

CONSTITUTION

The Wader Study Group has no written constitution, tending rather to have evolved and to function by precedent. The Officers feel that the Group would find one useful and, in some possible situations, essential. We have, therefore, prepared a formal constitution setting out what has hitherto remained unwritten, and, in doing so, have paid attention to the codes of various comparable organisations. This draft constitution is printed below. The Officers would like to take the opportunity of the general meeting in October to propose the adoption of this Constitution. For those unable to attend, space for a vote is included on the ballot sheet enclosed with this Bulletin.

Draft Constitution of the Wader Study Group

1. The objects of the Wader Study Group are to promote, encourage and co-ordinate studies on waders or shorebirds (Charadrii), to aid communication on this subject and to publish a bulletin.
2. Membership is open to all individuals and groups on (a) completion and submission of an application form, (b) payment of an annual subscription (payable in advance and due on 1st January), and (c) approval by the Executive Committee. The subscription is that last approved by a general meeting of the Group. Membership is deemed to have lapsed if the annual subscription for the current year is not paid by 1st June. The Executive Committee may refuse or terminate the membership of any person deemed to have acted in any way contrary to the interests of the Group.
3. The business of the Group shall be conducted by an Executive Committee consisting of the following Officers to be elected from among the members of the Group: a Chairman, one or more Editors of the Bulletin, an Administrative Secretary, a Treasurer, a Co-ordinator of the Advisory Panel and any other Officer as deemed appropriate. Officers will be elected at a general meeting and will assume office at the end of that meeting. Members unable to attend the meeting may vote by post. Each Officer shall hold office for three years but shall be eligible for immediate re-election. If a vacancy occurs, the Executive Committee may co-opt a member to fill the post in an acting capacity until the next general meeting. The Executive Committee may co-opt additional members for specific functions or periods of time. Such co-options will terminate at the Executive Committee meeting following the next general meeting but may be renewed by the Executive Committee.
4. The Executive Committee may appoint sub-committees for particular purposes. Membership of such sub-committees shall not necessarily be restricted to members of the Executive Committee. The period of office of all members of sub-committees shall expire at the Executive Committee meeting following the annual general meeting but members shall be eligible for reappointment. Sub-committees may function by meetings or by correspondence, as directed by the Executive Committee. One sub-committee shall be the Advisory Panel on Group projects and other work.
5. An annual general meeting shall be held in each calendar year on a date fixed by the Executive Committee. At the Annual General Meeting the Officers shall report on the Group's activities during the previous year, and this report shall be published in the Bulletin. Extraordinary general meetings may be called by the Executive Committee. At least one month's notice shall be given before all General Meetings. At least two month's notice shall be given of all elections. Nominations shall be invited by a date not less than four weeks after the date of despatch of the notice. If an election is required, ballot papers shall be circulated at least four weeks before the General Meeting.
At General Meetings the Chairman shall decide as to procedure and the order of business. It shall be within the Chairman's discretion to admit communications or other business, other than alterations to the constitution, not included in the agenda. If the Chairman is unable to attend, he shall appoint one of the other members of the Executive Committee to act in his place at the meeting. Each paid up member (individual or group) of the Group shall be entitled to attend and to one vote in any ballot.
6. The Group shall publish a bulletin. The content and management of the Bulletin shall be the responsibility of the Editor(s) elected at a General Meeting or appointed in an acting capacity by the Executive Committee. The Editors may appoint assistant editors. These may include editors for contributions from particular areas. Such appointments shall lapse at the Annual General Meeting but appointees shall be eligible for reappointment by the Editors.
7. A copy of each Bulletin shall be sent to each fully paid member (whether this be an individual or a group). Copies may also be sent to additional persons or organisations as decided by the Executive Committee.
8. The Group may establish geographical sections within the Group. Members of such sections shall be members of the Group entitled to all rights of membership. To administer such sections officers of the section may be appointed by the Executive Committee. If appropriate or at an appropriate stage of development of a section, arrangements may be made for the election of section officers by members resident in the area covered by the section.
9. Any alteration or addition to the Constitution shall be adopted if a majority of two-thirds of the members voting at a General Meeting are in favour, provided that due notice of the proposed change shall have been given in the announcement convening the meeting.

