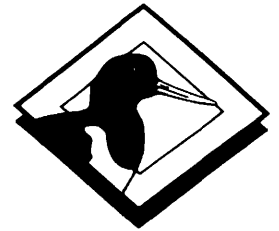


---

# WADER STUDY GROUP



**BULLETIN 61**    **April 1991**

---

## **Wader Study Group Annual Conference**

**Texel, The Netherlands  
4-7 October 1991**

weekend we have invited three keynote speakers. These, we hope, will deal with the following subjects:

- 1. *Space for waders on a warming planet?***
- 2. *Shorebird population genetics revisited.***
- 3. *Waders and theories of bird migration.***

The information on the Symposium on *Shorebirds and the availability of their benthic prey* is given in a separate section below.

During the evenings, the bar at *Panorama* will be open, and separate rooms are available for all kinds of cultural activities and informal meetings. Slide shows can be presented and singing and dancing is possible.

### **TIME SCHEDULE**

**Friday 4 October** : - *afternoon*: arrival and reception of participants at *Panorama*

**Saturday 5 October**: 0900 hr: WSG Annual General Meeting ; first part of conference with one Keynote speaker

The 1991 Conference of the Wader Study Group will take place between Friday 4 October and Monday 7 October on Texel, the westernmost of the Frisian Wadden Sea islands, in The Netherlands (Figure 1). The meeting will be hosted by the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) and the Research Institute for Nature Management (RIN), both located on Texel.

Our usual weekend conference will be extended by one day for a joint WSG/ NIOZ Symposium on "Shorebirds and the availability of their benthic prey". The scientific meetings will take place at the NIOZ lecture hall, and the coffees in their canteen. Lodging and meals will be 5 kms away at the Youth Hostel "Panorama", near Den Burg, the largest village on the island (Figure 1). There will be two types of regular transport between the two conference locations; your choice is between bus and bike. Sunday afternoon,

as usual, features a selection of excursions. We hope to be able to offer a boat trip out to the intertidal flats of the western Wadden Sea, and alternative trips into the coastal nature reserves on the island.

Bookings for the Conference and Symposium, and offers for talks and posters can be made on the forms which are enclosed with this *Bulletin*.

### **CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

With an additional Symposium day devoted to the study of feeding waders and the tricks of their prey to avoid being eaten, the Annual Conference has no specific theme but will be open to every possible wader subject. We hope to offer a good variety of talks from many parts of the world. In addition, to structure the talks during the



