

WADER STUDY GROUP

BULLETIN 50

AUGUST 1987

WADER STUDY GROUP : THE FIRST 50 BULLETINS

The Wader Study Group has passed yet another milestone, with the issue of this, the 50th *Wader Study Group Bulletin*. To celebrate this event, we are arranging a number of special features. Firstly, observant readers may have noticed some subtle, but appropriate, alterations to the front cover drawing, made for us by the artist, Ray Bishop. We dare not yet predict how this design may evolve in the future!

As we mention elsewhere in the *Bulletin*, we have arranged for the compilation of a comprehensive index of the contents of *Bulletins* 1 - 50. This should be ready in time for its issue as a Supplement to *Bulletin* 51 in December 1987. We hope that this will help members to locate more readily the substantial amount of information about waders that exists in these 50 issues of the *Bulletin*.

Some members have been involved in the Wader

Study Group since its inception in Britain in 1970. One such, Harry Green, rose rapidly through the ranks to fill the role of Chairman of the Group since 1979. However, eight years of coping with the vagaries of the Wader Study Group has proved enough even for Harry, and as we announced in *Bulletin* 49, pressure of other commitments has forced him to resign from his role as Chairman, effective from the AGM in September 1987. To commemorate the first 50 issues of *Wader Study Group Bulletin*, and as a final penance before departing from the team running the Group, we have asked Harry to write a personal view of the Wader Study Group during the 17 years and 50 *Bulletins* of its life. We hope to publish this in *Bulletin* 51.

Nick Davidson, Editor

WADER STUDY GROUP ANNUAL MEETING AND AGM, GDANSK, POLAND, 25-28 SEPTEMBER 1987

The WSG AGM and annual meeting in Poland in late September 1987 looks like being one of the largest yet. Our most recent information is that over 100 people are expected to attend, including many from eastern Europe. Besides those making their own way to Gdansk, a "WSG Tours" bus will be driving from Hook of Holland, carrying participants from Britain, The Netherlands and West Germany. The programme

includes many talks of wide-ranging topics and interest, and poster displays. Excursions to the city of Gdansk and to local wetlands and wader habitats are planned.

We will report fully on the meeting in *Bulletin* 51 (December 1987), which will include abstracts of the talks and posters presented at the meeting.

THE STATUS OF PUBLICATIONS IN WSG BULLETIN

The Wader Study Group functions primarily to maintain and establish contacts and the exchange of information between those who are actively involved with waders, their biology and conservation. The major means of exchanging such information is the *Wader Study Group Bulletin*. Our repeatedly-stated editorial policy has always been that the *Bulletin* is not a journal that publishes only completed and polished journal papers. There are many such journals. Rather we aim to provide a forum for a much wider range of information, and so we encourage the submission of preliminary reports on continuing research, progress reports on co-operative projects (especially where these are co-ordinated by WSG), results of incomplete work where this cannot be continued by the author, and ideas, views and comments. It is only through publishing such a wide range of types of article that the *Bulletin* can effectively serve its function as a vehicle for information exchange.

The specialised nature and limited subject area of the material means that most of the articles we receive are reviewed "in-house", although we increasingly call in outside reviewers where appropriate.

WSG lends its name to, and co-ordinates, a number of co-operative projects. Many of these are concerned with long-distance migrant waders, and depend on the linking of observers over a wide geographical area. The active international membership of WSG makes this approach especially effective. These projects often rely on the assistance and enthusiasm of volunteer observers, frequently working in very unpleasant weather conditions. It is vital for the continued success of such projects that those participating are kept informed about how their contributions are being used, and of the results emerging from the studies. WSG requires co-ordinators of such projects to provide a progress report for publication at least every year. An example of such a report, on inland wader migration in Europe, appears elsewhere in this issue.

WSG Bulletin has changed greatly in appearance since its early days as a "cyclostyled" broadsheet. All these changes, and particularly the readability of the *Bulletin*, have been designed to improve the service we can provide to WSG members. None of these changes have been intended to indicate a change in editorial policy towards a more journal-orientated