

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).