

**WADER STUDY GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, BALTIC YOUTH CENTRE, GDANSK, POLAND,
26 SEPTEMBER 1987**

The Annual General Meeting of the Wader Study Group will be held during our conference in Gdansk, Poland on Saturday 26 September 1987 at 9.00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM, held on 13 September 1986 at Oatridge Agricultural College, Broxburn, Scotland (*Bulletin* 48: 2).
3. Chairman's Report
4. Membership Secretaries' Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Editor's Report
7. Co-ordinator's Report
8. Change in subscription rates. The meeting will be asked to approve an increase in annual subscriptions from £10.00 to £12.00 for individuals and from £25.00 to £30.00 for institutions, as from 1 January 1988.
9. Election of officers and members of the Executive Committee

Our Chairman, Harry Green, has indicated that he will be unable to continue in office after this year's AGM. The three-year terms of office of the General Secretary, Stephen Baillie and the Membership Secretaries, Nigel and Jaquie Clark also end at this year's AGM. With the increasingly wide scope of WSG activities, in terms both of geographical and subject areas the Executive Committee feel that it is appropriate to strengthen themselves by the election of some additional ordinary members. Accordingly the Executive Committee nominate the following for election at this year's AGM.

Chairman	Dr. M.W.Pienkowski
Vice-chairman	Drs. Th. Piersma
(also to continue as Co-ordinator)	
General Secretary	Dr. S.R.Baillie
Membership Secretary	J.S.Kirby

Ordinary members of the Executive Committee:

D.Bredin
P.L.Ireland
P.Jonsson
Dr. M.E.Moser
Dr. J.P.Myers
C.Thomas

Alternative nominations may be made by any members of the Wader Study Group. Nominations must be signed by a proposer and seconder, and must include a signed statement by the candidate that they are willing to stand. All these people must be paid up members of the Wader Study Group. Nominations should be sent to the General Secretary, Dr. S.R.Baillie to arrive by Friday 17 July 1987.

If there are further nominations papers for a postal ballot will be circulated with the August *Bulletin*, and members will also have an opportunity to vote in person at this AGM, where the matter will be decided.

10. Date and venue of next year's conference and AGM.

11. Any other business

S.R.Baillie (General Secretary)

OFFICER'S REPORTS FOR 1986

Chairman's report

The publication of *Breeding Waders in Europe* by WSG in 1986 was one of the most important events in the history of the Group. This supplement to *Bulletin* 48 was compiled by Theunis Piersma from data collected through correspondence with ornithologists all over Europe, from personal contacts and from the literature. The publication is the first attempt to quantify in broad terms the populations of waders breeding in Europe. I think the stimulus to carry out the work came from work in Scotland. During our efforts to census the breeding waders of the Hebrides in the face of the Integrated Development Programme and the changes in agriculture which it might bring about, we were constantly asked for comparative material from elsewhere. It was impossible to obtain. Now some information is readily available. Many thanks to Theunis for his splendid work on behalf of the group.

Otherwise there is little else to say. Business as usual; many projects in hand; financial situation good; membership holding up. A success story? Perhaps, but apologies for the late *Bulletins*! The Editor had a very difficult year and he has accomplished wonders especially with the aid of new assistants Judy and David Stroud.

G.H.Green

Membership secretaries' report

Membership of the group continued to grow in 1986, with a net increase of 23 members during the year. For the first time we sent individual letters to all those who had not renewed their subscriptions by the end of July. This produced an encouraging response, with resignations down from 72 in 1985 to 51 in 1986.

WSG Membership 31 December 1986

	Present	New	Resign	Net Change
Britain and Ireland	211	23	17	+6
Rest of Europe	174	31	11	+20
New World	85	19	16	+3
Rest of World	21	1	7	-6
Total	491	74	51	+23

N.A. and J.A.Clark

Treasurer's report

It is encouraging to report a continuing healthy surplus for the year but the accumulated fund is now harbouring some hefty items that are ear-marked for future expenditure and it seems likely that a small subscription increase may be necessary in 1988. The reserves include:

- 1) The Hebrides Accounts which shows -
 income 1983-1986 inclusive £8500
 costs " " " £6123
 Leaving an amount in reserve
 for report publications etc. £2377
- 2) The Colour Marking account now shows a surplus of £242, the stock of dye purchased in 1985 remains in store.
- 3) The Cannon Net Fund amounts to £524 now and may be earmarked for a specific project in the next year.

The only item of note during the years is a very hefty increase in editorial costs reflecting the changed personal circumstances, and proliferation of our editorial volunteers - an additional computer was about to be purchased at the end of the year to enable text to be more easily edited by several people. The postage costs include the postage for the *Breeding Waders in Europe* publication which went out with Bulletin 48 but all the costs and sales income relating to this publication will be shown in the 1987 accounts. At the moment the net cost to the Group is £920 but this should be recovered slowly as sales are made. A small increase in the subscription rate in 1988 will ensure that the financial situation within the group remains sound for several years to come.

