

WADER STUDY GROUP

BULLETIN 46

APRIL 1986

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1986 - A REMINDER

Those members who have yet to pay their subscription for 1986 will be pleased to find another copy of the subscription renewal form enclosed with this *Bulletin*. We urge any member whose payment is still outstanding to pay promptly now: this will save us much time and administrative effort. If you have yet to pay your subscription, this will be the last *Bulletin* that you receive until we receive payment.

To ease the task of membership renewal, a Banker's Order Form (for use by those members with British bank accounts) is included on the renewal form. Payment by Banker's Order avoids the risk of forgetting to renew your subscription.

If you have recently paid your subscription, please disregard this reminder.

AN APOLOGY

We apologise for the late appearance of this issue of *WSG Bulletin*. The delays have arisen as a consequence of changes in the editorial base, and the Editor's temporarily high mobility.

ANOTHER APOLOGY

On p. 37 of *Bulletin* 45 we inadvertently revised sandpiper nomenclature and renamed the Semi-palmated Sandpiper as *Calidris semipalmatus* instead of the correct *C. pusilla*. This was entirely the fault of the U.K. editors, and any rumours of intent to damage the reputation of the New World editors are entirely unfounded!

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF WSG COLOUR-MARKING REGISTER

We are sorry to report that Dave Towshend has finally managed to find himself a "real job". This may be good news for Dave but it is bad news for the WSG, since it means that Dave will no longer be able to devote as much time as before to the organisation and running of the WSG Colour-marking Register. Dave's successors are Hector Galbraith of Glasgow University, who will deal with permanent markings, and Chris Thomas of Durham University with responsibility for temporary marks. Dave, we are relieved to say, will continue to act in an advisory capacity.

To reduce potential sources of confusion, all correspondence i.e. sightings (of both temporary and permanent marks), applications for new schemes, etc., should be sent to *Hector Galbraith, Zoology Dept., Glasgow University, Glasgow G12 8QQ, UK, (tel. 041 339 1105)* who will then forward any appropriate material to Chris Thomas. We hope that this hand-over of duties will not cause too much confusion, and that the high standards set by Dave will be maintained.

Hector Galbraith

WSG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, BROXBURN, SCOTLAND, 13 SEPTEMBER 1986

The Annual General Meeting of the Wader Study Group will be held at Oatridge Agricultural College, nr. Broxburn, West Lothian, U.K. on Saturday 13 September 1986 at 9.00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM, held on 5 October 1985 at Centre International de Sejour, La Rochelle, France (*Bulletin* 45: 1).
3. Chairman's Report
4. Membership Secretaries' Report

5. Treasurer's Report
6. Editor's Report
7. Co-ordinator's Report
8. Date and venue of next year's meeting and AGM.
9. Any other business

Note: No officers or members of the Executive Committee are due to retire this year and therefore there will be no elections.

S.R. Baillie (General Secretary)

OFFICER'S REPORTS FOR 1985

As from 1985 the Executive Committee have agreed that these reports will cover a single calendar year, and that normally they will be published in the April *Bulletin* of the following year.

Chairman's report

The most outstanding feature of 1985 was Nick Davidson's splendid example to us all of how to do the impossible and survive! As I mentioned in my report last year, changing jobs and workloads have created havoc amongst WSG officers in the sense that they have had to be more concerned with the jobs they do for a living rather than WSG! A very sad state of affairs leading to the late issue of the December *Bulletin* (for which we all apologise). Nevertheless, when I consider how much Nick actually packed into 1985 its surprising we got a December *Bulletin* at all and we do owe him thanks for success against all odds. We expect to be back on schedule almost immediately, aided by new editorial recruits.

The second outstanding feature of the year for me was the WSG meeting in La Rochelle. I was happily transported to the meeting by Mike Moser, an excellent travel agent and courier. Many thanks to him for his translations. I don't know what he said but everyone seemed happy. Either he said the correct things or our hosts were very polite! Many thanks to our hosts in France for a pleasant conference.