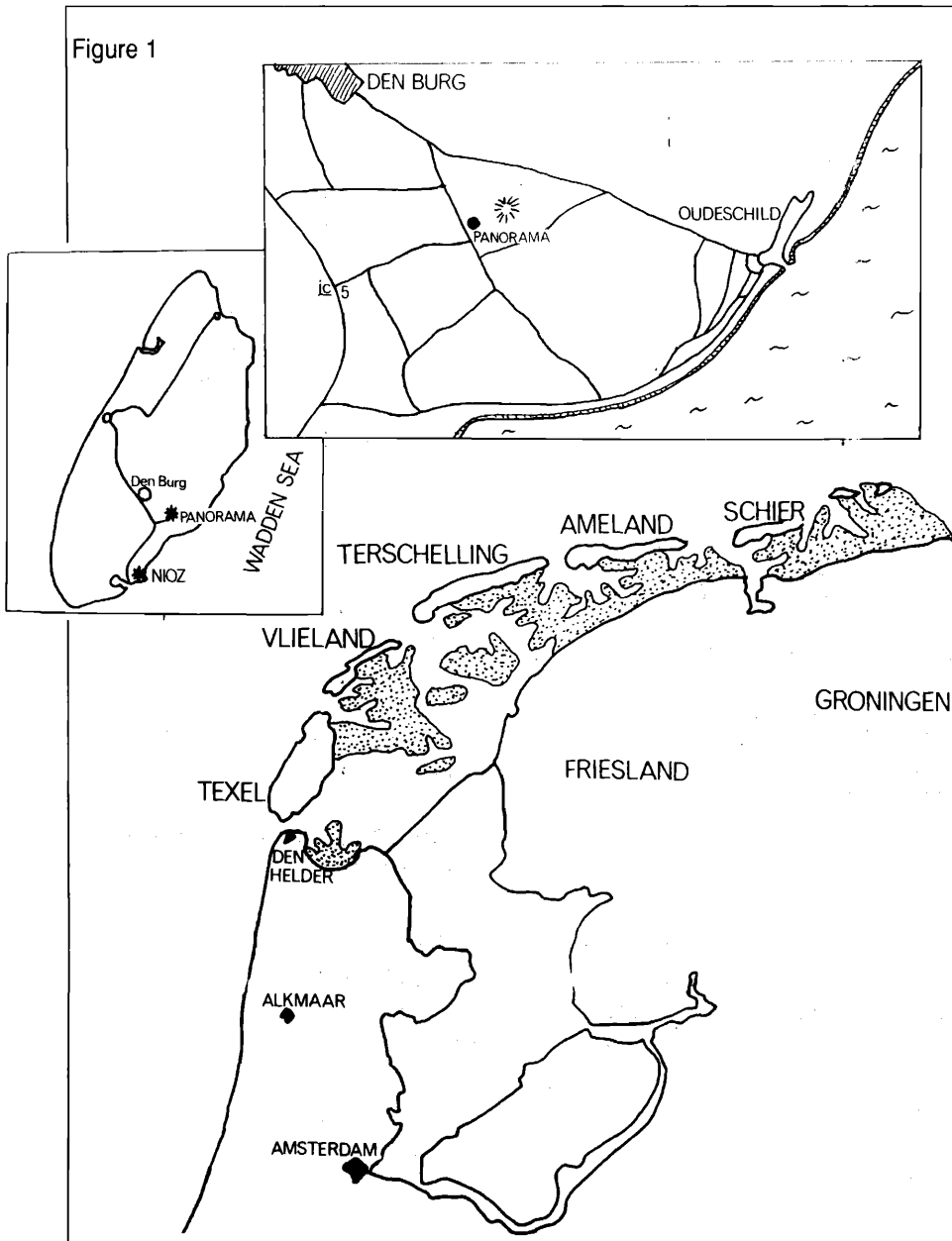


Figure 1. Map of the northern Netherlands, Texel and its details on which most of the place-names mentioned in the description of the 1991-Wader Study Group Conference can be found.

**Sunday 6 October:** *morning:* second part of conference with one or two Key-note speakers

*afternoon:* excursions to a variety of Texel's nature reserves  
-departure of weekend participants

**Monday 7 October:** Symposium on "*Shorebirds and the availability of their benthic prey*"

- departure of remaining participants

## TRAVEL & GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

The registration desk at Panorama will be open from 16.30 hr. on Friday 4 October 1991.

Texel can easily be reached by train, bus and boat. Those taking

the Harwich-Hoek of Holland ferry will end up at Amsterdam Central Station. For those arriving by plane at Schiphol Airport there is a direct train connection to Amsterdam Sloterdijk Station from where they should hop into the train to Alkmaar-Den Helder.

Trains from Amsterdam Central Station (leaving every 50 min past the hr) via Amsterdam Sloterdijk and Alkmaar will bring you to Den Helder in about an hour. From there you can take bus 3 to the ferry harbour. The ferry leaves every 35 min past the hr.

On Texel a public transport bus will be waiting to take you in the direction of Den Burg. Try to get off at junction 5. From there it is a 10 minute walk to Panorama, a farm-like building which shows up in the distance on top of Texel's High Mountain (14 m) (see Figure.1). Alternatively, you can (jointly) pick a taxi upon arrival at the island's ferry harbour. The ferry-ticket will cost you Dfl 8.25 (return). Note that the last ferry leaves Den Helder at 21.35 hr.

You can also take your car to Texel. For the car the return ferry price is Dfl 36.25. On Texel you follow the main route to the north and at junction 5 (after 4 km) you turn to the right to *Panorama*.

During the conference, transport between NIOZ and *Panorama* will be arranged. You can either reserve a bike or a seat in a bus which will commute between the two locations. The distance between the NIOZ and *Panorama* is 5 km.

## ACCOMMODATION, MEALS AND COSTS

There is a conference registration fee, to cover administrative costs, of



Dfl 15, (£ 5), payable on registration at *Panorama*.

#### Rooms:

There are bedrooms for 4-, 6- and 8 persons, some with their own shower and toilet.

#### Meals:

Breakfast and dinner (simple three course) will be at *Panorama*, lunch should be prepared at *Panorama* and can be eaten at the NIOZ-canteen.

#### Costs:

Costs include all meals, coffee and tea, but no soft drinks or spirits.

Costs per day: ca. Dfl 40, (£ 13). You have to bring your own linen, otherwise you can hire it for Dfl 5.50 (£ 2) per night.

There may also be a small additional charge to cover the travel costs of the excursion on Sunday afternoon.

If you want to stay in a hotel, you have to arrange this yourself, via the Tourist Information-*Texel* (telephone 31-(0)2220-14741; fax 31-(0)2220-14129).

## SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Members can offer talks and/or posters for the conference and symposium. Talks will generally be limited to 15 minutes (plus 5 minutes for questions and discussion). The usual projection facilities of overhead projector and 35 mm slide projector are present.

Posters should not exceed 90 x 120 cm to fit the display boards

available. The scientific programme for the meeting is being arranged by Theunis Piersma. All offers of talks and posters should be made on the **enclosed form**, preferably before 31 August 1991.

With the talk/poster offer-form please send also a short abstract of not more than 250 words for each contribution. These will be reproduced for distribution to participants at the conference.

