

The WADER STUDY GROUP (WSG) is an association of amateur and professional workers on the Charadrii (waders or shorebirds) from all parts of the world. By 1982, membership of the WSG was over 500 people, more than half of the members living in countries other than Britain (where the group was formed in 1970), and including people in the Americas, Asia, Africa and Australasia, as well as Europe. New World members have their own section within the WSG. Interests of the Group have diversified from the original concentration on migration-related studies to embrace all aspects of research on waders, e.g. counts, breeding biology, feeding ecology and behaviour.

The aims of the WSG are to maintain contact between both amateur and professional individuals and groups studying waders; to help organise co-operative studies; and to provide a vehicle for exchange of information. The main means of achieving these aims is by the publication of the *Wader Study Group Bulletin* (see below). WSG maintains contacts with many regional, national and international bodies interested in bird research and conservation, notably the International Waterfowl Research Bureau (IWRB), and often works alongside them in co-operative studies. The Group has been involved also in the organisation of expeditions to remote areas to fill gaps in the knowledge of waders. Projects co-ordinated by WSG have included studies of the spring migration of Siberian-breeding Knot through Europe and Africa, and of other species passing through western Europe. Current projects include a comprehensive assessment of the networks of coastal sites used by shorebirds in western Europe in the non-breeding season; a large-scale investigation of spring migration through the Americas; a long-term monitoring of the usage of inland sites in Europe; and an investigation into the effects of severe winter weather in Europe. Most of these studies have immediate relevance to conservation as well as increasing basic understanding of wader biology. These comments apply also to the current WSG co-operative projects concerning breeding waders, particularly an intensive study of wader distributions and densities in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland, where rapid changes are being made due to agricultural practices. WSG also co-ordinates (on behalf of several national authorities) the use on waders of colour-marks visible in the field, and attempts to forward sightings of these.

Membership of the WSG is open to all individuals or groups interested in waders, and application forms can be obtained from the Membership Secretaries, N. & J. Clark, Department of Zoology, University of Edinburgh, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JT, U.K. The subscription is devoted mainly to the cost of production and circulation of the *Bulletin*. The annual subscription is £10 (or US \$17 or Canadian \$21). Outside Europe, *Bulletins* will be sent by airmail for a total subscription of £13 (or US \$22 or Canadian \$27). Rates for institutions and payment through subscription services are £25 (or US \$42 or Canadian \$52), or for airmail posting £28 (or US \$47 or Canadian \$58). All cheques should be payable to "Wader Study Group" and must be in British, US or Canadian currency. Alternatively, payments may be made by bank giro (in English pounds) to Lloyds Bank Ltd., 7 Victoria Place, Haverfordwest, Dyfed SA61 23Z, U.K. (Bank sorting code no. 30-93-98), with reference to WSG account (no. 0095972); or by British Post Office Giro to account no. 471204404. Please ensure that your name and initials appear on the transfer form and that a membership application form is sent directly to WSG. Persons with bank accounts in Britain may use the bankers order form provided with the application form.

The *WADER STUDY GROUP BULLETIN* provides a forum for news, notices, recent ringing recoveries, recent publications, new methods of catching and study, articles and preliminary or interim publication of results from all parts of the world. The editors try to maintain a balance of material ranging from newsletter,

informal descriptions of research activities, meetings and expeditions to formal presentation of results or preliminary analyses.

The *Bulletin* appears three times per year, in April, August and December; the deadlines for copy being the first of February, June and October respectively, for notices, but articles must be received well before these dates. Articles, notes, papers, notices, obituaries, requests for information, books for review, reprints of papers and other items should be sent to the Editor, Dr. N.C. Davidson, c/o Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA, U.K. Material relating to the New World may be sent to the editors of the New World Section (Dr. J.P. Myers, Vertebrate Biology, Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th and the Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, U.S.A.; and Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 1725 Woodward Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E7). Matters relating to the circulation of the *Bulletin* should be sent to the Membership Secretaries (address above).

The Editors are always pleased to discuss possible contributions with potential authors, and to advise on presentation. Manuscripts should be typed or written clearly, with all lines double-spaced, leaving wide margins, and following the style of *Bulletin 40 (April 1984)* or later issues. Pay particular attention to the style of headings and reference lists. Scientific names should appear at the first mention of each species or, if all species occur in a table, scientific names may be given there instead. Tables and figures should, wherever possible, be designed to fit a single column width of 12 cm. Full page width is 25 cm. A single column of text comprises 47 characters (including spaces).

The *Bulletin* is produced from camera-ready copy printed by a NEC Pinwriter P7 dot-matrix printer driven by a British Broadcasting Corporation Microcomputer Model B (Acorn Computers), with a Computer Concepts "Wordwise Plus" word-processing chip. Authors with such equipment may submit copy in machine-readable form. Advice on this was given in *Bulletin 40*, and is summarised here. Material should be on a 5.25 inch floppy disc, single-sided, at single density, and preferably on 80-track (but 40-track is acceptable). Authors with Epson-compatible printers can include "embedded commands" in the text for italics, underlining, superscripts etc. Otherwise, mark these features clearly on a print-out of your article, using a coloured-pen. A print-out of the article should in any case be sent as well as the machine-readable form. It may be possible for authors with a BBC Microcomputer, but not "Wordwise" or "Wordwise Plus", to submit machine-readable material, but please consult the editor first.

Line illustrations and figures should be produced neatly in black ink on good quality white or tracing paper, with linear dimensions about 1.5 times intended publication size. These can then be used directly in printing. Lettering should be stencilled or by dry transfer (e.g. Letraset), and be at least 1.5 mm high after final reduction. If stencil or dry transfer is not available, leave the original illustration unlabelled, and mark the required lettering on a separate copy. Please send original illustrations, and retain a copy in case of loss or damage in transit. It would be helpful if two copies of each manuscript could be submitted.

Publication of interim results in *WSG Bulletin* is not intended to pre-empt publication of final results as journal papers. Readers are requested to bear in mind that results and analyses published in *WSG Bulletin* may be of a preliminary nature, and to take account of this if making reference to these articles in publications of their own. If editors of other publications wish to reprint items from *WSG Bulletin* with suitable acknowledgement, this can usually be arranged; the persons concerned should contact the WSG Editor.

# WADER STUDY GROUP

BULLETIN 50

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## EDITOR

N.C.Davidson c/o Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA, U.K.  
(tel: office 0733-40345 ext 3237; home 0733-236844)

## Assisted by

M.E.Moser Banycote, 52 Station Road, Long Marston, Herts., U.K.  
(tel: home 0296-661554; office 044282-3461)

J.M. and D.A. Stroud 5 Parkway, Nassington, Peterborough, U.K.  
(tel: home 0780-782578)

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## Deadlines for Bulletin 51 (December 1987)

All items should be received by 1 October. Articles and papers should be received well before this date to stand a reasonable chance of inclusion in the December issue.