

Although the balance was healthy it was unusually high due to 1) the research grants available last year were not taken up by members, 2) the large amount received as retrospective membership and 3) the IWRB donation. Compared with previous years it was higher as the money was kept in a deposit account.

There was a discussion on the subscription rate in view of the recent increases in postal charges. To send a bulletin (excluding cost of envelopes & paper etc) to Europe by air would cost 24p, and further afield either 24½p or 28p depending on weight. The 50p annual subscription would clearly not cover this cost. It was decided that as from 1st January 1977 the subscription should be increased to £1.00 per annum.

Editors (M. Pienkowski; A.J. Prater)

Reported that bulletins are often delayed while material is gathered and that prompt returns of ringing totals and analytical studies were needed.

After the reports Tony Prater reported on progress on the new ageing guide. He and John Marchant had almost completed the basic work and writing was well underway. The guide was expected to be in first complete draft by June 1976 and that the BTO would publish it. The contents would be sections on identification, ageing, sexing, geographical variation and biometrics. The 110 species of North America and the Palearctic would be included in the guide.

There then followed three talks on studies of waders.

Keith Grant spoke about Greenshank, enlarging on the summary given at the summer meeting. He stressed the need for more data.

Chris Reynolds looked at the biometrics of Little Ringed Plovers and Jack Snipe, based on the data forms. He found plenty of fascinating trends but also stressed that much more data was needed to complete the picture.

William Dick considered in much greater depth than he had time to do last winter, the scientific results of the Mauritanian Expedition, in particular the data relating to the geographical populations of Knot and Dunlin, which occur in the Banc d'Arguin

WASH WADER RINGING GROUP REPORT 1973/74

The WWRG has now adopted the policy of issuing reports every two years rather than annually. The present document reports the activities and progress over the two years as well as indicating the intended future work and publishing plans. As is usual in these reports, details are given of all ringed birds reported during the period, but additionally a summary of all known movements to and from the Wash reported to date is included, with recovery maps for all species.

During the period reported, the WWRG was deeply involved in the Feasibility Study for the Wash reservoirs proposal. Extracts from that report included in the present report concern movements of waders within the Wash & a presentation of the weight variations of the major study species during the year. This fills many of the gaps in the earlier paper in the 1971/72 report.

The report of approx. 100 pages is available from Dr C.D.T. Minton, 65 St John's Hill, Shenstone, Lichfield, Staffs. Price £1.25 + 25p postage.