

ORGANISATION

The organisation of the project will continue as in 1986. Organisers, or 'contact-persons', of the main participating groups should keep the project co-ordinators (Nick Davidson and Theunis Piersma) informed about their progress of the plans, and should pass the relevant information on achievements (no. of birds marked, counts etc.) as soon as possible after their spring work has been completed. The organisation of temporary colour-marks will be co-ordinated by Chris Thomas, to whom all queries and requests over marking should be addressed.

Sightings of colour-marked waders should, as usual, be passed through the WSG Colour-marking Register (Hector Galbraith, WSG Colour-marking Register, Department of Zoology, The University, Glasgow G12 8QQ, U.K.).

Many wader workers start to become active as

the sap begins to rise in the spring. We have listed here those who we know plan to be actively working on waders in spring 1987: if you too will be working on waders anywhere on the East Atlantic flyway and would be able to participate in the project, by catching and/or counting and observing waders, we would be delighted to hear from you. Contact Nick Davidson with queries and offers of help.

Any further developments in the plans for the project will be included in an updated version of this notice in *Bulletin* 49 (April 1987).

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U.K.

Theunis Piersma, Korte Nieuwstraat 4, 9724 LC
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WADER STUDY GROUP ANNUAL MEETING AND AGM, GDANSK, POLAND, 25-27 SEPTEMBER 1987

As was announced in *WSG Bulletin* 47, the Wader Study Group 1987 AGM and autumn meeting will be held in Gdansk, on the Polish Baltic coast, on 25-28 September 1987. It will be hosted by the Ornithological Station of the Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences. As in previous years, the formal part of the meeting will begin with the AGM on Saturday morning (26 September) and finish on Sunday afternoon (27 September). Participants are advised to arrive during the afternoon or evening of Friday 25 September. A whole day excursion to interesting wader sites near Gdansk will be organised for Monday 28 September.

Accommodation will be available in the buildings of the Ornithological Station and its surroundings from 25-29 September (and longer if required). The cost of the meeting will be kept to a minimum - as usual. Although not yet fixed, costs will be within the range of recent WSG meetings, probably at around £12 per day. For various reasons it is vital that we know well in advance the exact number of participants (and their identities) for this conference. Therefore please send the enclosed booking form to Hermann Hotker, Biologische Station, Coermuhle 181, 4400 Munster, Fed. Rep. of Germany as soon as possible, ignoring the fact that there are no prices for accommodation, meals, etc. given on it. We apologise to anyone for whom the absence of precise costings at this stage may pose problems in obtaining finance to attend the meeting.

Because there are a number of differences in the booking arrangements for this meeting compared to the usual WSG procedures, particularly in the need to book as early as possible, anyone intending to go to the meeting should read this announcement carefully, and act on it as soon as possible. It will not be possible to accept late bookings.

PROGRAMME

A major reason for accepting the Ornithological Station's kind invitation to Gdansk - besides the fact that Gdansk is a most attractive town - is our hope to see more colleagues from Poland and adjacent European countries at this

conference than we usually do at WSG and other meetings. Rather than having a workshop, as in Edinburgh in 1986, we intend to organize a more "traditional" WSG conference with a variety of themes covered by talks and posters, allowing time for broad discussion about many aspects of current work on waders. At the time of writing this announcement (November 1986) the programme is still very open, but we hope to include talks on the results of wader ringing in Poland, the 1987 East Atlantic Flyway Study, results of other WSG projects and highlights of the expeditions to Africa and elsewhere taking place this winter.

Anybody wishing to offer a talk or to present a poster should write to Hermann Hotker, Biologische Station, Coermuhle 181, 4400 Munster, Fed. Rep. of Germany, giving the title and subject of the talk AND a brief abstract. Slide and overhead projectors will be available - please say if you require other equipment. Talks must be limited to 20 minutes, to allow time for the informal discussions, tea, coffee and beer! Posters will be exhibited throughout the course of the conference. The size of the posters should not exceed 1 m².

it is most important that both speakers and poster demonstrators to supply an abstract in advance, so that we can distribute copies at the beginning of the meeting.

Each abstract should be typed on an A4 page in the following way:

lines 1 and 2: title (capital letters please);
line 3: author's name (capital letters please);
lines 4, 5 and 6: author's address;
lines 7 to 26: abstract.

Please note that all offers of talks/posters (with accompanying abstracts) must reach Hermann Hotker by 1 August 1987 at the latest.

BOOKING AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Anyone intending to attend the meeting should read this section very carefully before sending in their booking form. As mentioned above, it is not possible to give the exact costs of the conference at present, because this depends partly on the number of participants. All

non-Polish participants will need visas for travelling to Gdansk. Visas will be issued only if your passport is valid for at least 9 months after the date of your visa application. If your passport will have less than this period of validity, renew it now, before making your visa application. Once a booking form has been received, the conference participant will receive official information about the conference from Gdansk Ornithological Station. You must have this information to obtain the visa from the Polish consulate in your country. Full details will be sent to all participants in due course. As the processing of a visa application may take up to two months, please send your booking form to us as soon as possible. The absolute latest date for receipt of booking forms is 1 May 1987.

