

WADER STUDY GROUP

BULLETIN No. 39

DECEMBER 1983

AN APOLOGY

Readers will have noted both the late arrival of this Bulletin, and its large size (76 pages). We apologise for the delays in production, which in part arose from the increased volume of material in this issue. Further improvements to production methods are now being effected, and details will be announced in Bulletin 40 (April 1984).

WADER STUDY GROUP AGM AND CONFERENCE, HAAMSTEDE, THE NETHERLANDS, 19 - 20 NOVEMBER 1983

The meeting, which was highly successful and attended by over 100 people, took place at too late a date for details to be included in this Bulletin. A full account of the meeting, including Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, and Abstracts of Talks, will appear in Bulletin 40 (April 1984).

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE FOR 1984

Subscriptions for 1984 became due on 1 January 1984. A subscription renewal form is included as a loose insert with this Bulletin. The annual subscription remains the same as last year: for Europe, and surface mail elsewhere, this is British £10, U.S. \$17 or Canadian \$21. For airmail to addresses outside Europe, rates are British £13, U.S. \$22 or Canadian \$27.

Please note that subscriptions are payable for one year, 1984, only: the three-year payment offered last year is not available for 1984. If you paid in 1983 for three years, you do not, of course, have to pay a further subscription for 1984. If you already pay by Bankers Order, there is no need to return a completed form for 1984.

WSG has applied to open a British Post Office Giro Account. However, we are still awaiting an account number, so subscription payments cannot yet be made by this method. Details of the account will appear in the Bulletin once they become available.

ADDRESSES FOR CORRESPONDENCE

The smooth running of the WSG can be aided greatly if members address forms, enquiries, material for publication etc., to the correct people, as listed on the inside front cover of this Bulletin. Sending correspondence to the wrong people creates a lot of extra work, and results inevitably in delays. However, if you do not receive a satisfactory reply to correspondence, by all means contact any of the Officers.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT : PAYMENT OF ANNUAL SERVICING FEES FOR COLOUR-MARKING WADERS

by D.J. Townshend

The new regulations and arrangements for colour-marking waders were set out in Wader Study Group Bulletin 38:5-6. This note is an additional warning that annual servicing fees for all colour-marking schemes (using colour-ringing, dyeing or any other form of colour-marking) operating within the BTO scheme may become due in January 1984. As the organising body for waders WSG hereby gives notice that fees for colour-marking waders will become due in and should be paid by 1 January 1984. (Fees will not necessarily be introduced at this stage for colour-marking other species of birds.) Below I set out details of the procedure that will be involved for waders.

The annual servicing fee has been introduced by BTO, and approved by NCC, in order to cover the ever-rising costs inherent in the administration of colour-marking (see Ringer's Bulletin 6:30, June 1983; the arrangements should also have been announced in the new edition of Ringer's Manual, but production delays mean that this will not be circulated until early 1984). The costs are unavoidable because all reports of marked birds must be serviced, even if the original marker is not interested in the reports. It is felt that these costs should be borne by the markers concerned, rather than the general WSG and/or BTO membership. (Some queries received appear to be based upon the assumption that certain current dye-marking projects are in some way increasing the level of fees for other projects involving colour-marking. This is not the case, and the fee for each project has been calculated directly from the expected costs of administering it.)

The fee will cover the year beginning 1 April, ie the same period as the BTO Ringing Permit. Payment will become due on 1 January, starting 1 January 1984, and should be paid by that date. This allows time for co-ordination between WSG and BTO before new permits are distributed.

Existing projects using BTO rings

Every organiser of an existing project colour-marking waders will receive, annually, a letter asking if he/she wishes to continue his/her project in the year beginning 1 April next. If so, he/she must complete the form enclosed and return it together with the full payment, to WSG. The form will list all the species for which the marker has a colour-marking scheme registered with WSG. An annual servicing fee must be paid for each species to be registered for colour-marking in the coming year.