The *Bulletin* shows that WSG projects are going well and we are looking forward to many reports and papers in the near future.

I have little else to say. Mainly I should like to thank my colleagues on the Executive Committee for 'carrying' the Chairman. I have done little for WSG during the last year but chair a few meetings. A far cry from the dizzy days as Chairman and Assistant Editor. See you in Edinburgh

Late news is that our Treasurer, Steve Sutcliffe, has become warden on Skomer Island, off the coast of Wales and that he has deserted his life of commerce. Could Skomer be a tax haven, depository for WSG funds? Or venue for a future WSG meeting? Good luck to Steve and Anna on joining the professionals.

G.H.Green

Membership Secretaries' report

During 1985 there has been little change in the total membership numbers. This masks the large number of members resigning, partly a consequence of those members who had made a lump sum 3-year subscription payment failing to renew their membership. However, these resignations have been matched by an increase in the number of new members.

WSG Membership 31 December 1985

	Present	New	Resign	Net Change
Britain and Ireland	205	30	24	+6
Rest of Europe	154	30	19	+11
New World	82	14	19	-5
Rest of World	27	5	10	-5
Total	468	79	72	+7

The WSG membership records were transferred to a BBC micro-computer database during the year. This will make the production of address labels for the *Bulletin* much easier and will provide a more efficient system for storage and updating the membership records. A first result has been the publication of a complete current membership list.

N.A. and J.A.Clark.

Treasurer's report

The Group has again been able to show a substantial surplus and therefore subscription rates should remain fixed for the immediate future. The surplus will also allow the Executive Committee to make plans to secure the future production of the *Bulletin*.

There are a few items in the accounts that require explanation as they affect the make-up of the Accumulated Fund balance.

- (1) The Hebrides Account is incorporated and shows a balance of £1,424, which will be used to fund final reports, etc. -

Income 1983 - 1985 inclusive	£6,300
Expenditure 1983-1985 incl.	£4,876
Balance	£1,424

- (2) The Colour-marking Register shows a temporary surplus of £257 which is also included in the Accumulated Fund. Additionally the Group holds a stock of scarce dye valued at £195.

- (3) The income of £324 from the sales of cannons is the Group's share of a surplus, which is held at the moment in the Accumulated Fund.

The healthy bank balance has allowed the Group to earn £697 in interest during the year. Our liabilities are mainly for the costs of the December 1985 *Bulletin*, and a further £1,100 has been reserved for outstanding costs arising from the 1984 conference.

S.J.Sutcliffe

Editor's Report

Contributions for the *Bulletin* have continued to arrive at a most satisfactory rate, and the *Bulletin* continues to increase gently in size through its regular features, individual items and reports of WSG projects. Despite expanding the editorial team with the involvement of Mike Moser, this enlarging workload is increasingly putting strain and delay on *Bulletin* production. Inevitably, 'legitimate' jobs have had at times to take precedence over taking immediate action over WSG matters. This, coupled with delays in initial text-preparation, led to the December *Bulletin* appearing very late, for which we apologise. To attempt to reduce such delays in the future we are making arrangements to further expand the editorial team, and to streamline parts of the production system. An added complication to this restructuring is that I am, at the end of this reporting period, about to change jobs so that the editorial base of WSG will move from Durham University for the first time since 1973 (when, as those with long memories and grey hair will recall, was when Mike Pienkowski moved to Durham). Unfortunately my new job is likely to put even greater pressures on my time.

RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FO YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 1985

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1984</u>
Subscriptions	4739	4777
Interest Received	697	328
Colour-marking Register Income	204	335
1984 Conference Profit		106
Grants Received (Hebrides Project)	1700	1300
Sale of Back Bulletins	102	229
Profit on Sale of Car Stickers	15	2
Sale of Publications	193	25
Sale of Cannons (Net)	324	
(A)	£7974	£7102
<u>Deduct</u>		
Bulletin Costs - Printing	2216	1997
Envelopes, Paper etc.		6
Typing	180	170
Postages	691	644
Editorial Expenses	179	284
Secretarial Costs and Miscellaneous	266	161
Co-ordinators Costs	89	113
Colour-marking Register Costs	228	44
Hebrides Project Costs	1007	1490
Bank Charges	5	17
Cost of Publications	142	
Depreciation of Micro-Computer and Printer	282	282
(B)	£5285	£5208
Excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)	£2689	£1894
<u>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1985</u>		
<u>Accumulated Fund</u>		
Balance at 1 January 1985	4823	2929
Excess of income over Expenditure for the Year	2689	1894
	£7512	£4823
<u>Represented by</u>		
Assets - Micro Computer/Word Processor and Printer	845	1127
Cash Bank, On Deposit and In Hand	8567	6574
Debtors	450	
	£9862	£7674
Deduct - Liabilities	(2212)	(1970)
Subscriptions in advance	(138)	(881)
	£7512	£4823

In addition to publishing 3 issues of the *Bulletin* in 1985, we began preparation of the Survey of Breeding Wader Populations in Europe, with its extensive bibliography, for publication as a *Bulletin Supplement* in 1986. This will be equivalent in size to a 'normal' *Bulletin*.

Despite devising different, and often novel, ways of delaying publication of the *Bulletin*, the *Bulletin* continues to appear with, we hope, an ever increasing quality and diversity of contributions. Much of the success of the *Bulletin* as a means of exchanging information about waders depends on members continuing to send us material - please keep doing so. If you have not contributed to the *Bulletin* before, or even if you have, do not hesitate to contact us to discuss preparation of an article. It is especially pleasing to see an increasing number of methodological articles appearing in the *Bulletin*. At the same time it is frustrating to receive so many documents that do not conform to *Bulletin* style, especially in headings, abbreviations, references etc. Such unnecessary errors are guaranteed to drive

already hard-pressed editors to distraction and delay: we urge authors to avoid these problems by checking the style of recent *Bulletins*. We are of course always pleased to help authors with advice on analysis and grammar.

N.C. Davidson

Co-ordinator's report

Two projects were completed during 1985. Fieldwork for the "International Wader Migration Studies along the East Atlantic Flyway during Spring 1985" was carried out successfully, with groups in more than 12 countries participating. To date only part of the vast amount of information which was collected has been assembled or written up. The major task of analysing the data and reporting the results should start in 1986.

The enquiry on the population sizes of breeding waders in Europe and its accompanying bibliography was completed during the year. Funds have been obtained to publish the report

as a supplement to the *Wader Study Group Bulletin*, which will be supplied free of charge to group members. This should appear in the course of 1986.

No changes occurred in the Advisory Panel, which was approached for advice only once during the year. Please let me know your comments and suggestions regarding present and future projects.

Th. Piersma.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS FOR 1985

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. This list includes papers published during 1985 and one omitted from the 1984 list.

