

## PROPOSALS FOR A SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE

WSG has managed to maintain the same annual subscription rate (£10) for 5 years, since 1983. A meeting of the Executive Committee of WSG on 12 September 1986 considered the financial situation of the group, and the matter of future subscription rates. The Committee decided to recommend that the ordinary annual subscription should be raised to £12. A proposal to this effect will be put to the membership at the Annual General Meeting in September 1987. Institutional subscriptions will rise accordingly, to £30.

In reaching this recommendation, the Executive Committee has recognised that the costs of

running the group generally, and in particular the editorial and production costs of the *Bulletin*, are expected to rise quite rapidly. This is in part a consequence of the many changes in the personal and employment circumstances of those running the group. As WSG gradually expands its membership and range of operations, there is great sense in ensuring a carefully planned income and strong financial base for the future. The Group must ensure that it covers its annual costs: the small increase proposed for 1988 should ensure stability for several years to come.

*S.J. Sutcliffe, Treasurer*

## THE CONSERVATION OF INTERNATIONAL FLYWAY POPULATIONS OF WADERS

We are delighted to say that we have been able to complete the huge amount of editorial work needed to be able to issue this volume free to WSG members, as a Supplement to this April 1987 *Bulletin*.

The volume, which is the proceedings of the workshop of the same name held as part of 1986 WSG Annual Meeting, near Edinburgh in September 1986, amounts to some 150 pages, and so is by far the largest issue of a *WSG Bulletin* ever produced - even larger than *Breeding Waders in Europe*, which was issued as a free Supplement to *Bulletin* 48 in December 1986. It is published jointly by WSG and the International Waterfowl Research Bureau (IWRB), and is being used by IWRB as background preparation for the meeting of contracting parties to the Ramsar Convention, at Regina in Canada in May/June 1987.

*The Conservation of International Flyway Populations of Waders* summarises in a series of papers the current knowledge of how waders use flyways, how they are studied, and the measures being taken to conserve them. The volume concludes that wader researchers must work increasingly closely with conservationists and land managers to promote the conservation of waders and wetlands. The papers highlight the many gaps in our understanding of wader migration systems around the world, and we hope the volume will encourage WSG members to go out and try to fill these gaps.

Further copies of this volume are available from WSG (Dr.N.C.Davidson, c/o Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA, U.K.) or IWRB (Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, Glos. GL2 7BX, U.K.), price £5.00 including postage and packing.

## PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE 1979 WSG SIBERIAN KNOT SPRING MIGRATION PROJECT

Eight years after its main field season, one of the first major international co-operative wader studies organised, by William Dick, through the Wader Study Group has come to fruition! In the first 1987 issue of *Ornis Scandinavica* (Vol. 18: 5-16), the results of this international enterprise were published under the title "Spring migration of the Siberian Knots *Calidris canutus canutus*: results of a co-operative Wader Study Group project". The paper is co-authored by William Dick, Theunis Piersma and Peter Prokosch. It provides a detailed description of the spring migration of Siberian Knots through Europe in 1979, and also incorporates information on the departure from South Africa and body mass increases in Schleswig-Holstein, from 1980-83. The paper concludes that Siberian Knots use only a few staging sites between West Africa and Siberia. Most birds seem only to use the West German Wadden Sea. The Tejo Estuary (Portugal), the Vendee coast of France and the Westerschelde in the south-west Netherlands

were identified as staging areas of lesser importance. At the latter 3 sites in early May, Knots appeared to arrive with lower body weights than in Schleswig-Holstein at the same time. The migration from West Germany to central Siberia is most probably made in one flight via the Gulf of Finland. In the discussion, a model of body weight changes during migration on a fixed time schedule is described. This is used to discuss the energetic constraints on the migration strategy of Siberian Knots in spring.

Requests for reprints are welcomed by *Theunis Piersma, Zoological Laboratory, University of Groningen, P.O.Box 14, 9750 AA Haren, The Netherlands.*

(Editor's Note: some preliminary findings of further research on the spring migration of Siberian Knots is reported elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.)