## BOOKINGS

Bookings should be made on the enclosed Conference Booking Form, with one form for each person, and should be returned as soon as possible, and preferably before 31 July 1991, to:

Secretariat WSG Meeting, NIOZ, P.O. Box 59, 1790 AB Den Burg, Texel, The Netherlands.

## USEFUL PHONE AND FAX NUMBERS

Theunis Piersma, NIOZ: 31-(0)2220-69485 or 69300.  
NIOZ: telephone: 31-(0)2220-69300.  
tele(fax): 31-(0)2220-19674.

Youth Hostel NJHC *Panorama*, Schansweg 7, 1791 LK Den Burg, Texel, The Netherlands: 31-(0)2220-15441.

## Symposium on SHOREBIRDS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF THEIR BENTHIC PREY

Immediately following the weekend of the 1991 Annual WSG Conference on Texel on 5-6 October 1991, the Wader Study Group, in conjunction with the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ), is organising an international Symposium on "*Shorebirds and the availability of their benthic prey*" on Monday 7 October 1991.

Over the last two decades much progress has been made in unraveling the intricate interactions between shorebirds and their well adapted benthic prey. Most such studies were made in marine intertidal habitats, but similar work has been carried out in comparable ecological systems, such as those of waders and their prey adapted to riverine habitats. In this Symposium we aim to bring together a group of researchers who have examined the problems of prey availability for shorebirds from different angles and in different habitats.

We have invited a few speakers to review their subject, but there is ample room for other contributions. We aim to publish the proceedings of this Symposium, subject to peer review, in a special issue of the *Netherlands Journal of Sea Research*.

We hope to be able to offer at least three reviews. Leo Zwarts (Rijkswaterstaat Flevoland, The Netherlands) will examine the issue of "*Prey availability and their harvest by shorebirds in intertidal habitats*". Another is the review by Jan J. Beukema (NIOZ, The Netherlands) on "*Temporal and geographical patterns in the abundance of benthic animals*" which will build on a now 22 year long study of macrobenthic populations on tidal flats in the western Dutch Wadden Sea. Ray Pierce (Department of Conservation,



Whangarei, New Zealand) will review his extensive studies in New Zealand's South Island, the Himalayas and the Andes on "Specialist foraging adaptations in the shorebirds of braided river habitats".

Arrangements for lodging and meetings are according to those for the Annual Conference, and bookings for the Symposium-day can be made on the same forms. We hope that many attendees to the WSG Annual Conference

will be able to extend their stay on Texel with one more day. Offers for 15-20 min contributions can be made on one of the booking forms inserted in this issue of *WSG Bulletin*.

*Theunis Piersma  
& Jan J. Beukema*



## WSG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1991 WSG Annual General Meeting to be held at 9.00 hrs on Saturday 5 October during the Texel meeting (see above for details). The full agenda will be published in *Bulletin* 62 in August.

### Notice of election of Officers

The Co-ordinator, Hermann Hötter, and Treasurer, Steve Sutcliffe, complete their terms of office this year and their positions fall vacant. During the year Petra de Goeij was co-opted onto the Executive Committee following the resignation of Phil Ireland as General Secretary and she has been covering this position.

The Executive Committee therefore propose the election of the following officers:

**Co-ordinator:** *Hermann Hötter*

**Treasurer:** *Steve Sutcliffe*

**General Secretary:** *Petra de Goeij*

The Executive Committee also propose the election of the following member to the Executive Committee: *Gerard Boere*

Alternative nominations for the officers listed above and for ordinary members of the Executive Committee may be made by any members of the Wader Study Group. Nominations must be signed by the 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 acting General Secretary, Petra de Goeij, to arrive by 30 September 1990.

## Last Bookings for Odessa

Will intending participants wishing to be included on this exciting Wader Conference in Odessa, in 1992, please contact Herman Hötter at the address below. Further details can be found on page 19 *Bulletin* 59.

The additional WSG meeting will be held at the University of Odessa, the most likely dates being 12-16 April, 1992.

The themes of the conference are;

*Biology of waders in the Soviet Union*

*Comparison of the East Atlantic and East Mediterranean wader flyways*

*Productivity and mortality of waders*

*Population changes in waders*

*Strategies for the conservation of waders*

Costs, still approximate at the moment, will be in the region of £150. This includes conference fee, accommodation, meals and the excursions. Travel will hopefully be by group flight from Amsterdam to Odessa via Moscow. Cost approx. £300.

If you wish to go, if you have not, please contact

*Herman Hötter, c/o WWF Wattenmeerstelle, Norderstrasse 3,  
2250 Husum, Germany Telephone; 04841-65143*

## STOP PRESS - LATEST

We are hoping to arrange a special ornithological tour timed to follow this conference! This will be a 5 to 7 day tour of the Azov and Black Sea area - a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. For further information please contact Herman at the above address.

