

WADER STUDY GROUP

BULLETIN No 34

APRIL 1982

WSG AUTUMN MEETING & AGM AT DURHAM, U.K., 22-24 OCTOBER 1982

This year's conference will be held at Durham School from the evening of Friday 22 October until Sunday 24 October. We are grateful to Peter Evans of Durham University for help in organisation. Accommodation has been arranged in newly refurbished dormitories in this boys' boarding school (during the boys' half-term holiday), so as to keep costs reasonably low but provide comfortable facilities. (If anyone who would like to attend feels unable to use such accommodation, please let us know on the enclosed booking form as soon as possible; it may prove possible to arrange accommodation for them with WSG members living locally or, if preferred but at more expense, in local hotels.)

The school is set in pleasant surroundings in the small, but historic, city of Durham. Those for whom wader discussions become too trying can walk the wooded banks of the River Wear or explore the Cathedral, the largest Norman building in Europe (or anywhere, for that matter). Those dedicated persons staying at the meeting will have the use of a well equipped lecture theatre and, for the important discussions, a room set aside as a bar.

The School has readily made arrangements to suit the varying needs of WSG members. A cold buffet will be provided, probably from about 19.30 onwards, on Friday evening to allow for various times of arrival, and almost any combination of periods of stay will be possible. Costs are as follows (Value Added Tax is included where appropriate).

Friday supper	£1-40	Saturday supper	£1-40
Friday-Saturday bed & breakfast	£4-60	Saturday-Sunday bed & breakfast	£4-60
Saturday lunch	£1-75	Sunday lunch	£1-75
Conference fee (to cover communal facilities and administration)			£2-00
			TOTAL
			£17-50

The Annual General Meeting of the Wader Study Group will take place during the Conference but most of the programme will, as usual, be devoted to lectures and discussion. The scientific programme is not yet arranged and offers of talks (or suggestions of topics for discussion) would be welcome, and space for this is available on the booking form enclosed. The officers, with the approval of the informal meeting in January, have suggested that the theme of this meeting be 'Wader studies applied to reclamation and other conservation problems', but there is no need for offers of talks to stick to this subject.

A booking form for the meeting is enclosed with this issue and should be returned, as soon as possible and with payment (cheque to 'Wader Study Group') to M.W. Pienkowski, Dept. of Zoology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, UK. (Members from overseas may pay on arrival, but definite bookings are required in advance.)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

1982 subscriptions became due on January 1st. If you have not yet paid you will find a renewal form with this bulletin. Please return this, with payment, as soon as possible. Late payments cause extra expense to the Group; see elsewhere in this issue for details of current financial problems.

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Although we would prefer British members to send their subscription payments to the secretaries - it makes administration easier - there have been many requests from our European members to pay by Bank Giro.

All members can now pay subscriptions by a transfer from their own Bank account to the Wader Study Group account at:-
Lloyds Bank Limited, 7 Victoria Place, Haverfordwest, Dyfed, South Wales, SA61 2JZ, G.B.

Bank Sorting Code No. 30 - 93 - 98

W.S.G. Account No. 0095972

If you do pay by this method (and it will save European members and the WSG some money), please ensure that your name and address (abbreviated), is shown on the transfer slip and pay only in £ sterling.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN WADER STUDY GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Your current officers are under considerable pressure from both WSG activities, the work they do for a living and other matters. We feel that the time has come to involve new people in running the Group. Indeed this is essential if the Group is to continue to grow and to remain a dynamic organisation.

We therefore propose the following committee structure. The people involved have agreed to act in the various capacities indicated.

Chairman/Editor	G.H.Green	(present chairman and editor)
Vice Chairman	M.W.Pienkowski	(present editor)
Secretaries	N. & J. Clark	(present secretaries)
Treasurer	S.J.Sutcliffe	(present acting treasurer co-opted)
Editor	N.C.Davidson	(present no elected post but actively assisting MWP)
Co-ordinator	Th. Piersma	(proposed new member)
Committee members	W.J.A.Dick	(present co-ordinator)
	H.Galbraith	(proposed new member)
	H.Hötter	(proposed new member)

This matter must be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting, to be held at Durham, England on 23 October 1982. If any member wishes to nominate alternative candidates please send these to the Chairman by 30 June 1982. Note that the candidate must be proposed and seconded and must record his or her willingness to serve. If no nominations are forthcoming, the names listed above will be put to the AGM for election. If other nominations arise a postal ballot will be organised with the August 1982 Bulletin, and the matter will then finally be decided at the AGM.