AUTUMN MEETING

As announced in Bulletin 25, the autumn meeting of the Group will be held at Nottingham University on Saturday 13 October. Following what should be a fairly brief Extraordinary General Meeting at 10.30 am, a programme of talks has been arranged, covering the WSG co-operative spring projects, winter movement studies, and the effects of the hard winter 1978/79. We are particularly pleased to be able also to include contributions from members in Ireland and Germany. There should be ample time for discussions. Talks to be given include:

WSG spring project on migration of Siberian Knots, by William Dick
WSG spring project on migration of Dunlins, Sanderlings, Ringed Plovers and Turnstone through Britain, by Peter Ferns
Wader studies at Münster, Germany, by Michael Harenger
Preliminary results of winter dye-marking on the Firth of Forth, Scotland, by Michael Pienkowski & Hugh Clark
Inter-estuarine movements of waders, by Patrick Dugan
The effect of the hard winter of 1978/79 on the wader populations of the Ythan estuary, Scotland, by Stephen Baillie
Origins and movements of Dunlin wintering on Belfast Lough, Northern Ireland, by Ian Forsyth
Common Sandpipers in the Pennines, England, by P.K. Holland

The cost of the meeting will be £3.50 per person. This includes morning coffee, lunch, and afternoon tea. A booking form is enclosed with this Bulletin. Please return this, with payment, as soon as possible and in any case before 12 September. We thank those who returned the preliminary booking form which was very useful in giving us some idea of the numbers likely to attend, and ask them and all others wishing to attend to return now the present form with payment. Details of access routes and programme will be sent to those booking. (To ease exchange difficulties, members from outside the United Kingdom may pay on arrival, but they should return the booking form in advance.)

As explained in Bulletin 25, to keep costs to a minimum we are not arranging conventional accommodation for the preceding or following nights. However, it will be possible to arrange camp-bed type accommodation with members living in the area for those who require it, and the need for this should be indicated on the booking form.

OTHER NOTICES

Subscriptions for 1979

If we have not received your subscription for 1979, a note to this effect will be included in this Bulletin. Unless payment is received no further Bulletins will be sent.

WSG subscriptions cover a calendar year, January to December inclusive. Thus anyone joining during the year is entitled to receive all Bulletins for that year including those already published. Because of the large increase in membership in 1978 we had some difficulty in supplying all issues to new members but these difficulties have now been overcome. Thus members who joined at any date during 1978 should pay a further subscription for 1979 and should do so now if they have not done so.

Back numbers of the Bulletin

Production of the reprints of numbers 1 to 20 was completed shortly after the production of Bulletin 25 and those who ordered copies should now have received them. For various reasons, the production of reprints proved to be a particularly difficult task and the Officers would like to thank Matthew Cooke and Paul Prattley for much help in this matter.

No copies of numbers 1-5 remain but there are a few of 6-10, 11-15 and 16-20. However, orders continue to come in. We are hoping to produce a few additional copies but these will be more expensive than the earlier reprinting, and we cannot yet give a date for their availability. Consequently, in future each set of reprints will cost, when available, £2 per 5 numbers (1-5 or 6-10 or 11-15 or 16-20) plus postage. Any enquiries should be directed to the Administrative Secretary, Graham Appleton (address on inside front cover). The Administrative Secretary also has some copies of numbers 21 (£1-00), 22 (£1-00) and 24 (£2-00). These are available at the price indicated, which includes postage at surface mail rates. We regret that Bulletin 23 is no longer available.

Third Annual Meeting of the Colonial Waterbird Group: Announcement and call for papers

The Third Annual Meeting of the Colonial Waterbird Group will be held 25-28 October 1979 at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, U.S.A. Field trips to the Gulf coast are planned, and a Proceedings will be published as in 1978 and 1979. For information on contributing papers, please contact P.A. Buckley, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, 15 State Street, Boston, MASS, U.S.A. 02109. Abstracts must be received by 1 September. For information on registration, please contact D. McCrimmon, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NEW YORK U.S.A. 14853.

Symposium on Birds of the Sea and Shore, November 1979, University of Cape Town.

Organised by: The Southern African Seabird Group, The Western Cape Wader Study Group, and the Cape Bird Club.

A five-day symposium, consisting of three days of formal sessions and two days of excursions, will be held at the University of Cape Town, South Africa from 19-23 November 1979. The theme of the symposium will be "Birds of the sea and shore" and papers will be given on seabirds and waders, both inland and coastal. Papers are expected from Britain, France, New Zealand, Holland and the USA as well as from Southern Africa. The symposium forms part of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Southern African Ornithological Society and of the 150th Anniversary of the University of Cape Town. Excursions are planned to the Cape Gannet and Jackass Penguin colonies of Malgas Island, Saldanha Bay, Langebaan Lagoon to view waders and a half-day seawatching cruise off the west coast of the Cape Peninsula.

Persons interested in attending the Symposium should write to the Organizing Secretary, Mr. G.D. Underhill, 12 Roseberry Road, Mowbray 7700, South Africa. The registration fee, which will include the proceedings and teas, is R10.00. Costs of excursions will be made available at a later date.