



Wader Study Group Annual Conference, Hajduszoboszlo, Hungary, 4-6 September 1992

Main announcement

That the 1992 WSG Annual Conference will take place at Hajduszoboszlo, in eastern Hungary, at the invitation of Tamas Szekely and hosted by Kossuth University, Debrecen.

As is usual with WSG Conferences, the meeting will take place over a weekend. In this case the conference will be on Saturday 5 September and Sunday 6 September 1992. Delegates are advised to arrive on the evening of Friday 4 September.

The WSG Conference takes place during the weekend preceding the 9th International Waterfowl Ecology Symposium, which will take place at the same venue from 7-11 September 1992. This waterfowl conference is being convened by the International Waterfowl Research Bureau, in association with WSG and Kossuth University (see the separate announcement of the IWRB Symposium elsewhere in this *Bulletin*). We anticipate that many delegates will wish to attend both meetings - please note that there are separate booking forms for each meeting.

VENUE AND ACCOMODATION

Hajduszoboszlo is a famous spa town in eastern Hungary, about 200 km to the east of Budapest. The town has medieval origins and there are still the remains of 15th century town walls and a 16th century fortress. The town is famous for its baths, first established in 1975, when hot springs with water at 73°C were first opened. There are now 11 swimming pools (including one with artificial waves) set in 25 ha of parkland, and units for balneotherapy, mechanotherapy and physiotherapy, offering water and drinking treatments for a wide range of ailments.

Hajduszoboszlo is close to the Hortobagy National Park, a complex of wetlands and grasslands of international importance. The area of great importance for migrant waders and wildfowl. Notable birds that are characteristic of the varied habitats of the Hortobagy include Ruff, Avocet, Black-tailed godwit, Pratincole, Stone Curlew, Great Bustard and various raptors including Montagu's Harrier, Red-footed Falcon and Peregrine and Saker falcons.

Accommodation (in double rooms), meals and all conference lectures will be in the "Delibab" Hotel, the largest hotel in Hajduszoboszlo and close to the medical baths and the swimming pools of the spa. In addition there is some cheaper accommodation available in four-bedded rooms at a nearby motel.

TRAVEL

Budapest can be reached directly from many European countries by air. From Budapest there is a direct rail service from Nyugati station to Debrecen, calling at Hajduszoboszlo. Trains run every hour and the journey takes about 2.5 hours. Hajduszoboszlo can be reached by road directly from Budapest on Route 4.

PROGRAMME

As usual, the programme will start on the morning of Saturday 5 September with the WSG Annual General Meeting, and delegates are advised to arrive on the evening of Friday 4 September. The programme of talks will be on Saturday morning and afternoon, and on Sunday (6 September) morning. The main language of the conference will be English. The conference will close formally at Sunday lunchtime, after which there will be an excursion on Sunday afternoon to the Hortobagy National Park. The excursion is expected to end at about 1700 hours.

During the conference it is planned to arrange a wine-tasting event and a folk-dancing event. We anticipate that delegates will be invited to participate actively in the former, but not necessarily in the latter!

This year there is no special theme to the WSG conference, and we encourage delegates to offer talks and posters on any aspect of wader research and wader biology. If you wish to offer a talk (20 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions) or a poster please complete and return the talk offer form included with this Bulletin. Please include an abstract (not exceeding 300 words) of your presentation.

The registration desk for the conference will be in the "Delibab" Hotel foyer and will be open from 1600 hours on Friday 4 September, and again on the morning of Saturday 5 September.

During the conference, contact telephone numbers at the Hotel Delibab will be: Tel. (36) 52 62366 or (36) 52 61788; Fax (36) 52 62059.

COSTS

There are two categories of accommodation available at the "Delibab" Hotel. Each is a double room with en suite bathroom. The more expensive



option is for a larger room with TV, radio and refrigerator - the cheaper option rooms are smaller and do not have these facilities. Bed and breakfast per night costs £30 for a larger room and £20 for a smaller room.

When booking accommodation in the Hotel Delibab, would delegates please note that the prices quoted are for single occupancy of a double room. Each delegate will be individually allocated a room at the above prices, unless you indicate that you wish to share the room with another delegate - in which case you should name the person on the booking form (after getting his/her agreement!).

As an alternative to the accommodation in the conference hotel, it is possible to arrange cheaper accommodation is available at a motel a few minutes walk from the hotel. Accommodation in the motel is in multi-bedded rooms (mostly with four beds) and costs £5 per person per night. Breakfast is available in the Motel restaurant for £2.

All lunches and dinners will be taken in the "Delibab" Hotel and will each cost £4. This price includes a three-course meal and a non-alcoholic drink. The hotel bar will be open until late at night.

In addition to the costs of accommodation, there is a Conference

Fee of £15 payable by all delegates. This conference fee will cover the costs of hire of conference room and projection facilities, teas and coffees during the conference, conference administration, and the wine-tasting and folk-dancing events.

There will be a small additional charge (approx. £5) for the excursion to the Hortobagy National Park.

BOOKINGS & PAYMENTS

Bookings should be made on the Conference Booking Form enclosed with this *Bulletin*. Please note that it is necessary for the conference organisers to make a firm booking for accommodation with the hotel and motel well in advance of the conference. This is because Hajduszoboszlo is a popular holiday resort and hotel and motel accommodation may otherwise be booked up by other visitors.

All conference booking forms must, therefore, reach the organisers by 30 June 1992 at the latest. If you attempt to book after this date, accommodation may no longer be available.

The Currency in Hungary is the Forint (£1 = approx. 130 Forint), which is not readily negotiable in most countries outside Hungary. To make bookings

and payments easier for delegates, all payments for the conference must be made on registration at the "Delibab" Hotel. There is a Bureau de change at the hotel where cash or Eurocheques can be exchanged for Forints. We strongly advise, therefore, that delegates bring either cash or Eurocheques (or both) to Hungary.

Bookings for the WSG Conference and the IWRB Symposium are being handled separately. Delegates wishing to attend both meetings should fill in two separate booking forms, one for each meeting. If you are intending to go to both meetings, please mark the booking forms accordingly, so that the organisers can more easily arrange the appropriate bookings for accommodation and meals.

All booking forms and offers of talks and posters should be returned by 30 June 1991, and preferably well before this date, to the the conference organisers:

WSG Conference Secretariat (Attn. Tamas Szekely), Department of Zoology, Kossuth University, Debrecen, Hungary. (Tel. (36) 52 16666 ext. 334; Fax (36) 52 10936).

