

MINUTES OF THE WADER STUDY GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT WORCESTER COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION ON 1 SEPTEMBER 1984

The Chairman, G.H. Green, welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. D.J. Townshend.

Minutes. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 18th November 1983 at Haamstede, Netherlands (WSG Bulletin 40: 3-4) were accepted as a true record.

The Officers' Reports (WSG Bulletin 41: 1-3) were presented as follows.

Chairman's Report (G.H. Green). As published in the Bulletin.

Secretary's Report (N.A. & J.A. Clark). As published in the Bulletin.

Treasurer's Report (S.J. Sutcliffe). The Treasurer amplified his report and accounts which had previously appeared in the Bulletin. The apparently very healthy financial state of the group was largely due to the fact that the last subscription increase had been intended to cover several years of rising costs. He anticipated that the Group would make a small profit in 1984 and that it would just about break even in 1985. Thus a modest subscription increase would probably be necessary from the beginning of 1986.

The Treasurer also reported that the Executive Committee had agreed to the purchase of a printer for use with the Group's word-processing equipment. This purchase was necessary in order to ensure the continuing efficient production of the Bulletin. At present the Group did not own a printer and was having to rely on borrowing those belonging to individual members.

Editor's Report (N.C. Davidson). As published in the Bulletin.

Co-ordinator's Report (Theunis Piersma). The Co-ordinator amplified his report which had been published in the Bulletin. A number of new projects were currently being planned, and the advisory panel would be circulated with details of these in the near future. Several projects would be discussed during the rest of the meeting, including that on Black-winged Stilts, and the international project on Spring migration planned for 1985.

Colour-ringing register. The new colour-ringing register had now been established, largely due to the efforts of Dr. D.J. Townshend. It was now compulsory for British ringers to register their wader colour-marking schemes with the Wader Study Group, and it was of course desirable that ringers in other countries should also do so. British ringers were required to pay a compulsory registration fee for their colour-marking schemes, and those from other countries were asked to contribute an equivalent amount. The Chairman stressed the importance of the proper co-ordination of all colour-marking schemes, and appealed to all those who were colour-marking waders to register their schemes with the Wader Study Group.

Election of Officers. Details of the proposed alterations in secretarial arrangements had been published in the Agenda (WSG Bulletin 41:1). It was proposed that Dr. S.R. Baillie should be elected General Secretary, and that Dr. N.A. Clark and Mrs. J.A. Clark should be elected as joint Membership Secretaries. This was proposed from the Chair, seconded by Mrs. A. Pienkwocki, and carried unanimously.

Date and Venue for the next Annual General Meeting. An invitation to hold the next conference and Annual General Meeting at La Rochelle, France in early October 1985 was gratefully accepted. It was provisionally proposed that the 1986 meeting would be held in Edinburgh or Glasgow, Scotland.

Any other business. Meinte Engelmoer drew attention to the possibility that Dutch ringers might be asked to pay for the registration of their colour-marking schemes both by their own ringing scheme and by the Wader Study Group. Dr. Pienkwocki (the Vice-Chairman) stated that due to a lack of resources, the organiser of the Wader Study Group colour-marking register had not yet contacted the ringing offices of the various European ringing schemes. He intended to do so shortly, and it was hoped that the anomaly of ringers being asked to register their schemes twice could be resolved.

Meinte Engelmoer also drew attention to the lack of contact between the Wader Study Group and those studying waders in West and North Australia, and suggested that the establishment of an Australian section of the Group and of the Bulletin should be considered. Dr. Pienkwocki stated that it would be difficult for the Wader Study Group to do this, as there was already an active wader study group in Eastern Australia who had their own publications. He suggested that it would be best if any approach came directly from those working in West Australia, and that the group would welcome increased co-operation with them. There would be no difficulty in arranging to send them exchange copies of the Wader Study Group Bulletin.

Stephen Baillie