

## WADER STUDY GROUP AGM AND AUTUMN MEETING, LA ROCHELLE, FRANCE, 5-6 OCTOBER 1985

As was announced in *Bulletin* 42: 3, the Wader Study Group 1985 AGM and autumn meeting will be held at La Rochelle on the Atlantic coast of France, between 5 - 7 October 1985, hosted by the Ligue Française pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO). As in previous years, the formal part of the meeting will begin with the AGM on Saturday morning (5 October) and finish on Sunday afternoon (6 October). The meeting will take place at La Rochelle youth hostel, the 'Centre de Rencontre International', so that the costs of accommodation will be kept to a minimum. Accommodation will be available for those arriving at La Rochelle from the evening of Friday 4 October onwards. An excursion is planned for Monday 7 October (see later). An advance notice of the AGM appears elsewhere in this *Bulletin*, and bookings for the meeting can now be made: a booking form is enclosed.

La Rochelle is situated on the Atlantic coast of France north of the Gironde (see map). Although it was in the long-distant past an English possession, this has nothing to do with our reasons for arranging the meeting there! La Rochelle is now an attractive seaport with 3 harbours. The programme has been planned to leave the Saturday evening free (after a reception with the Mayor of La Rochelle) and we strongly recommend that participants take the opportunity to have a meal in one of the famous seafood restaurants around the "Vieux port". Better than any description that we can give, come and visit the city for yourselves.

### Programme

The programme is being arranged at the moment,

and further details will appear in the August *Bulletin*. We hope to include contributions from many of the participants in the spring migration project, from Africa to the Arctic, and talks on breeding and wintering waders from France and various other southern European countries. Anyone wishing to offer a talk should do so now, or in the very near future: please complete the appropriate section on the booking form. Intending speakers should note that the time that can be allocated during the weekend for talks must, as in past meetings, be somewhat limited, to allow time for the informal discussions that are such an important feature of WSG meetings. Offer your talk now to avoid disappointment. Those offering talks will be informed of their acceptance (or otherwise) in due course.

As announced in *Bulletin* we require speakers to supply an abstract of their talk now, so that translations can be prepared in time for the meeting. The reasons for this are repeated below. Although the main language used by WSG is English, the group is becoming increasingly international in its membership and views, and we recognise that there are many members whose main language is not English. Accordingly we intend to make the 1985 meeting as bilingual (English and French) as possible. We do, however, anticipate that most speakers will use English, and the main language of the group will, for practical and administrative reasons, remain English.

At the meeting we will have abstracts of each talk available in both English and French, so

