

# WADER STUDY GROUP

Bulletin 44

August 1985

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WADER STUDY GROUP, LA ROCHELLE, FRANCE, 5 OCTOBER 1985

### AGENDA

1. Apologies
  2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 1st September 1984 at Worcester College of Higher Education, UK (*Bulletin* 42:2).
  3. Chairman's Report
  4. Membership secretaries' Report
  5. Treasurer's Report
  6. Editor's Report
  7. Co-ordinator's Report
  8. The following officers and members of the executive committee have all completed a three-year term of office, and all offer themselves for re-election for a further three years. No other nominations have been received following the notice of this election in *Bulletin* 43:1. It is therefore proposed that:
    - (i) G.H.Green be re-elected as Chairman,
    - (ii) Dr.M.W.Pienkowski be re-elected as vice-chairman,
    - (iii) S.J.Sutcliffe be re-elected as Treasurer,
    - (iv) Dr. N.C.Davidson be re-elected as Editor,
    - (v) Drs. Th.Piersma be re-elected as Co-ordinator,
    - (vi) W.J.A.Dick, H.Galbraith and H.Hotker be re-elected as ordinary members of the executive committee.
  9. Date and venue of next year's meeting and AGM. It is hoped that the 1986 meeting will be held in either Edinburgh or Glasgow, Scotland.
  10. Any other business
- S.R.Baillie (General Secretary).*

### OFFICER'S REPORTS

#### Chairman's Report

The last year has been one of 'business as usual' for the Wader Study Group. All the planned projects are running well and WSG members are counting, catching and studying waders in many parts of the world. The attempt to count waders along the entire coastline (other than estuaries) of Britain in the winter of 1984-85 was very successful. This joint venture was eventually organised through Britain's Birds of Estuaries Enquiry but the idea and stimulus for the study came from WSG and many members took part. Mike Moser, the BTO's Estuaries Officer, worked hard to raise funds for the project and the experience of Ron Summers, the joint organiser, in counting rocky

shore waders in winter was most useful in planning the survey. We all require information about non-estuarine waders in winter both for biological and conservation reasons and we hope that other coastlines will be subject to similar studies in the future. Meanwhile we look forward to the results of last winter's endeavours. The study of the Spring passage on the West Coast of Britain in 1984 also went well (*Bulletin* 43) and led to further work in 1985. We also look forward to the results of a much more ambitious project studying spring migration of the entire East Atlantic flyway (*Bulletin* 43).

The counts at Inland Sites (OAG Munster) continued. The winter of 1984-85 provided more data on the effects of cold weather on waders. The Colour Marking Register is working satisfactorily. Surveys of the important Hebridean breeding areas continued. This work has led the Group to collate information on the numbers and distribution of breeding waders throughout Europe. This mammoth task has been undertaken by Th. Piersma and the resultant bibliography will be published in future *Bulletins*.

Your Chairman, and indeed the whole Executive Committee, are concerned about the future of the Group and its administration. Changing times, workloads and jobs means that some of us will be unable to give as much time to WSG as in the past. It is most important that new people undertake active roles in running the Group and we are encouraging such a trend. The wader people of Durham are fledging: the next generation's time is coming!

*G.H.Green*

#### Membership Secretaries' Report

The size of the membership remained fairly static during 1984 with the exception of a welcome increase in members from the Mediterranean area, which had been under-represented within the group. The numbers of members in different parts of the world on 31 December 1984, and the changes which took place during the year, are tabulated below.

#### Wader Study Group membership: 31 December 1984

	Present	New	Resign	Net Change
Britain & Ireland	199	11	14	- 3
Rest of Europe	143	21	6	+15
New World	87	9	7	+ 2
Rest of World	32	4	1	+ 3
Total	461	45	28	+17

Note that these figures do not tally exactly with those in last year's annual report (*Bulletin* 41): a consequence of the very late receipt of some membership renewals. 50 members who receive the *Bulletin* either free of charge or on an exchange basis are included.

