



Wader Study Conference, Odessa 13-17 April 1992, "MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION OF WADERS" Latest news October 1991

The arrangements for the WSG conference in Odessa are proceeding well. A delegation of the local organisers, led by Dr. A. Korzjukov, attended this year's (1991) meeting on Texel, The Netherlands, and provided us with further details about the arrangements for the conference.

This note provides important new information for those members who have already registered their intention of attending the conference, and because of some changes in arrangements offers an extended deadline for new registrations.

The conference will cover a wide range of wader studies with special emphasis on the protection of waders in the USSR and on the flyways leading towards and through the USSR. Many WSG members have already made bookings and have already offered talks and posters. There are, however, still some further places available for the conference.

Anyone who has yet to book and who wishes to participate in the conference should complete and return the enclosed final booking form. As described below anyone wishing to go on the Danube Delta post-conference excursion should also complete and return the booking form.

Changes to arrangements - excursions

One important change to the arrangements concerns the post-conference excursion. As is described further below, we are no longer able to offer excursions to the southern Ukraine and the Volga Delta. Instead Dr. Korzjukov is offering a most interesting excursion to the Ukrainian part of the Danube Delta (see details below).

Changes to arrangements - deadlines for bookings

We have been able to extend the absolute deadline for bookings for the conference. This is now 31 December 1991. If you are intending to attend the conference it is vital that you book before this date. After this it may be difficult to arrange for the issue of visas and the reservation of hotel rooms.

Changes to arrangements - payments

Due to the recent economic changes in the Soviet Union it is now no longer necessary for us to make all payments for the conference in advance. The payment for the conference (£150 as already announced; of \$270) and also for the post-conference excursion (£200 - see below) can now be made on arrival in Odessa. For those participants who have already sent payment as previously requested, we will hold the money on account and make the necessary payments in Odessa unless you contact us to request otherwise.

Travel arrangements

We are continuing in our efforts to find a cheap group travel arrangement from Amsterdam to Odessa. Transport prices in the Soviet Union are, however, changing so quickly at present that we are not yet able to identify a reliable arrangement. On present information it appears that the

cheapest arrangement will include a flight from Warsaw to Kiev followed by a night train from Kiev to Odessa.

We are attempting to make two group travel arrangements: one for those participants who wish to attend the conference only, and one for those who wish to attend both the conference and the post-conference excursion. All participants who express an interest in group travel will be contacted once we have got a firm offer on arrangements.

Scientific programme

The main aim of the conference is to bring together scientists from the Soviet Union and from western countries in order to discuss scientific topics and nature conservation problems. The main themes of the conference will be:

- wader research and protection of waders and their habitats in the Soviet Union; and
- a comparison of the East Atlantic Flyway and the East Mediterranean Flyway.

The comparison between the flyways will be achieved through reviews both from a scientific biological viewpoint and a nature conservation viewpoint. We hope that by the end of the conference we will have achieved a good overview of the research that has already been done on waders on the various parts of the flyways. We hope also to identify the gaps in the knowledge of wader populations on these flyways as well as gaps in the protection of the key flyway sites.

To achieve these aims we are inviting several speakers and we hope also that representatives of nature protection authorities of the Soviet Union and several Republics will attend the conference.

In addition to these two main themes for the conference we are pleased to



accept papers concerning any feature of the biology and protection of waders. Overhead projectors, and projectors for standard 24x36 mm slides will be available for speakers at the conference. Those speakers who wish to use other equipment (e.g. film projectors) should inform the National Organising Committee (see below).

During the conference it will be possible to buy ornithological literature.

General conference information

The National Organising Committee of the Conference consists of:

Dr A. Korzjukov, Odessa (Chairman);
Dr P. Tomkovich, Moscow; Dr J
Chernichko, Melitopol; Dr M. Zmud,
Vilkovo; Dr G. Molodan, Donezk; Dr W.
Serebryakov, Kiev; Dr V. Stoilovski,
Odessa; and Dr A. Koshelev, Melitopol.

At the end of January 1992 the National Organising Committee will send to each participant an official invitation and the additional information which is needed for a participant to obtain a visa for the USSR. After this time, if any participant experiences problems with obtaining a visa they should contact Dr Korzjukov immediately by Telex:

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It is possible for participants to stay in Odessa for longer than the conference. The price per night for one bed in a double-bedded room is \$25 and for a single room is \$35. Prices per day for meals are \$15-20.

Odessa is one of the largest cities on the coast of the Black Sea. It is the cultural centre of a region with 1.5 million inhabitants. The WSG conference will take place in the conference hall of the city of Odessa.

A total of 330 species of birds have been recorded from the Odessa region, which is noted for its strong bird migration. During April the mean temperature in Odessa is about 9°C,

although at this that time of year temperatures can reach as high as 25°C. There is little rain in April.

Conference excursions

During the conference itself there will be a one-day excursion to the scientific field station of Odessa University. This field station is situated at Tilgul Liman, about 50 km east of Odessa. There will also be a half-day excursion to the Kujalnizkij Liman, about 45 km to the north of Odessa. There will also be a sightseeing tour of the city of Odessa.

In addition to these conference excursions it is possible to book a bus excursion (cost \$5 per person) to the famous theatre of Odessa.

On one of the evenings there will be a conference dinner (cost \$25 per person) during which wines and food special to the Ukrainian region will be served.

Post-conference excursion to the River Danube Delta, 18-20 April

In addition to the conference programme and its short excursions, a three-day bus and boat excursion to the Ukrainian part of the delta of the River Danube is being organised to take place immediately after the conference, on 18-20 April. Would participants please note that this excursion replaces the other possible post-conference excursions that we advertised previously.

The leaders of the excursion will be Dr Korzjukov and Dr Zmud. The excursion will start in Odessa at 0700 hr on 18 April 1991, the day after the conference closes. The excursion will end back in Odessa in the late night of 20 April.

Amongst the areas to be visited will be some that were formerly closed to visitors. Amongst the attractions of the sites which will be visited by boat are cormorant colonies and the breeding sites of various ducks and geese. There will also be opportunities to observe resting migrant waders on the shores of the Black Sea. In addition the

excursion will include a sight-seeing tour of the city of Vilkovo, the Venice of the Black Sea Delta.

Accommodation during the excursion will be in an old river boat, which has heating, electricity and cold water, although no hot water. It is not necessary to bring sleeping bags for the excursion. Breakfasts and dinners will be taken in restaurants, and lunches will be organised as picnics, with servings of traditional fish soup, in the field. Warm clothing and rubber boots are recommended for the excursion.

The total cost per person for the excursion, including all accommodation, transport and meals will be \$200. The number of participants on this excursion has to be strictly limited to 20, so early booking is strongly recommended. If you wish to go on this excursion please complete the booking form enclosed with this *Bulletin*, even if you have already returned a copy of the pink booking form for the conference.

All booking forms and correspondence concerning group travel arrangements should be sent to: *Hermann Hötter, WSG Co-ordinator, c/o WWF, Norderstrasse 3, 2250 Husum, Germany.*

We look forward to seeing you all in Odessa!

Hermann Hötter, Petra de Goeij & Anatoli Korzjukov, on behalf of the Odessa Conference Organising Committee

