

During recent months, several members of the Wader Study Group have expressed their concern that the group might be losing some of its initial impetus, after the recent years of mass ringing by many workers, and numerous overseas expeditions.

Following suggestions by members and discussions of the officers, Clive Minton, as chairman, proposed at the AGM of the WSG at the Ringing and Migration Conference on 7th January that a committee be established to examine the future aims and operation of the WSG. He noted that the group had so far operated without a formal constitution and felt that, after a highly successful initial period, the group had grown to such a size that it would be helpful to re-examine its role as a forum for the exchange of views amongst those interested in waders as amateurs, or professionally.

The meeting approved this suggestion and authorised the officers to select and invite members to join the initial committee. It was agreed that committee members should be chosen with a particular view to their likely potential to contribute usefully to the committee but having as wide a geographical spread as possible in all areas where active wader ringing is taking place. In this connection, committee members will not necessarily be representatives of ringing groups although, of course, it is hoped that they will liaise with all group and individual wader ringers in their region, in addition to those with other wader interests.

As Clive Minton is particularly heavily committed at present he has asked me to act as co-ordinator of the committee. The officers have approached members whom they feel should serve on the committee and those who have agreed to contribute have been asked for their comments and suggestions on the role of the WSG and its method of operation. It is hoped that the committee will look into such questions as :

- Should WSG be promoting more co-ordinated projects ?
- Should WSG be giving more guidance in analysis and publication of centralised or local data ?
- Do amateur ringing groups feel they would like more "scientific" guidance ?
- Are the three bulletins and two meetings per year providing all that members would like to see from WSG ?
- Is the present content and scientific status of the WSG bulletin acceptable ?

It is hoped that these and many other subjects will lead to a lively debate and some concrete proposals. I will be preparing a discussion document from the comments of committee members to provide a starting point at the first meeting of the committee in September.

Over one third of WSG members live overseas, and it is hoped that their views can be represented by written contributions as it is obviously not possible for them to attend meetings. The same will probably apply to the further flung representatives in Britain.

If any members of WSG feel that they would like to make any comments relevant to the future of the WSG I would very much welcome these. Alternatively they might prefer to contact one of the committee members, who are: Clive Minton (Chairman), Tony Prater (Secretary), Mike Pienkowski (Editor), Bryan Murray (Treasurer), William Dick (Co-ordinator), Stephen Baillie, Ian Bainbridge, Gerard Boere, Peter Challinor, Chris Clapham, Roger Forster, Les Goodyer, Harry Green, Jeremy Greenwood, M. Harengerd, Hans Meltofte, Guy Morrison, Chris Reynolds, Bob Swann, David Steventon, Roger Swinfen and Manfred Waltner.

The progress of the committee will of course be fully reported in WSG Bulletin and no doubt discussed at meetings of the Group.

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