.36

BALANCE SHEET

	31.12.2000	31.12.2001		31.12.2000	31.12.2001
Computers & printers	480	240	Capital	14,357	15,118
Stock back bulletins & IWS	p.m.	p.m.	Subscriptions in advance	766	637
Cash at Bank and on deposit	17,995	18,064	Conference Fund	2,486	2,278
Debtors	2,204	3,315	Bull.69 Methodology Issue	2,000	2,000
			Breeding Waders in Europe	673	823
			Odessa Proceedings	295	252
			Donations 2001	10	0
			Hebrides Project	92	92
			Creditors	0	287
			Bulletin 100	0	132
	20,679	21,619		20,679	21,619

BUDGET 2003

Subscriptions	8,550	Bulletin costs;	
Interest received	700	printing	3,700
Colour Marking Register	300	DTP	1,050
Sale back bulletins and IWS	200	postage	2,700
		Secretarial costs & misc.	1,600
		Colour Marking Register	300
		Bank charges	250
		Breeding Waders	150
	9,750		9,750



age of the December bulletin is paid in the following year, but 2001 was an exception. This means that dispatch costs will be lower in 2002.

Secretarial costs included the removal of our stock of back bulletins and International Wader Studies from England to a dry storage above Knots and Turnstones in the NIOZ aviary on Texel.

Depreciation on computers is half that of the previous two years because the written-down value of our computer equipment is now quite low (e.g. £480 on 31.12.2000).

Fortunately, the British Pound increased by only 1.7% against the Dutch Guilder during this financial year, so the exchange loss of our savings in Dutch currency is quite small.

Balance sheet

The stock of back bulletins and International Wader Studies is hard to quantify in monetary terms. Therefore it is recorded as "p.m." which means "pro memorie". This stock is unquestionably of value, but this is difficult to estimate because it is just paper, which can only be turned into money by selling it. Therefore it is selling the stock that makes money, not having it!

Debtors: Unfortunately slow progress with phase 2 of the Wader Atlas means that the overspend on phase 1 has not yet been repaid. However, still we expect repayment. Also, in relation to the Kollumerpomp conference, we had to pay the local organisation costs of £1,111 before all the grants had been received. At the beginning of 2002, the grants were duly paid to us, as expected.

It only remains for me to thank all who have invested so much time, energy and money in the International Wader Study Group to keep our Group as healthy as it is now, where increasing the membership subscription has become an exceedingly rare event!

Editor's report (Humphrey Sitters)

The three issues of the *Wader Study Group Bulletin* published in 2001 comprised 200 pages, roughly the long-term average. After completing the April issue, Julianne Evans handed the editorial chair to me and, soon after, Robin Ward and Rowena Langston were appointed as Assistant Editors. At the same time, the typesetting, which had been carried out by Rodney West for eleven years, was passed to Felicia Stoch of the University of Cape Town. With the new arrangements, the opportunity was taken to redesign the layout and typeface.

The three issues covered all the usual features with notes & news and papers about waders coming from all parts of the world as well as two of the invaluable lists of Recent Publications compiled by Henk Koffijberg. Innovations included Abstracts of Wader Theses of which six were published during the year as well as the first use of colour; in Theunis Piersma's obituary of Pablo Canevari as well as in Ulf Beichle's fascinating paper on Pacific Golden Plovers in the Samoan Islands. Unfortunately the use of colour is likely to remain sparse because of the cost. Indeed other innovations as well as increasing the content will be curtailed unless the economics of producing the *Bulletin* can be improved. Undoubtedly the best way of achieving this is to increase WSG

membership. If members will help in this by introducing WSG to their friends and colleagues, we can all look forward to a better and more colourful *Bulletin* in future.

Project Co-ordinator's report (Ole Thorup)

Again in 2001 there were two active Wader Study Group projects.

"Tringa glareola 2000", co-ordinated by Magdalena Remisiewicz, had another year with extensive field work including surveys, ringing and data compilation. The project aims at throwing light on the migration pattern of the Wood Sandpiper primarily in Eastern and Central Europe (*Bulletin* 84: 21–22, 89: 30–32). Immediately following the Annual Wader Study Group Conference 2002 in Hel, near Gdansk in Poland, there will be a workshop on the progress and results of this project.

The project "Breeding Waders in Europe 2000" has collected data on breeding populations and breeding data quality and has compiled lists of national references of recent papers and other publications on breeding waders. National co-ordinators from 30 countries have compiled and delivered data to this project. It is intended to present the results as a special volume of *International Wader Studies*, circulated to all Wader Study Group members. In the late autumn of 2001 an offer of assistance was received from JNCC, United Kingdom, making this possible, and it is planned that the publication "Breeding Waders in Europe 2000" will be printed and circulated late in 2002.

Conference Co-ordinator's report (Petra de Goeij)

In 2001, the WSG held its Annual Conference at Kollumerpomp in the far north of the Netherlands. More people than ever attended (150+). The conference started on the evening of Thursday 31 August with a memorable slide show about the Alaskan tundra by Pavel Tomkovich. On the Friday, the programme consisted of a workshop on "The Waders of European Farmland". From this, 'The Kollumerpomp Statement' was formulated. Details of the workshop and the Statement are presented in *WSG Bulletin* 96. The Saturday morning was filled with interesting talks. On the Saturday afternoon, excursions took place to different parts of Fryslan and Groningen. All were a great success, at least partly because the weather-gods were nice to the participants! We all came together in the evening to eat sandwiches on the salt marshes of the Frisian Wadden Sea. The social evening ended up with many of the participants dancing to the music of Rémo'ly in the big tent. Sunday was a serious day again with many interesting talks and posters. It was a great meeting thanks to the organising team led by Meinte Engelmoer.

Membership Officer's report (Rodney West)

Not yet available

WSG–Wetlands International Liaison Officer's report (David Stroud)

Not yet available