S.J. Sutcliffe

RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 1986

<u>Receipts</u>	1986	1985
Subscriptions	4742	4739
Interest Received	627	697
Colour Marking Register Income	52	204
1986 Conference - Grant Income 1000		
Fees 1548		
(Costs) (2209)	339	
Hebrides Project - Grants Received	2200	1700
Sale of Back Bulletins	74	102
Profit on Sale of Car Stickers	30	15
Sale of Publications	35	193
Sale of Cannons (Net)	200	324
(A)	£8349	£7974
 <u>Deduct</u>		
Bulletin Costs - Printing	2259	2216
Envelopes, Paper etc.	61	-
Typing	165	180
Postage	1088	691
Editorial Expenses	705	179
Secretarial Costs and Miscellaneous	234	266
Co-ordinator's Costs	98	89
Colour Marking Register Costs	67	228
Hebrides Project Costs	1247	1007
Cost of Publications	89	142
Bank Charges	30	5
Depreciation of micro-computers and printer	282	282
(B)	£6325	£5285
Excess of Income over Expenditure A-B	£2024	£2689

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1986

	1986	1985
<u>Accumulated Fund</u>		
Balance at 1 January 1986	7512	4823
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the Year	2024	2689
	£9536	£7512
 <u>Represented by</u>		
Assets - micro-computer and printers (net after subtracting depreciation)	563	845
Cash in bank, on deposit and in hand	13742	8567
Debtors	465	450
	14770	9862
Deduct - Creditors (Liabilities)	(5027)	(2212)
Subscriptions paid in advance	(207)	(138)
	£9536	£7512

Editor's Report

1986 has been a year of changes in many parts of the *Bulletin* production system, some of them obvious to readers, others less so. Early in 1986 I moved job to the Nature Conservancy Council in Peterborough. Thus the production base of the *Bulletin* left Durham, where it had been since 1973. This shift of base, combined with the demands of my new post, and changes in housing and personal circumstances conspired to stretch time and resources beyond the limit: *Bulletin* 46 appeared very late, for which my apologies are due. It has been apparent for some time that the time and effort needed to produce a *Bulletin* to an increasingly high standard have been steadily rising. To cope with this, and the heavy work demands of the Editors, we have taken a number of actions during 1986.

Firstly I have appointed Judy and David Stroud as Assistant Editors, alongside Mike Moser. This has two advantages. Firstly it widens the editorial base, so that problems of other commitments occurring at awkward times for *Bulletin* production can be minimised. Secondly, as Judy and David are based in Peterborough, the final preparation and paste-up of camera-ready copy for the *Bulletin* is now a team effort. This has already saved us a great deal of time and effort.

To further spread the load of editing, towards the end of 1986 we purchased a second BBC microcomputer and disc drive for the Group. This is now installed in Judy and David's home, and is helping to ease the load of editing and correcting texts. Since we are receiving an increasing number of contributions in machine-readable form (on floppy discs), this extra equipment has been already especially helpful.

We are happy to receive copy on floppy discs in the future, but we must again urge authors to consult with us first, to ensure that their texts are compatible with our systems and format. Several contributions received in 1986 ended up taking us longer to deal with because of disc and software incompatibilities, than if we had entered the texts ourselves!

Altogether the 1986 *Bulletins* comprised 126 pages, and we included a gratifyingly wide range of material. However the one serious concern has been the diminution of material for the New World Section: we urge New World authors to send us material of all kinds for inclusion in the *Bulletin*, and we are seeking ways of further encouraging such contributions.

We are also establishing closer links with other wader organisations such as the Australian Wader Studies Group and Interwader, with a view to ensuring that WSG members are kept fully aware of the work and findings of these groups. We would be pleased to make firmer contact with other groups involved with wader studies.

During 1986 we changed the style of *Bulletin* binding to saddle-stitching, which we feel both neatens the appearance of the issues, and makes them easier to read.

Not content with struggling to produce 3 *Bulletins* in 1986, we also completed the first ever *Bulletin Supplement*, Theunis Piersma's huge undertaking of compiling *Breeding Waders in Europe*. This was published as a supplement

to the December 1986 *Bulletin*, and proved to be by far the largest WSG document ever produced, at 116 pages. We are not sure whether the compiler or the editors were more startled at this! Through the generous financial assistance of the Nature Conservancy Council (Great Britain) and the Ministerie van Landbouw en Visserij (The Netherlands) in the costs of printing and publication, we were able to substantially improve the quality of the finished product. In particular, we hired a high-quality dot matrix printer to produce the camera-ready copy, resulting in a more readable print-face. We have been concerned for some time to find a way to improve the print-face of *Bulletins*, and intend to extend use of this better printer to all *Bulletins* in 1987.