Due to a lack of time we have not yet transferred the membership records from the University of Edinburgh computer to our BBC micro-computer but we hope to achieve this very soon. This will enable us to store this information in a form which is compatible with the computing equipment owned by the group.

*N.A. & J.A.Clark*

#### Treasurer's Report

Last year I reported a healthy surplus and a sound balance sheet. It is pleasing to report that the 1984 figures were equally good and that an increase in membership helped substantially to generate a more than adequate income to cover the group's costs.

The Hebrides project continued and is still, overall, in surplus. The Colour Marking Register has at present a substantial surplus which is to be expected in its initial stages. Finally on income, we sold more back numbers of *Bulletins* than ever.

Our costs largely revolve round the *Bulletin* production and the number of pages per issue. There was little change last year in the overall expenses. A new item on the account is the depreciation of the word-processor and printer which will be written off over five years.

The Group remains in a healthy financial situation with sound reserves and, of particular interest to members, should be able to maintain present subscription levels at least until 1987.

*S.J.Sutcliffe*

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#### RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 1984

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Receipts	1984	1983
Subscriptions	4777	3819
Interest Received	328	252
Colour Marking Register Income	335	7
1984 Conference Profit	106	44
Grants Received (Hebrides Project)	1300	3300
Sale of Back Bulletins	229	136
Profit on Sale of Car Stickers	2	-
Sale of Publications	25	-
	<b>£7102</b>	<b>£7558</b>
Deduct		
Bulletin Costs -Printing	1997	1805
Envelopes, Paper etc.	6	120
Typing	170	214
Postages	644	585
Editorial Expenses	284	184
Secretarial Costs and Miscellaneous	161	77
Co-ordinators Costs	113	59
Colour Marking Register Costs	44	17
Hebrides Project Costs	1490	2379
Bank Charges	17	18
Depreciation of Micro-Computer and Printer	282	-
	<b>(B) £5208</b>	<b>£5458</b>
Excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)	<b>£1894</b>	<b>£2100</b>

#### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1984

##### Accumulated Fund

Balance at 1 January 1984	2929	829
Excess of income over Expenditure for the Year	1894	2100
	<b>£4823</b>	<b>£2929</b>

##### Represented by

Assets - Micro Computer/Word Processor and Printer	1127	985
Cash Bank, On Deposit and In Hand	6549	4006
Debtors	-	324
Car Stickers in Stock - Cost less Sales	-	70
	<b>7674</b>	<b>5385</b>
Deduct - Liabilities	<b>(1970)</b>	<b>(1244)</b>
Subscriptions in advance	<b>( 881)</b>	<b>(1212)</b>
	<b>£4823</b>	<b>£2929</b>

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### Editor's Report

Material for the *Bulletin* continues to flow in steadily from both Old and New Worlds. Although the annual total of 144 pages was rather less than the record 200 pages of the previous year (a total resulting largely from unusually extensive reports on WSG projects), this amount of published material does indicate the continuing healthy state of the *Bulletin*. As in previous years, no material has needed to be held over for reasons of lack of space.

Our computerised text-processing system, based on the Acorn Computers BBC Micro-computer Model B, has continued to function well. In particular, the system has greatly smoothed the preparation and correction of text and, through the two-column format the system allows, has much improved the style and presentation of the final product. Although computerisation has eased the text-preparation parts of *Bulletin* production, it has resulted also in an increased editorial workload, particularly in the final stages of text correction and preparation. The Editor is eagerly seeking ways of easing this load. The timescale of *Bulletin* production remains largely unchanged.

During the last year, Harry Green has withdrawn from his role as Assistant Editor, allowing him to concentrate on his position as Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him all his efforts and editorial guidance in the past years on behalf of the *Bulletin*. In his place, Dr. Mike Moser has joined the editorial team as Assistant Editor. Finally, my thanks to all those people who (usually willingly) have helped to ensure that the *Bulletins* have appeared.

