

ADVISORY PANEL

Feeling that the Group may have been losing some of its earlier momentum, the last AGM set up the panel to advise on policy, particularly with regard to co-operative projects. The results of suggestions by the members of the panel, which works mainly by correspondence, are already becoming apparent.

The last AGM decided that the people invited to join the panel should be chosen on the basis that they would probably make a useful contribution, bearing in mind also the desirability of a wide geographical spread. The current members of the panel are listed below. If group members wish to comment on the membership of the panel, they should contact William Dick either before or at the AGM.

William Dick (Co-ordinator)	Peter Challinor	Hans Meltofte
Harry Green (Acting Chairman)	Chris Clapham	Ted Miller
Tony Prater (Secretary)	Peter Evans	Clive Minton
Mike Pienkowski (Editor)	Roger Forster	Guy Morrison
Bryan Murray (Treasurer)	Ian Forsyth	Chris Reynolds
Graham Appleton (Administrative Secretary)	Les Goodyer	David Steventon
Stephen Baillie	Jeremy Greenwood	Bob Swann
Ian Bainbridge	Bill Hale	Roger Swinfen
Gerard Boere	Michael Harenger	Manfred Waltner

Because of the wide geographical distribution of its members, the Panel will advise mainly through correspondence with the Co-ordinator and his circulars. Reports of the Panels activities will be published in the Bulletin.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As announced in Bulletin 23, the Annual General Meeting of the Wader Study Group will take place at 9.45 pm on Saturday 6 January 1979 at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire during the British Trust for Ornithology's Ringing & Migration Conference. Bookings for the whole Conference must by now have been made to the BTO. WSG members who have not booked may attend the WSG AGM only if they wish. This gives no right to be present at the Conference at any other time.

Agenda

1. Remarks by the Acting Chairman
2. Report by the Administrative Secretary
3. Report by the Treasurer (including proposal for subscription increase)
4. Report by the Editors
5. Report by the Co-ordinator of the Advisory Panel
6. Election of Officers
7. Any other business
8. Talks by W.J.A. Dick and G.H. Green on the co-operative projects to take place in the spring (see pp. 5-9 in this Bulletin).

AUTUMN MEETING 1979

We are hoping to be able to re-institute the one-day autumn scientific and social meeting of the Group in 1979. Arrangements have not yet been made but the probably date will be in October and the probable location Nottingham University. This would be a reasonably accessible location and there are several members resident in the area who would be able to provide floors for those requiring overnight accommodation. Details will appear in the April issue of the Bulletin.

Because so few members, even from Britain, in practice, are able to attend the BTO R & M Conference, where the WSG AGM has always been held, there may well be a case for organising a regular autumn meeting for this purpose, together with a scientific and social gathering. Comments would be welcome and should be sent to the Chairman.

REPRINTING OF BACK NUMBERS OF THE BULLETIN

Those members who ordered back numbers of the Bulletin will undoubtedly wish to know when they will receive them. We have delayed the reprinting because orders have continued to flow in at a fairly steady rate. However, we feel that, in fairness to those ordering early, we cannot delay printing

any longer, and no further orders can, therefore, be accepted. We hope that the reprinting will now take place early in the New Year and that the back issues will be despatched shortly afterwards.

WSG DATA BANK

Members are reminded that the Group maintains a file of completed WSG data forms on waders caught and ringed. Many ringers and ringing groups send copies of their data to these files; others do not; and some have lapsed in doing so. Apart from collecting together data on less frequently caught species, these files do ensure that data on all species is not lost if ringers cease activities, groups disperse, or even if houses burn down!

We hope that ringers will continue - or start - to send records. These should now be sent to Graham Appleton, the Administrative Secretary (address on inside front cover) from whom blank forms may also be obtained.

Data supplied to the file will not be used in a publication without the permission of those supplying them.

WADER STUDY GROUP SPRING PROJECTS

The WSG is co-ordinating two major projects for the spring of 1979. Neither can succeed without both national and international co-operation between WSG members and other groups and individuals interested in wader ringing and counting.

The first project aims to elucidate the spring passage route of Siberian Knots. This is being co-ordinated by William Dick and we hope that many European and African members will participate in counting, catching and looking for dye marked Knots.

The second project is a study of the spring passage of Dunlins, Sanderlings, Ringed Plovers and Turnstones in United Kingdom and Ireland. To succeed this needs the participation of many wader ringing groups and individuals and also wader counters throughout the two countries, particularly on the west and north-eastern coasts of England, Wales and Scotland. This project is being organised by the Celtic Wader Research Group mainly in the person of Peter Ferns.

Details of the aims and organisation of both projects are given below. We shall contact likely participants but we should be grateful if anyone interested in either project could contact the organiser as soon as possible - a small form for this is included with this Bulletin.

We plan to publish the preliminary results of both surveys in the Bulletin following their conclusion in early June so we request that all the data is returned to the organisers as quickly as possible after the completion of field work. All sources will be acknowledged. These projects are our first attempts at co-operative study; we hope members will approve and join in.

1. SPRING PASSAGE OF SIBERIAN KNOT

by William J.A. Dick

Background

The Knots *Calidris canutus* wintering in Western Europe and Africa are drawn from breeding areas in Greenland/north-eastern Canada and Siberia respectively. The migration patterns of the Greenlandic and Canadian population is relatively well studied, due to intensive ringing effort on the wintering grounds, and at migration sites in Iceland and Norway. Counts throughout the winter have revealed the shift of the centre of the population from the Waddensee in the autumn to the west coast of Britain in the spring, prior to their return to the breeding grounds mainly by way of Iceland (Prater 1974).

In contrast, the current state of knowledge of the breeding distribution, wintering distribution and migration of the Siberian population is very incomplete. The work of the Cape Wader Group in South Africa, the Oxford & Cambridge Mauritanian Expedition and University of East Anglia Expeditions to Morocco showed that the bill lengths in Africa were longer than those in Europe; coupled with observations of the timing of migration and ringing recoveries, it was possible to show that the African population was of Siberian origin (Dick et al 1976). However the whole of the evidence from ringing recoveries related to the autumn migration, and almost entirely to juvenile birds. Huge questions