

# WADER STUDY GROUP

BULLETIN No. 41

AUGUST 1984

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WADER STUDY GROUP, WORCESTER, U.K., 1 SEPTEMBER 1984

### Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM held 19 November, Haamstede, Netherlands (*WSG Bulletin* 40:3-4)
3. Chairman's Report
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Editor's Report
7. Co-ordinator's Report
8. Election of Secretaries. As set out in *Bulletin* 40:4 the Officers serve for three years and are eligible for re-election. Dr. N.A. and J.A. Clark have completed their three year term of office. It is now proposed that the job of secretary to the Group be divided into that of General Secretary and Membership Secretary. Dr. & Mrs. Clark are happy to continue in the latter post. Dr.S.R. Baillie is willing to become General Secretary, if elected. No other nominations have been received so it is proposed that:
  - i. The post of General Secretary be created
  - ii. The post of Membership Secretary be created
  - iii. Dr. Baillie be elected General Secretary
  - iv. Dr. & Mrs. Clark be elected Membership Secretaries, jointly.
  - v. Holders of these offices be members of the Executive Committee.
9. Date and venue of next years' meeting and AGM. The group has accepted an invitation from French members to Rochefort.
10. Any other business.

The texts of the Officers' Reports follow.

### Chairman's Report

In November 1983 the Executive Committee took the decision to purchase word-processing equipment to aid preparation of the *Bulletin*. This was probably the most important act by the Group in 1983, and certainly one of the more expensive. The results will only be fully appreciated in 1984; they had already led to a marked easing of the problems of producing the *Bulletin*.

1983 saw the launch of a large scale survey of breeding waders in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland. The results have been reported in the *Bulletin* and show the islands to be outstanding for breeding waders and of international importance. The area is well worthy of WSG's attention and we have developed a programme for future studies of the ecology of the wader populations and their relationships to agriculture. The survey attracted good funding from all Britain's major conservation organisations, for which we are most grateful. The Group published a short report on the survey.

Other projects have continued. They include the project on Movements of Wader Populations in Western Europe organised from Durham by Mike & Ann Pienkowski, studies on Inland Waders organised by OAG Munster, studies of the effects of cold winter weather on coastal waders organised by Nick Davidson & Nigel Clark, studies of upland breeding waders in Scotland (Hector Galbraith) and in England/Wales (Ken Smith). In 1983 plans were laid for an intense study of the spring passage of waders in Western Britain (Mike Moser & Peter Ferns) in 1984 and for a survey of non-estuarine wintering waders in 1985 (Mike Moser & Ron Summers). These latter two surveys are organised in association with the Birds of Estuaries Enquiry in Britain which is funded by the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nature Conservancy Council and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Work also started on planning other studies; some are mentioned by our Co-ordinator in his Report. All the Group's projects have been subject to regular progress reports in the *Bulletin*.

After many years of difficulty our now sound financial base is of considerable relief to your officers. Although the £10 annual subscription may seem a little high it will enable the Group to undertake far more work and to be more effective. We can expect some expansion in the size of the *Bulletin* - providing people send us material to publish! The continued support of members, a steady flow of members and an expanding programme of wader studies seem to suggest that WSG is alive and well!

G.H. Green

### Secretaries' Report

As reported at the last AGM, we have revised the presentation of membership totals this year and here give figures for the year to 31 December 1983, rather than at the time of writing as in past years. This gives a less up-to-date, but more realistic, total as only members who paid their subscription in 1983 are included. The figures represent a loss of 9.2% of membership in 1983, a figure which is easily explained by the increase in subscription rates in last year. Nevertheless 45 new members joined the Group.

#### Wader Study Group membership 31 December 1983

	Present	New	Resign	Net Change
Britain & Ireland	203	16	47	-31
Rest of Europe	132	11	18	-7
North America	82	10	16	-6
Rest of World	29	8	6	+3
Total	446	45	87	-41

We still have a considerable number of members who only pay their subscription when they receive final reminders. We would ask all members to pay in January each year, when subscriptions are due, to save the Group the cost of reminders.

N. & J. Clark

#### Treasurer's Report

In 1983 the overall financial situation was improved substantially by the new subscription rates and by many U.S. and Canadian members paying directly to the Group.

The Hebrides project dominated activities and at the end of the year there was £921 still in hand to cover outstanding costs of the survey and publication costs. This sum is included in the excess of income figure of £2 100 so the true surplus was £1 179.

