

that all talks can be readily followed by participants both from the host country and elsewhere. Intending speakers should therefore supply an abstract to us now so that we can prepare translations of the abstracts and have them available at the meeting. Speakers will be relieved to hear that they need supply an abstract in only one language (provided that it is English or French!). We will arrange for translations to be made. We will of course be delighted to receive bilingual abstracts from speakers who can manage this.

We hope that speakers will also label all figures and tables bilingually, so that the finer points of talks can be understood by all participants. Help with these translations is also available on request, and all illustrations should therefore be drafted well in advance of the meeting.

We must stress that WSG will make all necessary translations for those who need this service. Denis Bredin has most generously agreed to help with translations. Anyone wishing to use his translation services should contact him at: LPO, La Corderie Royale, B.P. 263, 17305 Rochefort cedex, France.

Costs and Booking

The programme will run from Saturday morning until Sunday afternoon. We anticipate that most people will wish to arrive on Friday evening. For those intending to go on the excursion on Monday, accommodation will be available on the Sunday night. Flexible booking arrangements are available, so that participants can book only for the parts of the meeting they require. The cost for someone arriving on Friday evening, staying in the dormitory accommodation, dining out on Saturday night, and departing on Sunday afternoon will be 240 Francs (approximately £20 at the exchange rates at the time of writing). For someone staying for the excursion on Monday, the cost will be 390 Francs (about £33). Please note that most accommodation will be in 6-bedded rooms. Some single and double rooms are available: if you wish to stay in a single or double room please mark the booking form accordingly and note that there is a supplementary charge for these rooms.

Payment should be made in French Francs, either on booking, by cheque payable to L.P.O., or immediately on arrival at La Rochelle. If you intend to pay on arrival, please do so as soon as you arrive, otherwise the organisers end up spending the entire meeting trying to find people to extract payment. All bookings, whether or not enclosing payment, must be made before 31 August 1985, otherwise we cannot guarantee you accommodation and meals.

Travel to La Rochelle There is a frequent train service to La Rochelle. Travellers coming by rail from Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany etc. should travel via Paris. By road from Paris, travel via Orleans, Tours and Poitiers on the A10, N10 and N22. For those driving from Britain, the most convenient (although expensive) ferry route is Portsmouth - St. Malo. La Rochelle can be reached also by plane. Further details of rail and plane times and routes will be given in the August *Bulletin*.

Excursion

La Rochelle is approximately at the centre of a vast complex of coastal wetlands, Les Marais de l'Ouest, which are a very important migration and wintering area for waders and wildfowl. We have arranged an excursion for participants at the meeting to one part of this area (the Ile de Re) on Monday 7 October. Although only a small island, the Ile de Re is surrounded by very rich saltmarshes and mudflats. The excursion will finish back at La Rochelle at 1500 h, and the cost, to cover transport and picnic lunch, will be 60FF. Please book for the excursion on the booking form, so that we know the numbers wishing to make this trip.

For any further queries or information about the meeting, please contact *Michel Metais* or *Denis Bredin*, L.P.O., La Corderie Royale, BP 263, 17305 Rochefort cedex, France, to whom booking forms should be returned.

THE FUTURE OF THE WSG COMPUTER DATA ARCHIVE

As readers probably know, the funding for the WSG "Movements of Wader Populations in Western Europe" project has now finished, but we are hoping to continue the computerisation of current ringing data (including data on birds just ringed and aged as well as those measured) so that the archive can be kept as up to date as possible, for future approved analyses which WSG, individuals, ringing groups, or other institutions might wish to undertake. This can only be carried out if the data are supplied on correctly completed WSG green data forms, or in a form negotiated with, and approved by AEP. We have no money or facilities for accepting data in other forms at present.

Data should be sent to me at my new home address, *Ann Pienkowski*, 102 Broadway, Peterborough PE1 4DG. I will undertake to check the forms and insert ringers codes, and forward these to Durham for punching. Future

access to the data will be arranged on an *ad hoc* basis with myself and WSG personnel still at Durham. It will not be possible for the present to guarantee fast access to data, and costs incurred in accessing the data will have to be paid by the individuals/groups who wish to have it. The system may well become more refined and efficient when the expected improvements in linking home computers and mainframes come about.

For the present, our time will be devoted to analysing the material for the WSG study of movements of wader populations in Western Europe and trying to keep the data-base current, as described above. It would be appreciated, therefore, if ringers do not ask for copies of their data (other than the print-outs sent for checking) until further notice.

Any queries to *Ann Pienkowski*.