TRAVEL TO GDANSK

Gdansk can be reached by plane, boat, train, car and bicycle. There is a direct plane from Hamburg (FRG) twice a week and there are direct ferries from Helsinki (Finland), Nynashamn (Sweden) and, until the end of September, from Travemunde (FRG). From Ystad (Sweden) and from Copenhagen (Denmark) there are ferries to Swinoujscie (western Poland), which is linked with Gdansk by bus (a whole days trip) or by train. Gdynia (close to Gdansk) is served by a night train from East Berlin (GDR) and there are direct trains to Warsaw from various places in Europe, including Paris and Oostende. Travellers from Warsaw may reach Gdansk by plane or train.

To keep travelling costs to a minimum we are investigating hire of a bus (or mini-buses) which would leave the Hook of Holland on the evening of Thursday 24 September 1987, pick up more conference participants whilst driving through Germany, and arrive in Gdansk on Friday afternoon. The return journey is planned to start on Monday evening (after the excursion), arriving back in Holland on the evening of

THE 1986 WSG ANNUAL MEETING - A PERSONAL VIEW

Jeff Kirby

At last, a burning ambition was fulfilled when I was able to attend the 1986 Wader Study Group conference, and what's more it turned out to be a great success, packed with interesting talks and discussions but with ample opportunity to chat, exchange ideas, renew old friendships and make new. The venue, Oatridge Agricultural College near Edinburgh in south-east Scotland, provided warm, comfortable accommodation and ample quantities of traditional food.

Saturday began with the AGM which threatened to pass without dissent until Peter Evans, referring to the recent content of the *Bulletin*, asked the Editor "Will it soon be published by Blackwells?!" Following the AGM and coffee, the workshop proper began. An immediate problem was posed by the strong sunlight, pouring in through a skylight with no curtain, and making even the brightest slide invisible. However, seats were soon turned and the screen positioned away from the light - "a major turn-round in conservation programmes!", commented Pete Myers. This minor hitch resolved, the first series of talks got underway: an introduction to the wader flyways of the world. It was interesting to hear what was known about each and which questions had yet to be addressed. Some major gaps in our knowledge of flyways were identified emphasising how much there was yet to do! After

Tuesday 29 September. Please note on your booking form if you are interested in using this bus (costs will probably be between £60 and £75 for the return journey, depending on the number of people signing up for "WSG-Tours").

Please indicate on your booking form how you intend to travel to Gdansk. Further travel details will be available in the April *Bulletin*, and will be sent directly to those who have sent in their booking forms.

EXCURSION

Gdansk is situated on the Baltic Sea coast at Gdansk Bay. The main concentrations of waders in this part of the Baltic coast are found here during autumn migration. At the mouths of the Vistula and Reda rivers, waders have been ringed for many years, and a wader-ringing camp in this area will be visited. We also plan to visit an interesting peat-bog c. 80 km NW of Gdansk. Please book for the excursion on the booking form.

For any other questions or information about the meeting, please contact Hermann Hotker, Biologische Station, Coermuhle 181, 4400 Munster, Federal Republic of Germany or Jadwiga Gromadzka, Ornithological Station, 80-680 Gdansk, Poland.

We very much hope that despite the long travelling distance for people from France, Great Britain and even more western countries, nobody will be put off taking part in this conference. This meeting will be a quite unique opportunity to establish a closer and firmer contact between wader enthusiasts in eastern and western countries and, therefore, contribute to the internationality of wader research - an internationality that is essential for the subject and that is enjoyed by everyone working in this field. It would be great to see many WSG members in Gdansk.

lunch, the theme switched to the various threats to breeding and wintering wader populations and the conventions and national safeguards developed to attempt to protect these areas. Cor Smit certainly gave us something to worry about with his forecast of a 40-140 cm rise in sea-level before the year 2050. Patrick Dugan (IUCN) gave the final talk of the day on the 'socio-economic' aspects of conservation. His suggestion that available funds should be concentrated on education and the integration of conservation with traditional resource management, rather than on research, certainly raised a few eyebrows. The Workshop covered a lot of ground and generated plenty of discussion, lasting through dinner and well into the night. It's funny how the best ideas seem to come after a glass of beer, or two!

With the Workshop over, Sunday was allocated to more general talks on waders. Nigel Clark started with an interesting find concerning moult in the Golden Plover, Hector Galbraith talked about his study of breeding Lapwings in Central Scotland, and Nick Davidson and Peter Prokosch gave the latest information on the Spring Passage Project. No, I have not forgotten Robert Rae's description of the life of roof-nesting Oystercatchers in Aberdeen - how much longer will he get away with using