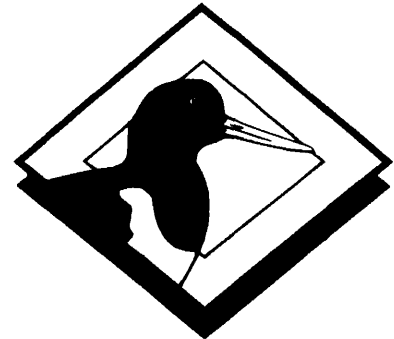

WADER STUDY GROUP



BULLETIN 70 August 1993

Wader Study Group Annual General Meeting 1993 Suffolk, Great Britain

30 October 1993

The Annual General Meeting of the Wader Study Group will be held during the annual conference at St. Joseph's College in Ipswich at 09.00 hours on Saturday 30 October.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM, held on 5 September 1992 at Hajduszoboszo, Hungary (Bulletin 66: 1-2)
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Membership Secretary's Report
7. Editor's Report

8. Co-ordinator's Report

9. Election of officers and members of the Executive Committee.

The Vice-Chairman, Theunis Piersma, the Editor-in-chief of the Bulletin, David Stroud and the Membership Secretary, Rodney West complete their terms of office this year and their positions fall vacant. The Officers concerned have indicated their willingness to stand for a further term, and the Executive Committee thus proposes the election of the following Officers:

Vice Chairman: Theunis Piersma
Editor: David Stroud
Membership Secretary:
Rodney West

IWRB-WSG Liaison Officer
The Executive Committee propose Vice Chairman Dr Nick Davidson for election to the newly created office of IWRB-WSG liaison officer. This post is to take forward practical aspects of WSG's rôle as Wader Research Group of the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Group.

The term of office of the following non-office holding members of the Executive Committee is completed this year: Paul-Eric Jönsson, Nicola Baccetti, Mark Barter, Jadwiga Gromadzka and Brigitte Klinner

Of these, the following have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election and therefore the Executive Committee propose the election of:

Nicola Baccetti
Mark Barter
Jadwiga Gromadzka
Brigitte Klinner

Alternative nominations for the Officers listed above and for Members of the Executive Committee may be made by any members of the Wader Study Group. Nominations must be signed by a proposer and seconder and must include a signed statement by the candidate that he or she is willing to stand. All these people must be paid up members of the Wader Study Group. Nominations should be sent to the General Secretary, Petra de Goeij, to arrive by 30 July 1993.



10. Any other business.

Petra de Goeij, General Secretary

Chairman's Report

Writers often state that putting the first words on paper (or PC screens in these modern times) is a struggle and the most difficult part of writing. I must confess that I had these feelings when sitting in front of my PC, my door open to the garden ('our' Blackbird feeding its young – the garden is not large enough to have suitable habitat for waders..., although sometimes a Common Sandpiper takes a rest on the shore of the garden which is bordering a small river).

The last WSG year was an important one for many reasons. Mike Pienkowski resigned as Chairman after long and outstanding service to WSG and the Executive Committee in particular. In his last report, he himself shed some light on his long involvement with the WSG and we should thank him for his stimulating work, ideas and guidance over the years. The decision taken by the AGM in Hungary to designate him as Honorary President was a most appropriate one. We celebrated his nomination together with Ann, last February with a most pleasant dinner in Peterborough which was also attended by Vice-Chairman Nick Davidson and his partner.

The 1992 AGM also approved a closer co-operation with the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB), and the IWRB Executive Board meeting in November 1992 in Florida unanimously agreed that the WSG should fulfil the rôle of the Wader Research Group within the IWRB network. Since then, we have worked out a Statement of Co-operation which is already

approved by both parties and will be signed from our side at the AGM in Ipswich. In relation to this new task, the WSG needs also to initiate discussions on guidelines for future co-operation with our Australian colleagues, and with the successor of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, now called Wetlands for the Americas. This will need to involve further clarification of the rôle of the Western Hemisphere Section of the WSG.

I hope to be in a position to report at the Ipswich AGM about some of these developments. It is, however, essential that, whilst developing mechanisms for co-operation with the outside world, we keep our independence and our informal, non-bureaucratic way of working. This has been the basis for the success of the WSG and its wide range of widely recognised 'products' (Bulletins, special publications, workshops and conferences).

Other members of the Executive Committee mention in their reports a continuation of the various WSG activities at a high level. Membership increased again compared to 1992; from 564 to 604 – an encouraging situation. The financial position of WSG is healthy as can be concluded from Bob Loos' report. With assets up to £14,000 we do have an essential buffer for increasing costs and likely investments in new computer equipment and software. There is of course the need for a close monitoring of WSG finances to keep our financial situation healthy.

I am very pleased to acknowledge the various forms of support from governments and international organisations for our special publications. These contributions contribute greatly to the reasonable financial position WSG has achieved whilst increasing the output of publications.

