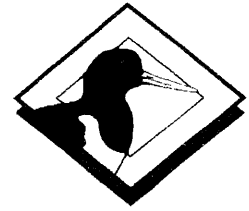


# 1993 WSG AGM AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE – FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

The 1993 Wader Study Group Annual Conference will be in Suffolk in south-east England from 29 October to 1 November 1993



The WSG Executive Committee has been delighted to accept the offer to host the 1993 WSG Annual Conference from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Many members will remember the earlier and highly successful 1988 WSG conference in Suffolk which was also hosted by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

## VENUE AND COSTS

The 1993 conference will be held at the same venue as the 1988 conference – St Joseph's College, on the south-eastern outskirts of Ipswich. Ipswich is especially well-placed for delegates travelling from continental Europe (and from further afield), since it is within a few miles of the ferry ports of Felixstowe and Harwich and is on the main railway line from London to Norwich. It can be reached easily from airports in London, Stansted and Norwich. Ipswich is at the head of the internationally important Orwell estuary and several other estuaries of great importance to migrant and wintering waterfowl are within easy reach on the Suffolk and Essex coasts.

Accommodation is available at the college for over 100 people, about half in single rooms and the rest in multi-bedded rooms. By choosing St Joseph's College we have been able to keep costs for the conference very low. We anticipate that accommodation and all meals from dinner on Friday 29 October to lunch on Sunday 31 October 1993 will be £40. For those staying for longer than this period, each additional night's bed and breakfast will be £6, with each additional dinner costing £6 and each additional lunch costing £3.50. In addition there will be a conference fee of £15 payable by all delegates to cover administration and hire of facilities, and there will be a

small additional charge for the excursion.

Please note that all costs are provisional – full details will appear in the April 1993 *WSG Bulletin*.

## PROGRAMME

In addition to the important opportunity provided by the WSG conference for wader-workers to meet and talk about any aspect of waders and their biology, there is a special theme to this year's conference: **Field Techniques**. Part of the weekend's programme will be devoted to workshops on field techniques as part of WSG's implementation of the Odessa Protocol. These field techniques workshops are described further below.

Furthermore on Monday 1 November 1993, after the general conference, there will be another workshop. This will be on the subject of **Dunlin migrations**, and is being organised by Hans-Ulrich Rösner of WWF-Wattenmeerschelle.

The time-schedule for the 1993 conference will follow broadly the same pattern as in previous years. Delegates are recommended to arrive on the evening of Friday 29 October. The conference will begin on morning of Saturday 30 October with the WSG Annual General Meeting. Saturday morning and afternoon will be conference sessions of talks and workshops (see below). Saturday evening will offer a time to relax and talk informally during an (as yet unspecified) entertainment. Sunday morning offers more time for general talks on waders and their biology. The conference will formally close at lunchtime on Sunday 31 October. On Sunday afternoon there will be an excursion (possibly a boat-trip) to one

of the nearby estuaries.

Offers of talks on any topic relating to waders will be invited, and there will be also opportunities to display poster presentations during the conference. Forms for offering talks and posters, and for selecting workshop participation. As in previous years, abstracts of all talks and posters will be published in a subsequent *Bulletin*.

The provisional programme is as follows:

*Friday 29 October*

1600 h onwards Registration desk open

*Saturday 30 October*

0830 h Registration desk open

0915 h WSG Annual General Meeting

0945–1300 h Wader talks – general

1400–1800 h Workshops: Field techniques evening Social events & informal

discussions

*Sunday 31 October*

0900–1300 h Wader talks – general & field techniques workshops – report-back

1400–1800 h Excursion

*Monday 1 November*

0900–1700 h Workshop: *Dunlin migrations*

## FIELD TECHNIQUES WORKSHOPS

The Odessa Protocol, drawn up and agreed by delegates at the 1992 Wader Study Group Special Conference in Odessa, is designed to give practical guidance about how to achieve strong international collaboration in wader research (see *WSG Bulletin* 65: 10–12). One of the objectives of the Protocol is to encourage maximum use of knowledge



and dispersed information by collating existing data, and the Protocol recommends that people and organisations with experience should assist others in many ways, including the provision of training and training materials, including publications.

