

9th International Waterfowl Ecology Symposium 1992

The 9th International Waterfowl Symposium, convened by the Waterfowl Ecology Research Group of the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB) in association with WSG and Kossuth University, Debrecen, will take place on 7-11 September 1992. The venue is the Hotel Delibab, Hajduszoboszlo, Hungary.

As explained elsewhere in this *Bulletin*, the symposium will immediately follow the 1992 WSG Annual Conference that will be held at the same venue.

The International Waterfowl Ecology Symposium is the ninth meeting of what used to be called the International Waterfowl Feeding Ecology Symposium, a series of meetings arranged at approximately two to three year intervals under the auspices of WSG and IWRB. This group used to

restrict most of its attention to waders (shorebirds) but now includes both waders and wildfowl.

The aim of the meeting is to allow papers to be presented on recently completed work, or work that has been in progress for sometime, in an informal and helpful atmosphere. The symposium is intended to be of interest primarily to research and university scientists and post-graduate students. The organisers would especially like to hear from people new to the field of waterfowl ecology. The symposium aims to allow plenty of time for informal discussions in the evenings.

Papers are invited on any aspect of the ecology of waterfowl. There is no set programme as yet, although it is planned to hold a special workshop on *Mating systems and parental care* during the symposium. In general the programme of topics to be covered by the various sessions will be arranged when a sufficient number of offers of papers have been received. There is therefore advantage in sending offers to give papers as soon as possible. Papers are usually about 20-25

minutes long, inclusive of time for discussion. Specialist workshops that meet in the evening can also be arranged. Suggestions for such workshops are also invited.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS

A first information note about the symposium was circulated in *WSG Bulletin* 62 (August 1992). It is planned to send further information, including booking forms, to all those who have expressed interest in the meeting, in early 1992. We plan to include this information also in *Bulletin* 64 (April 1992).

Anyone wishing to attend the symposium should complete and return the form included in the first announcement leaflet, or contact directly (as soon as possible):

IWRB, Feeding Ecology Symposium, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, UK.

Shorebird ecology and conservation in the Western Hemisphere

Personal impressions of a symposium in Quito, Ecuador

Theunis Piersma

At first it may seem a little strange to organise a shorebird meeting in the Andes, at a height of almost 3 km and far from sea and shore. In retrospect, however, Quito, the capital of Ecuador and almost on the Equator, was not such a strange place after all to discuss waders. On 6 November 1991 not far from Quito in the Cotopaxi National Park (named after the 4,500 m high Cotopaxi volcano) we found flocks of Baird's

Sandpipers *Calidris bairdii* foraging on the dry 'tundra' vegetation of the Andean highlands, groups of 10-20 juvenile Pectoral Sandpipers *C. melanotos* and a Least Sandpiper *C. minutilla* feeding in the humid edges of a mountain lake, and also a Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* and a Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* on the water of a small lake.

On the nearby dry mountain slopes we heard and saw pairs of Andean Lapwings *Vanellus resplendens*. In Otavalo, north of Quito, beautiful duffel-bags and back-packs featuring male breeding-plumaged Ruffs *Philomachus pugnax* in Escherian motifs (a curious design since Ruffs are far from common here) were for sale in the flourishing Indian Market.

All this, however, was to come when I attended the inspiring shorebird symposium itself, held on 4 and 5 November 1991 at the Universidad Catolica in Quito, as part of the IV Neotropical Ornithological Congress. The shorebird symposium was convened by Gonzalo Castro and Julie Sibbing through the Western