#### Receipts and Expenditure Account for the year to 31 December 1983

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1982</u>
Subscriptions Received	3819	2556
Interest Received	252	85
Colour Ringing Scheme Income*	7	-
1983 Conference Profit	44	320
Grants Received (Hebrides Project)	3300	-
Sale of Back Bulletins	136	99
	<u>(A) £7558</u>	<u>£3060</u>
<u>Deduct</u>		
Bulletin Costs - Printing	1805	1533
Envelopes, Paper etc.	120	128
Typing	214	225
Postages	585	352
Editorial Expenses	184	83
Secretarial Expenses & Misc.	77	96
Co-ordinators	59	-
Colour Ringing Scheme - Costs*	17	-
Hebrides Project Costs (See report)	2379	-
Bank Charges	18	-
	<u>(B) £5458</u>	<u>£2417</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)	<u>£2100</u>	<u>£ 643</u>

#### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1983

##### Accumulated Fund

Balance at 1 January 1983	829	186
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	2100	643
	<u>£2929</u>	<u>£ 829</u>

##### Represented by

Assets - Micro Computer/Word Processor	985	-
Cash at Bank on Deposit and in Hand	4006	727
Car stickers in stock - cost value less sales	70	107
Debtors	324	470
	<u>5385</u>	<u>1304</u>
Deduct Liabilities	(1244)	( 445)
Subscriptions paid in advance	(1212)	( 30)
	<u>£2929</u>	<u>£ 829</u>

\* The new arrangements for the colour-marking register came into force at the end of 1983. For most of 1983, as in previous years, costs of the register were not separately accounted for. The figure of £17 is therefore only a small part of the total expenses for 1983. Similarly, £7 forms only the earlier fees received.

The Group is once again in a sound financial situation and should remain so for several years. At 31 December, 63 members had paid subscriptions two years in advance and the Executive had purchased the Micro Computer/Word Processor, the Colour Ringing Scheme was under way (it should be self-financing), and the Co-ordinator was really starting to get the International Scheme working. The Group can be encouraged that the new financial security will help to maintain this momentum.

S.J. Sutcliffe

#### Editor's Report

The last three issues of the *Bulletin* have contained 52, 76 and 72 pages. This annual total of 200 pages is considerably more than ever before (*Bulletins* in the previous year contained 124 pages), and shows a very healthy state of contributions. In part the increased amount of material has come from results of WSG Projects, in particular the 24 page section in *Bulletin* 39 reporting on the WSG/NCC Survey work on Outer Hebrides machair. Increases in the size of the *Bulletin* have avoided any need to hold over material for reasons of lack of space.

Major changes in the production methods and format have been introduced. Following approval at the 1983 AGM, we have changed to a computerised text-processing system, based on the Acorn Computers BBC Microcomputer Model B. This has allowed us much greater flexibility in editing and preparing camera-ready copy, and has already saved much time. We have also taken the opportunity to introduce the much-requested two-column format. Members with compatible computing facilities can now submit material for the *Bulletin* in machine-readable form.

We continued to experience delays in production of *Bulletins* in the early part of the year. However, the new production system first became operational in January 1984. Despite the short time available, and whilst we learnt to cope with the new system, we produced the April 1984 issue in computer printed format, and back on schedule.

My thanks to all those who have helped in *Bulletin* production, especially Harry Green, John McMeeking, and our typist, Ann Perry, who allowed us to instal strange computers in her home. I would like particularly to thank Mike Pienkowski for his expertise, time and help in inaugurating the computerised system.

N.C. Davidson

#### Co-ordinator's Report

At the 1983 Shorebird Ecology Conference in Cardiff and at the AGM at Haamstede, it became clear that along the coastline of N.W. Africa and Europe several groups and individuals are preparing research work on migrating waders for the springs of 1985 and later. It was felt that WSG should try to link up these studies in order to get a detailed picture of the intercontinental movements of waders in one spring. Circulars to the groups involved were sent around by the Co-ordinator in January and June 1984. Proposed studies on the Banc d'Arguin in Mauritania, as part of this WSG project, would provide a major extension of the spring migration work carried out so far. Although the funding for most parts of the project has yet to be confirmed, prospects look encouraging.

Another WSG project in the stage of preparation is a survey of Black-winged Stilts in Europe. This survey will be organised from Rochefort, France, by Philippe Dubois.

Compiling the Recent Publications on Waders took a lot of the Co-ordinator's time, but the activity did yield some useful (new) contacts. To back up breeding wader surveys carried out recently by WSG and others, an enquiry into the population sizes of wader species breeding in W. Europe was carried out. In addition to this, another literature compilation of a Bibliography of Breeding Wader Studies, was organised. Over 15 helpful correspondents provided key references on the breeding wader work carried out in their countries. The assembled information is scheduled for publication in *Bulletin* 42.

Theunis Piersma

## WSG AGM AND AUTUMN MEETING, WORCESTER, U.K., 31 AUGUST TO 2 SEPTEMBER 1984

The 1984 Annual General Meeting and conference takes place at about the same time as this *Bulletin* is being mailed. A full report of the

meeting, including the Minutes of the AGM, and abstracts of talks given at the meeting, will appear in *Bulletin* 42 (December 1984).