During the 1992 WSG Conference in Hungary there were wide-ranging discussions about which aspects of the Odessa Protocol the WSG itself should follow-up for priority action. Great enthusiasm was shown by delegates for the idea of developing training materials through the preparation of a field techniques manual. The overall objective of this volume is to provide standardised guidance to wader-workers throughout the wader flyways involving western Palearctic on what data to collect and how to collect it. This would, in part, complement the 1989 *Shorebird Studies Manual* published by Asian Wetland Bureau and reviewed elsewhere in this *Bulletin*. Our aim is to publish this *Wader Field Techniques Manual* as a future *WSG Bulletin Special Issue*. We anticipate that the volume will be compiled by groups of experts working under the guidance of a small editorial team. This team is currently composed of Prof. Peter Evans (Durham) and WSG Executive Committee members Nicola Baccetti (Italy) and Paul-Eric Jönsson (Sweden). We would be please to hear from other members wishing to offer help and/or expertise.

During discussions at the Hungary conference and afterwards we have found also strong support for the idea of holding workshops on field techniques during the 1993 WSG conference. There is a quite specific aim of these workshops. This to discuss under a variety of major topic areas the best practice methods for collecting information on waders. The end product of each workshop should be an outline for each topic on what should be covered in the relevant chapter of the *Field Techniques Manual*, as guidance to those compiling the volume.

It is likely that the workshops will be run concurrently, and we hope that each will involve people experienced in the topic as well as those using the opportunity to hear at first hand about the 'state-of-the art' in wader research.

**The success of these workshops, and the manual to whose production they will contribute, will be greatly helped by the expert guidance that we hope will emerge from these discussions. So if you have experience, knowledge or interest in any of the great variety of field techniques used in different parts of the world for studying waders please do come to Ipswich and help in this exciting project.**

We are currently working on the structure of this workshop session and more detail will be published in the April 1993 issue of the *WSG Bulletin*. It is,

#### COUNTING CATCHING MORPHOMETRICS ENERGETICS FOOD AND FEEDING

however, likely that there will be workshops covering:

If members have any suggestions for other topics that should be covered, do please contact us.

The workshops offer a really splendid opportunity for all those involved in working on waders, and particularly those participating in volunteer catching or counting as well as more detailed research, to come together to share their knowledge. This sort of sharing of knowledge so as to help others is precisely the objective of much of the Odessa Protocol, and of course is a key role of the Wader Study Group.

#### DUNLIN MIGRATIONS WORKSHOP

The last WSG Conference in Ipswich in 1988 was followed by an informal work-

shop that discussed the migrations of Dunlins *Calidris alpina*. Since then a great deal has emerged about the complex and overlapping migration patterns of different Dunlin populations. With the aim of pulling together this new information and reviewing current understanding of Dunlin migrations there will be a further workshop on the subject on Monday 1 November, following immediately after the main part of the WSG conference. The workshop will include invited contributions from those involved with studying the migration of Dunlins, and is being arranged by Hans-Ulrich Rösner (WWF-Wattenmeerstelle, Norderstrasse 3, D-2250 Husum, Germany. Tel. 4841-62073). It is hoped that the workshop will form the basis for the compilation of a further *WSG Bulletin Special Issue*, to complement the recently published volume on *The migration of Knots*. Contact Hans-Ulrich for further information.

Full details of the 1993 Conference, complete with booking forms and forms for offering talks and posters will be included in the April 1993 *Bulletin*. If you have any queries about the conference before then, please contact: **Rodney West, c/o Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Brooke House, The Green, Ashbocking, Ipswich, Suffolk, U.K.**

Nick Davidson