We must continue to strengthen contacts with our colleagues from Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Last February, I met in Moscow with Lena Lebedeva and Pavel Tomkovitch, who both have done an excellent job in editing texts and translating into English the many contributions from CIS colleagues for the Odessa Conference Proceedings.

In June, I was able to meet with Saja Yurlov in Novosibirsk, while roaming the southern steppes in search of the Slender-billed Curlew! WSG members may conclude from this that I have doubts about the location of the possible breeding grounds of this endangered species as put forward in Adam Gretton's excellent report on the species!

I am happy to report that at least two, and probably three of our Russian Committee members, and perhaps even our Ukrainian colleagues, will attend the Ipswich meeting. This is thanks to the generous help of the organisers of the Ipswich meeting and government agencies from the UK and the Netherlands.

Within the Executive Committee, discussions have taken place about the implementation of the Odessa Protocol (Bulletin 65: 10–12). This important document will provide a major focus for future work of the Group, and there will be further plans laid at the Ipswich conference for initiatives based on the Protocol. Indeed, a major theme of the Ipswich Conference is a set of workshops on field techniques. These stem directly from a need recognised in the Odessa Protocol, and will lead to guidance on the collecting of wader data in comparable ways world-wide. This guidance will be published as a future supplementary Bulletin.

We need to continue this discussion



at the next AGM. Integrating the philosophy of overall flyway research, conservation and management into other aspects of world-wide conservation issues takes time. However, there are good signs that it has been accepted by governments in their nature conservation policy and support for associated research at various levels.

During this first year in the chair, I have seen from inside the amount of work to be undertaken in order for things to run smoothly within the WSG. I am impressed by the amount of time everyone is willing to invest and I would like to thank my fellow Executive Committee members for their work and support and for the continuing dedication to the Wader Study Group.

Finally, and in particular, I would like to thank Paul-Eric Jönsson who steps down after six years of service to the Committee. During this time he has ably given us a Scandinavian perspective on issues under discussion, and we thank him greatly for his many and varied contributions.

Gerard Boere

Co-ordinator's Report

In 1992 the WSG continued to be a very active scientific group. New fields of research and also new geographical focal points were covered. One of the best signs of the success of the Group, although one that gives its own problems, are the ever increasing problems in the allocation of space for printing papers in the Bulletin.

Much of the work of the Co-ordinator in 1992 was connected to the extra WSG conference in Odessa. This conference and the Odessa Protocol will continue to influence the work of the

Co-ordinator and the Group in future years. The Odessa conference has brought the Group somewhat more into nature conservation issues. A stronger involvement in nature conservation is a good and logical development of the Group. This, however, does not mean that the "research roots" of the Group will be neglected. As indicated at the last Annual Meeting, the focus of the Group will continue to be to encourage research to underpin conservation advocacy undertaken by other organisations. Scientific (field) work on waders continues to be the focus of the WSG (see workshop on field methods at the next annual conference). More about the Odessa conference may be found in recent issues of the WSG Bulletin. The proceedings of the Odessa conference is already being worked upon for publication. Progress in this field is slow but steady!

As three years ago in Ribe, Denmark, the 1992 annual WSG conference in Hajdúszoboszló, Hungary was held together with the symposium of the IWRB/WSG waterfowl ecology group. The great majority of participants of the meetings appreciated this liaison and expressed their wishes to see it continue. We aim to achieve this again in 1995.

A report on past and current WSG projects was published in WSG Bulletin 65. Four projects are still active and one is currently under preparation (Waders breeding in Europe). Active projects include inland wader counts (OAG Münster), the effects of severe weather on waders (N. Clark & N.C. Davidson), Ruffnet (D. Lank & T. Piersma), the Kentish Plover project (P.E. Jönsson). Project leaders are kindly requested to submit (at least) a progress report to the editor of the Bulletin each year, with a copy to the Co-ordinator. Some progress was made with the

co-ordinated evaluation of Little Stint data collected on Taymyr (and elsewhere) during Siberian expeditions in the past few years. At least one paper is in the pipeline.

In 1992 the work of the Co-ordinator was supported by the WWF-Wattenmeerstelle and by the Forschungs und Technologiezentrum Westküste of the University of Kiel. Thanks to these organisations.

Hermann Hötter

Editor's Report

The devolution of the editing and production tasks involved in Bulletin production amongst a wider editorial team has continued, and this has enabled the production of all Bulletins in 1992 to be substantially to timetable. As in previous years, whilst priority has been given maintaining the Bulletin on its timetable, attention continues to be given to further improving Bulletin design and layout. In this, as in continuing to oversee production, the editorial team are greatly indebted to Rodney West, who gives considerable time and professional expertise to Bulletin production.