G.H.Green (Chairman)

FINANCE

Thanks to the Royal Society grant and loan, and the good advice of our recently retired Treasurer, Bryan Murray, we have managed to run the Group's affairs on the £5 subscription for several years. However, the twin scourges of inflation and expansionism (to say nothing of increased postal charges) are now demanding attention. We now need member's advice on how to proceed. Steve Sutcliffe, our new (acting) treasurer sets out the figures below and suggests some possible courses of action. Some points are obvious. Despite demand we cannot expand the Bulletin in 1982 - in fact we must seek economies. If the subscription remains the same, the Bulletin must shrink drastically. If you wish to continue with a similar sized Bulletin (with perhaps a little expansion) and a stable subscription for two, perhaps three, years, we suggest a subscription of £10 per annum, commencing January 1983. (We are now reaching a stage where some good material will have to be turned away because of lack of space.) If you want the Bulletin to expand you will have to pay more! If you want the increase in subscription to be less, then you must advise us how to reduce the size of the Bulletin, i.e. which items to omit!

The matter will have to be decided at the Annual General Meeting in October 1982. Meanwhile we should like as many members as possible to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to M.W.Pienkowski by 30 June 1982. We can then formulate a proposal which seems likely to meet your wishes. If there appears to be a division in the ranks a suitable postal ballot may be organised for the August Bulletin; otherwise final decisions can be made at the AGM.

G.H.Green (Chairman)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Like many bodies relying on subscription income the Wader Study Group is in a potentially difficult financial situation and faced with a variety of choices during 1982 and into 1983, to balance the books.

The situation is best described by showing some figures (deficits in parentheses):-

	1981	1982	1983
Accumulated Fund at 31/12/80	236	186	(464)
Income 1981 - Subs	2054	2000	3200 (assuming 400 members @ £8)
Bulletin	210	200	
Bank Interest	119		
	<u>2619</u>	<u>2386</u>	<u>2737</u>
Costs of Bulletin production	2433	2850	2944
Accumulated Fund @ 31/12/81 carried forward	£ 186	(£ 464)	(£ 208)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Note 1

Note 1 We have assumed a 10% increase in the cost of Bulletin production plus the cost of reprints (£170) that may be sold - income perhaps £200.

The situation is clear. We shall spend more than we expect to receive in the current year, and even an £8 subscription in 1983 would not recover the situation. Another increase would probably be necessary in 1984. Calls for a larger Bulletin would increase costs again - i.e. 5 double sided pages cost approximately £1.50 per annum per member.

Possible solutions:

- (a) Increase subscriptions to £10 (how many members would leave?)
 - (b) Reduce the size of the Bulletin.
 - (c) Seek advance payment of subscriptions (we can invest the money)
- and, of course, members may have other ideas?

The committee requires members' views and would appreciate the return of the enclosed brief questionnaire by 30 June 1982.

S.J.Sutcliffe (Acting Treasurer)

BREEDING WADER SURVEYS

Do not forget the two WSG/BTO/RSPB/SOC/NCC surveys of breeding waders (see WSG Bull. 33:1-2). For more details, write to: (For Scottish survey) Hector Galbraith, 96 Neilston Road, Paisley, Strathclyde PA2 6EL, Scotland; or (for England & Wales) Ken Smith, British Trust for Ornithology, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts HP23 5NR, England.

CURRENT COLOUR-MARKING SCHEMES

Projects listed in the WSG register of colour-marking schemes, covering the Old World (or wader populations which may migrate to the Old World) were given in full in WSG Bull 33 (pp.22-25). Further schemes registered since then are:

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Scotland (Dr. R.W.Summers, MAFF, Tangle Place, Worpleston, Surrey) dye.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Salisbury, Zimbabwe; & Port Alfred, S.Africa (A.J.Tree, 101 Lomagundi Road, Greencroft, Salisbury, Zimbabwe) colour rings.