N.C. Davidson

### Co-ordinator's Report

The co-ordination of, and participation in, the WSG Project on 'International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic flyway during spring 1985' was a major task during the year. The great majority of the field work scheduled for this spring was carried out successfully and preliminary results look most promising (Progress report 2 is elsewhere in this issue). A joint manuscript, with W.J.A. Dick and P. Prokosch, on the results of the 1979 project on the spring migration of Siberian Knot (see *Bulletin* 27: 8-13) is finally being submitted for publication.

The enquiry on population sizes of breeding waders in Europe and the accompanying bibliography have not yet been completed but important new pieces of information were obtained during the year. Financial support for the publication of these results as a special issue of the *Bulletin* is being sought from grant-giving organisations.

Last year saw two changes in the composition of the Advisory Panel. R.E. Ricklefs resigned and Duncan Parish, co-ordinator of the International South-east Asia Wader Study Project, joined the panel. His address is Interwader, P.O. Box 10769, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Advisory Panel was consulted once by letter, in connection with the project on spring migration along the East Atlantic flyway. Suggestions on the role of the Wader Study Group in co-ordinating and stimulating wader studies throughout the world are always welcome!

Theunis Piersma

### LIST OF PUBLICATIONS FOR 1984

This list includes all publications concerning Wader Study Group projects and also studies which have used the WSG ringing data archive or extensive reports from the WSG colour-marking register. It is hoped that a full list of publications for previous years will be published shortly.

- Davidson, N.C. and Clark, N.A. 1984. WSG project of the effects of severe weather on waders: third progress report. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 41: 10-12.
- Dubois, P. 1984. WSG international project on Black-winged Stilts. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 42: 10-11.
- Fuller, R.J. 1984. Some differences in the ways that observers estimate numbers of waders breeding at high density. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 40: 8-11.
- Green, G.H. (ed.) 1984. *A survey of waders breeding on the west coast of the Uists and Benbecula (Outer Hebrides), 1983*. Report published jointly by the Wader Study Group and the Nature Conservancy Council. 9pp.
- Hotker, H. 1984. Methoden, Ziele und erste Ergebnisse des Internationalen Limikolen zählung. [Methods, goals and first results of international wader counts.] (Abstract). *J. Orn.* 125: 380.
- Moser, M. 1984. Wader Studies on the East Atlantic Flyway. *BTO News* 135: 8-9.
- Moser, M. 1984. The 1984 West Coast Spring Passage Project. (Abstract). *Wader Study Group Bull.* 40: 35.
- Moser, M. 1984. BTO/WSG Winter Shorebird Count 1984-1985. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 41: 7.
- Moser, M. and Summers, R. 1984. Winter Shorebird Count. *BTO News* 132: 3.
- Moser, M. and Summers, R. 1984. Winter Shorebird Count. *BTO News* 134: 3-4.
- OAG Munster 1984. Inland wader counts - third progress report. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 40: 15-17.
- OAG Munster 1984. Spring migration of Ruffs. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 42: 3-4.
- Pienkowski, M.W. 1984. Networks of wader sites in Western Europe: some results of the WSG Project. (Abstract). *Wader Study Group Bull.* 40: 35.
- Pienkowski, M.W. and Evans, P.R. 1984. Migratory behaviour of shorebirds in the Western Palearctic. In: Burger J. and Olla, B.L. (eds.), *Shorebirds. Migration and foraging behaviour*. Plenum Press, New York. Pp. 74-124.
- Pienkowski, M.W. and Pienkowski, A. 1984. WSG project on the movements of wader populations in Western Europe: ninth progress report. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 40: 11-14.
- Piersma, Th. 1984. International wader studies along the East Atlantic flyway during spring 1985. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 41: 4-6.
- Piersma, Th. 1984. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic flyway during spring 1985. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 42: 5-9.
- Smith, K. 1984. Lowland wader surveys. *BTO News* 31: 9.
- Smith, K.W. 1984. Breeding waders of lowland grasslands - a new WSG/BTO Project. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 40: 7.
- Smith, K. 1984. Wader numbers on lowland agricultural land in England, Wales and Scotland. (Abstract). *Wader Study Group Bull.* 40: 30-31.