

Issues have appeared on time except for no. 31 which was about one month late for various technical reasons and because both editors are grossly overworked! In an attempt to spread the load, we have co-opted Nick Davidson as an additional assistant editor. Members will already be familiar with Nick's efforts from his papers on weights and nutritional reserves, his recent editing of Recent Publications, occasional cartoons and, since issue 31, the new article titles, which we introduced in response to requests to make the various articles stand out rather more. Nick has rapidly learnt the problems of compiling Recent Publications and consequently is taking this opportunity to pass the task on to Theunis Piersma who will edit this section in future. Being a Netherlands Frieslander, Theunis speaks at least three times as many languages as the rest of the editors put together, so that some of the items included might be more appropriate than in the past!

Other innovations this year have been the full list of members in Bulletin 31 (the last appeared in August 1978 since when there have been many changes), and the new cover. This was originally prepared as something of a joke by the artist and one of the editors for the special Sanderling issue but has been retained by popular demand! Thanks also to North American editors, Guy Morrison and Pete Myers, for their efforts; our typists, Ann Perry and Ann Pienkowski for translating the unreadable; John McMeeking, as proof-reader extra-ordinary and hawk-eye spotter of inconsistencies the editors should have seen before; and printer Reg Davis and his team at Lake Shore Graphics for continued co-operation and efficiency.

Having given out the credits, we now come to the problems: the Bulletin is too successful. After a marked increase in content we adopted the small print size in Bulletin 24 in December 1978 allowing an even greater increase. The size of the Bulletin stabilized at 40 to 54 (usually 44 to 48) pages for over two years until issue 31 when we had enough material for 72 pages and printed 60, holding the rest over for later issues. We do not like to turn away material and we are fortunate in only very rarely receiving material which is not of a suitable standard. We feel that it is inappropriate to build up a waiting list (even though it would make life easier for the editors) as this would lose the Bulletin's topicality and, anyway, could be only a temporary solution. Any reduction in size of print would probably lead to excessive eye strain with consequent problems for field workers. Thus we shall all be faced with a choice between increasing the size of the Bulletin (and thus the subscription) or turning away quite a lot of articles offered. The turning away would involve quite a high proportion of those offered because a large part of each Bulletin is occupied by regular items (which all appear to be popular and/or required).

It is likely that, as predicted by the Treasurer in his last report, the officers will have to propose, at the 1982 AGM, an increase in subscriptions from 1983, because of inflation. It is likely that a slightly higher increase than otherwise would allow us to increase the size of each issue to about 60 pages. Any further increase would demand too much editing time as well as expense. The advantage of about 60 pages is that it would keep the Bulletin within the same postage weight step for all but air-mail despatches, so that the extra cost would be paper and printing, but not postage (which is very expensive). However, before we make such a proposal we would like the comments of members as to what they want - either at the AGM or directly to us. Please let us know.

Michael W. Pienkowski

#### Co-ordinator's Report

In my report a year ago, I commented that the role of the Co-ordinator had moved towards that of gathering ideas for the future development of the Group, particularly for co-operative projects. Members of the "Think-Tank" or Advisory Panel will not, I hope, give me up for lost, but the lack of circulars is more a reflection that the Group seems to be operating efficiently at present! The content and quality of material in the Bulletin has not engendered criticism from members, and in fact the continued production on schedule of a Bulletin of high quality is largely thanks to the dynamic efforts of our two editors. Co-operative projects are still being put into practice.

WSG continues to increase its international involvement, which has perhaps been its most important recent achievement. The WSG/Durham University project and the Inland Wader Movement project would both have been difficult to put into effect without the wide network of members willing to participate and be co-ordinated through the WSG. The first meeting of the WSG to be held outside Britain will be at Münster in September, hopefully making it easier for members in mainland Europe to attend. Some countries have talked about the possibility of forming their own sections of the WSG. Of particular importance has been the formalising of our links with the International Waterfowl Research Bureau, details of which are outlined elsewhere in this Bulletin.

The majority of WSG projects so far have been concerned with the migration and movement of waders. The range of topics covered in the Bulletin has increased considerably to include feeding ecology, distribution, and so on. Members may like to consider whether any project concerned with research of a more directly applied type may be possible. One has in mind particularly the management of wetland habitats for optimum conditions for waders, by agricultural or other methods.

Any comments which members may have on any subject concerned with WSG will always be most welcome.

W. J. A. Dick

## WADER STUDY GROUP AND THE INTERNATIONAL WATERFOWL RESEARCH BUREAU (IWRB)

"The IWRB was established in 1954 by the International Council for Bird Preservation to stimulate and co-ordinate research on and the conservation of waterfowl and their wetland habitats, particularly where international co-operation is necessitated by the migratory nature of waterfowl."

"Waterfowl are birds ecologically dependent on wetlands."

"Wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water to a depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres."

These extracts are taken from IWRB's constitution and rules. WSG has been involved with the work of the IWRB for some years so it was with considerable pleasure that we received an invitation to become a Contributor (non paying) to that organisation. This was discussed by WSG officers and put to the WSG AGM last November which agreed that WSG should accept the invitation. In effect this means that the WSG can sit in at IWRB meetings and receives copies of all documents issued by the Bureau. WSG thus has the opportunity to comment on or assist with matters relating to waders as they arise within IWRB.

WSG representative (who will receive all communications) to IWRB will be M.W. Pienkowski. His role in the Durham scheme on the Movements of waders in Western Europe makes him the obvious person for the job.