Besides completing production of the first ever *Bulletin Supplement*, we began the substantial editorial work needed to produce the second. This is the proceedings of the workshop held at the 1986 Annual Meeting in Scotland, on The Conservation of International Flyway Populations of Waders. It is being published as a Supplement to *Bulletin* 49, in April 1987, as a joint publication with the International Waterfowl Research Bureau, and will be even larger than *Breeding Waders in Europe*.

The *Bulletin* is the main medium through which keeps its members informed about its own and others' activities. We hope that it serves this purpose well, but we are always keen to continue to make improvements, and to hear from members about what they would like to see appear in future *Bulletins*. The *Bulletin* is for you as members, and we depend on you to continue to write the material that makes the *Bulletin* so interesting.

Finally, my thanks to all those kind or fool-hardy people, acknowledged in individual *Bulletins*, who have helped in the production and editorial work during the year. In particular I would like to thank our typist, Ann Perry, who has managed to type in a great deal of *Bulletin* material during the year, and at the same time cope with large amounts of indecipherable editorial scribblings. Her help has been invaluable.

N.C. Davidson

Co-ordinator's report

1986 was the second year that many wader spring migration research projects along the seaboard of both Europe and west Africa co-operated under the umbrella of the WSG 'International wader migrations along the East Atlantic Flyway' - project. The preliminary results from the 1985 season were of great help in preparing a review of the East Atlantic wader flyway system, presented at the Workshop in Edinburgh, and now in press. In 1986 a start was made with the detailed analyses, in international contexts, of the migration data, and some informal working parties on specific topics were established.

During the year the Advisory Panel (for aims and composition see *Bulletin* 40:6 (1984)) was not approached for advice. Three new members agreed to join the panel, representing a widening of the geographical spread in WSG involvement. The new panel members, listed below, may be approached about matters concerning the Wader Study Group in the appropriate regions.

1) Mr. Pablo Canevari, Administracion Parques Nacionales, Santa Fe 690, 1059-Capital Federal, Argentina.

2) Mr. Brett Lane, Co-ordinator Australasian Wader Studies Group, 111 Coppin Street, Richmond 3121 Victoria, Australia.

3) Dr. Yaa Ntiamoa-Baidu, Department of Zoology, University of Ghana, P.O. Box 67, Legon, Ghana.

As always, suggestions regarding ongoing or possible future co-operative enterprises are welcomed!

Th. Piersma

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS FOR 1986

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.

Clark, N.A. and Davidson, N.C. 1986. WSG project on the effects of severe weather on waders: sixth progress report. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 46: 7-8.

Davidson, N.C. and Evans, P.R. (eds.) 1986. *The ecology of migrant Knots in North Norway during May 1985*. Report SRG 86/1, Shorebird Research Group, University of Durham. 55pp.

Davidson, N.C. and Piersma, T. 1986. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway: a progress report for spring 1986. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 46:9.

Davidson, N.C. and Piersma, T. 1986. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway: preliminary results from spring 1986. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 47: 2-3.

Davidson, N.C., Piersma T. and Thomas C. 1986. International wader migration studies along the East Atlantic Flyway: plans for spring 1987. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 48: 3-5.

Davidson, N.C., Strann, K.-B., Crockford, N.J., Evans, P.R., Richardson, J., Standen, L.J., Townshend, D.J., Uttley, J.D., Wilson, J.R. and Wood, A.G. 1986. The origins of Knots *Calidris canutus* in Arctic Norway in spring. *Ornis Scand.* 17: 175-179.

Dubois, P.J. 1986. WSG international project on Black-winged Stilts: first progress report. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 46: 10-11.

Fuller, R.J. 1986. WSG surveys of breeding waders in the Outer Hebrides - a progress report. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 46: 6-7.

Moser, M.E., Broad, R.A., Dennis, R.H. and Madders, M. 1986. The distribution and abundance of some coastal birds on the west and north-west coasts on Scotland in winter. *Scottish Birds* 14: 61-67.

Pienkowski, M.W., Fuller, R.J., Jackson, D.B. and Percival, S.M. 1986. Breeding waders of blackland, moorland and agriculturally improved moorland in the Uists and Benbecula. *Scott. Birds* 14: 9-16.

Piersma, T. (compiler). 1986. Breeding waders in Europe: a review of population size estimates and a bibliography of information sources. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 48, Suppl. 116pp.

Smith, K. 1986. BTO/WSG breeding wader monitoring scheme. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 46: 12.