

## 1991 WSG Annual Conference, Texel, The Netherlands

4-7 OCTOBER 1991

In early October a record 156 wader-workers from 17 countries gathered on the Netherlands Wadden Sea island of Texel for the 1991 Wader Study Group Annual Conference. Those who were fortunate enough to attend the meeting experienced a packed programme of fascinating talks and presentations. These included an entertaining Saturday evening armchair tour of the many international collaborative research projects that took place in Siberia in 1991. On the Monday of the conference an engrossing symposium on "Waders and the availability of their invertebrate prey" was convened by Theunis Piersma. This included stimulating keynote talks from Jan Beukema, Thomas Alerstam and Ray Pierce, whose photographs and descriptions of river gravel feeding waders such as Wrybills and Ibisbills seem likely to have encouraged many wader-workers to desert their mudflats. It is planned to publish the papers from this symposium as a special issue of

the Netherlands Journal of Sea Research.

As well as its record size, the 1991 conference scored a number of "firsts" notably in being the first WSG conference to feature a live rock band (Texel's own "The Buzz") on the Sunday evening and the first to feature a bookshop of Soviet ornithological publications. Another "first" was the option for delegates to travel by bicycle the 5 km between the well-appointed Panorama youth hostel where we stayed and the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) where the talks were held. Those who chose to cycle enjoyed fine autumn weather for most of the weekend, which included Sunday afternoon's excursions to the sand-dunes, saltmarshes and tidal flats of Texel and the Wadden Sea. During these an impromptu wader-counting exercise involving wader experts from many countries proved embarrassing for some, since a nearby flock of Oystercatchers viewed in perfect light yielded flock size estimates of between 2,000 and 12,000 birds, a 600% difference in estimate. The fine weather deteriorated only briefly, but that was perfectly timed to soak the

cyclists heading for their dinner. Further reports of the conference, including abstracts of all the talks and posters presented during conference weekend, will be included in the next *Bulletin* (April 1992).

We thank Theunis Piersma, Petra de Goeij and their team of enthusiastic helpers for organising a conference even bigger than they had anticipated, and for making the meeting run so smoothly even when the slide projectors chose to have their almost inevitable breakdown. We are also very grateful to the Directors and staff of NIOZ and IBN-DLO (formerly RIN) for providing such excellent facilities and assistance for the conference, and the staff of the Panorama youth hostel for making us feel so welcome.

We look forward to meeting again with flocks of WSG members at the 1992 conference in the spa town of Hajduszoboszlo in eastern Hungary - details are given elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

*Nick Davidson, on behalf of the WSG Executive Committee*

## 1992 WSG ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL WATERFOWL ECOLOGY SYMPOSIUM - HAJDUSZOBOSZLO, HUNGARY, SEPTEMBER 1992

We are pleased to announce that it has been possible to arrange the 1992 WSG Annual Conference to run sequentially with the 9th International Waterfowl Ecology Symposium. The waterfowl symposium is the successor to the series of International Waterfowl Feeding Ecology Symposia, the most recent of which took place in Ribe, Denmark, in September 1989 and was also linked to the WSG Annual Conference. Since the interests of many WSG members spans the topics covered by both the WSG Conference and the Waterfowl Ecology Symposium the linking of the two meetings at the same venue offer WSG members the

opportunity to attend both meetings whilst minimising travelling costs.

The WSG Conference will, as usual, take place over a weekend so that it is possible for both amateur and professional members of the group to attend. In 1992 the WSG meeting will take place over the weekend **preceding** the International Waterfowl Ecology Symposium. Both meetings will be in the Hotel Delibab, Hajduszoboszlo in eastern Hungary, at the invitation of Kossuth University, Debrecen. The conference schedule is:

Saturday 5 September - Sunday 6 September 1991: WSG Annual Conference;

Monday 7 September - Friday 11 September 1991: IWRB International

Waterfowl Ecology Symposium.

### CONFERENCE BOOKINGS

Full details of the WSG Annual Conference are given on page 7 of this *Bulletin*. Booking forms and talk offer forms for the WSG meeting are enclosed with this *Bulletin*. Would members please note that firm bookings for attending the WSG meeting must be received by the organisers before 30 June 1992.

**Members intending to attend both the WSG Conference and the International Waterfowl Ecology Symposium should note that bookings for each meeting are being handled separately. Members wishing to book for both meetings should note that it is essential to return both the WSG conference booking form enclosed with this Bulletin, and the IWRB booking form that will be sent in early 1992 to all those who have expressed interest in that meeting.**