- Bredin, D. 1985. Spring migration of coastal waders on the French "Centre-ouest" Atlantic coasts. (Abstract). *Wader Study Group Bull.* 45: 7-8.
- Buxton, N.E., Green, G.H. and Langslow, D.R. 1985. The breeding wader populations on the machairs and blackland of the Southern Isles, Outer Hebrides. *Hebridean Naturalist* 8: 5-9.
- Davidson, N.C. 1985. Origins and Destinations of Knots in north Norway in May. (Abstract). *Wader Study Group Bull.* 45: 8.
- Davidson, N.C. and Clark N.A. 1985. WSG project on the effects of severe weather on waders: fourth progress report. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 43: 4-5.
- Davidson, N.C. and Clark, N.A. 1985. The effects of severe weather in January and February 1985 on waders in Britain. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 44: 10-16.
- Davidson, N.C. and Piersma, Th. 1985. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway: plans for spring 1986. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 45: 4-6.
- Ens, B. (ed.) 1985. *Entre le Sahara et la Sibirie*. WIVO Report No. 85-9.F. Pp. 32. WIVO, Ewijk, The Netherlands.
- Fuller, R.J., Green, G.H. and Pienkowski, M.W. 1985. Surveys of breeding waders in the southern isles of the Outer Hebrides - a progress report. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 43: 14-15.
- Fuller, R.J., Green, G.H. and Pienkowski, M.W. 1985. Surveys of breeding waders (Charadrii) in the Outer Hebrides 1983 & 1984. *Bull. Brit. Ecol. Soc.* 16: 163-166.
- Galbraith, H., Furness, R.W. and Fuller, R.J. 1984. Habitats and distribution of waders breeding on Scottish agricultural land. *Scott. Birds* 13: 98-106.
- Hotker, H. 1985. Migration studies of Ruffs wintering in Senegal. (Abstract). *Wader Study Group Bull.* 45: 7.
- Mawby, F. 1985. The spring passage on the Ribble and Alt estuaries, North-East England. (Abstract). *Wader Study Group Bull.* 45: 8.
- Moser, M.E. 1985. The BTO/WSG Winter Shorebird Count: some first results. (Abstract). *Wader Study Group Bull.* 45: 15.
- Moser, M.E. and Davis, T. 1985. Winter shorebird count. (Progress Report). *BTO News* 137: 6-7.
- Moser, M.E., Ferns, P. and Baillie, S.R. 1985. BTO/WSG West coast spring passage project - a progress report. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 43: 9-13.
- Pienkowski, A.E. and Pienkowski, M.W. 1985. The future of the WSG computer data archive. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 43: 3.
- Pienkowski, M.W. and Evans, P.R. 1985. The role of migration in the population dynamics of birds. Pp. 331-352 in *Behavioural Ecology: the Ecological Consequences of Adaptive Behaviour.*, (eds. R.H. Smith and R.M. Sibly). British Ecological Society Symposium 24. Blackwell, Oxford.
- Piersma, Th. 1985. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway during spring 1985: second progress report. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 44: 17-18.
- Piersma, Th. 1985. Spring Migration Studies on the Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania. (Abstract). *Wader Study Group Bull.* 45: 7.
- Piersma, Th. 1985. First results of the WSG Spring 1985 East Atlantic Flyway Project. (Abstract). *Wader Study Group Bull.* 45: 9.
- Piersma, Th. and Davidson, N.C. 1985. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway during spring 1985: first progress report. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 43: 6-8.
- Piersma, Th. and Smit, C. 1985. [Migration of waders along the east-side of Atlantic Ocean.] In *Dutch. Skor* 4(2):32-34.
- Reed, T. 1985. Estimates of British breeding wader populations. (Abstract). *Wader Study Group Bull.* 45: 11-12.
- Smith, K. 1985. Breeding wader monitoring. *BTO News* 136: 3.
- Summers, R.W. and Moser, M.E. 1985. The Winter Shorebird Count: a progress report. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 44: 16.
- Townshend, D.J., Galbraith, H. and Thomas, C. 1985. Current colour-marking schemes. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 44: 7-9.

WSG ANNUAL MEETING AND WORKSHOP ON THE CONSERVATION OF INTERNATIONAL FLYWAY POPULATIONS OF WADERS, OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, SCOTLAND, 12-14 SEPTEMBER 1986

The 1986 WSG Annual Conference and AGM will take place from Friday 12 September to Sunday 14 September at Oatridge Agricultural College in southern Scotland. A booking form is enclosed with this *Bulletin*. Oatridge Agricultural College is situated near Broxburn in West Lothian, about 15 miles to the west of Edinburgh in southern Scotland. The College was built in 1973 and is surrounded by its own 280 ha farm. Accommodation for up to 130 people is

mostly in single rooms, but there are also some twin and four-bedded room available. Meals will be 'canteen-style' and there will be a bar available on both Friday and Saturday evenings.

PROGRAMME

As in previous years the formal programme starts on Saturday morning with the Annual