Last year I noted that the regular appearance and professional design of the Bulletin has resulted in a much greater submission of suitable material for publication. Although this initially led to a backlog of papers for publication, the increased size of recent Bulletins has allowed much of this backlog now to be cleared. We continue to try and ensure rapid publication of material, but an inevitable consequence of the greater submission rate is that the length of time from submission to publication has increased. We are monitoring the situation and endeavour to improve editorial procedures to attempt to minimise these delays. The long awaited Bulletin Supple-



The long awaited Bulletin Supplement concerning 'The Migration of Knots' (Piersma & Davidson 1992: Bulletin 64, Supplement) was published during in late summer, and progress has continued on a number of other Supplements, some of which will be published in 1993. The Knots Supplement has already received a number of highly complementary reviews. As indicated last year, such supplementary Bulletins not only provide the membership with additional benefits at no extra cost, but also provides a means of wide international dissemination of appropriate material, and we continue to be approached as to the possibilities of this form of dissemination. In order that the editorial input to Supplements does not delay production of normal Bulletins, Nick Davidson takes responsibility for their production within the editorial team.

The Group exchanges the Bulletin with a number of other societies publishing ornithological journals. Over the years, this has led to the accumulation of a large number of exchange journals which have not previously been accessible for use. The Committee have decided to transfer 'the WSG Library' to the Ornithological Station in Gdansk where it can be properly curated and made available to research workers in Eastern Europe. During the year the library was sorted and a full inventory prepared. The transfer to Poland, and new arrangements for the better use this exchange material in drafting the 'Recent Publications' section will take place in 1993.

During the year Robin Ward and Lys Muirhead took over responsibility for the production of the 'Notes and News' section from Nick Davidson, and we welcome them to the editorial team and thank Nick for his past efforts.

David A. Stroud

Membership Secretary's Report

At the end of December 1992, the Wader Study Group membership stood at 604 - so we have broken the 600 barrier! This represented a rise of 40 new members.

The publication of three bumper Bulletins during the year plus the arrival of the latest WSG Supplement, all helped to rise our profile. There is however work still to be done on enrolling more members - membership leaflets, copies of logos and other publicity material are available free of charge to anyone who is interested in promoting the Group. A press release summary in English is also available from the membership Secretary.

A more detailed summary of the current membership is given below. The figures represent the number of current subscriptions to the group, including both individual members and institutions. Countries are ranked by numbers of members, rather than importance for waders (or wader workers!).

In addition to Table 1. there was one member in each of the following countries: Bahrain, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Korea, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Niger, Peru, Phillipines, Tanzania and the former Yugoslavia.

Table 1. WSG members at 31st December 1992, listed by country

UK	188	Portugal	6
Netherlands	64	Ireland	4
Germany	53	South Africa	4
USA	51	New Zealand	3
Canada	22	Argentina	3
Spain	17	China	3
Belgium	16	Austria	2
Italy	15	Bulgaria	2
Australia	12	Hungary	2
CIS	12	Malaysia	2
France	12	Pakistan	2
Sweden	12	Finland	2
Denmark	9	Switzerland	2
Poland	9	Japan	2
Norway	7	Zimbabwe	2



Treasurer's Report

In 1992 the Group showed a surplus of £2,631, through which the Group's total assets reached nearly £14,000. At the end of the year we had almost £10,000 in our Bank accounts and on deposit. Because of the high UK interest rate during the year we received £1,500 interest. This will not be repeated in 1993 because of the decreasing interest rates in Great Britain and the Netherlands.

Although it is very difficult to make a well-founded estimate, due to great fluctuations in the exchange rates of different currencies (£ and US/Can \$!) and increasing bank-charges, I expect no great financial changes in our financial situation in 1993. The target of the new treasurer for this and next year is to reduce the bank-charges for both the Group and its members, and to find a more rapid and easy way of paying subscriptions. Suggestions will be made at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

L. Loos

Receipts and expenditure for the year to 31 December 1992

	1991	1992
Receipts		
Subscriptions	£6,377	£8,872
Interest received	£494	£1,494
Colour marking register	£74	£498
Sale of back <i>Bulletins</i> and publications	£2,834	£2,108
Income on the sale of car stickers	-	£10
External contributions to publications	£1,440	£5,222
TOTAL INCOME	£11,219	£18,204
Deduct expenses		
<i>Bulletin</i> costs:		
Printing	£7,592	£4,791
Supplements	-	£4,645
Envelopes	£146	£112
Typing	£152	-
Postage	£3,252	£3,090
Editorial	£170	-
Secretarial costs and miscellaneous	£956	£1,359
Colour marking Register	£390	£508
Hebrides Project costs	£1,231	£470
Bank charges	£135	£28

Depreciation: computers	£563	£563
Depreciation: stickers	-	£267
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£14,587	£15,833

EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME **£3,368** **(£2,371)**

Balance sheet as at 31 December 1992

	1991	1992
Accumulated Fund		
Per Balance Sheet as at 1 January 1992	£11,954	£8,586
Excess of expenditure over income	(£3,368)	£2,371
Total	£8,586	£10,957

Represented by:

Assets

Micro-computers and printers (net after deducting depreciation)	£1,162	£1,081
Cash at bank and on deposit	£5,636	£9,885
Debtors	£3,993	£2,913
Stock of car stickers	£142	-
Sub-total	£10,933	£13,879

Deduct liabilities

Creditors	(£1,715)	(£2,700)
Subscriptions in advance	(£632)	(£222)

Net: **£8,586** **£10,957**



1993 Annual WSG meeting: wader methods workshop

The rapid progress of wader research in recent years has partly been a result of the high degree of standardisation of methods. This has enabled the direct comparison, or collation of data, collected from many different countries and by many workers. In this way the Wader Study Group has pioneered many international collaborative studies, some of which (e.g. on Kentish Plover) continue, and all of which have been productive in giving insights to many 'wader problems'.

during the past few years wader researchers from formerly more isolated regions (either geographically or politically) have had opportunities to collaborate more widely. In this situation there are particular advantages in the drawing together of information on the 'best practise' in order to standardise field techniques, and to disseminate these widely (as urged by the Odessa Protocol - *Bulletin* 65: 10 - 12).

As one of the steps to encourage this, part of the forthcoming WSG conference in Suffolk will be devoted to a workshop on wader field research techniques. In due course, the results of these workshops will be published (if funding can be arranged) as a supplementary *Bulletin*.

The aims of the workshop will be

- ◆ to develop advice as to the best field methods to use in the tackling of specific problems, drawing on a wide range of international experience;
- ◆ to standardise these field research methodologies where necessary; and

- ◆ to develop guidelines for the authors of a WSG manual on field research methods for wader studies.

In order to increase the efficiency of the workshop, several working groups will be formed, among them:

Breeding waders - censuses, breeding biology, measuring food supplies

Non-breeding waders - surveys and census, counting and monitoring populations

Birds in the hand - catching methods, biases, safety, measurements, moult

Study of movements - 'Unconventional' marking techniques, radiotags, methods of observation of birds in flight

Foraging waders - measuring diet, food intake rates, food supplies/availability

The groups on the different topics will be working simultaneously. To aid the process of working group formation, if you are attending, please consider in advance to which group you can contribute most. Only if there is a very unequal distribution of participants between groups at the workshop might it be necessary to consider your second choice.

Please come prepared to make a contribution. Everyone has some knowledge or experience to offer!

Further information on the workshop will be given at the conference. If you have further suggestions concerning the work-

shop, please contact Peter Evans, Department of Biological Sciences, Science Laboratories, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, UK; or Hermann Hötter, FTZ, Hafentörn, 25761 Büsum, Germany.

Understanding patterns in Dunlin migration

Workshop on Monday 1 November 1993, Ipswich

The preparations for the workshop are proceeding well. The key issues to be discussed are (for more details see *WSG Bulletin* 67):

1. What are the differences in parameters such as moult, body size, sex and age along the Flyways and how can the differences be explained?
2. What are the actual numbers of Dunlins *Calidris alpina* and what do we know about the development of numbers?
3. Which breeding populations use which part of the Flyways and what are the reasons for this?

While this text is being written just before the arctic field season, several joint papers from the "Baltic Dunlin Group" have already been announced. They will deal with items such as the moult during migration or the comparative migration patterns of adults and juveniles during 1991 and 1992. Another paper will concentrate on breeding success of Dunlin as measured along the Flyways and whether this can be related to breeding success of other arctic birds or even to lemming cycles. It is hoped that we will have at least two talks dealing with the most recent results on genetic differences between Dunlin



populations.

Besides talks and posters, very short informal notes are welcome also. Abstracts will be published in the *Bulletin* as usual. On the condi-

tion that adequate financing can be ensured all papers presented will be published in a Supplementary *WSG Bulletin*. If you want to present something at the workshop and have not already made this

known, please contact Hans-Ulrich Rosner (WWF- Wattenmeerstelle, Norderstrasse 3, D25813 Husum, Germany. Tel: 49 - 4841 - 62073 (office), 63646 (private). Fax: 4736).

Bulletin numbering awry?

As this is *Bulletin 70*, you may be wondering what has happened to *Bulletins 68* and *69*. With a greater number of supplementary (special issue) *Bulletins* in the pipeline, we have decided to integrate these into the numbering of the main series. You will receive three *Bulletins* a year and in addition, special issues as these are published.

Bulletin 68 (to go shortly to the printers) contains papers summarising a RSPB/NCC seminar in 1991 concerning the effects of disturbance on waterfowl. This draws not only on UK experience but also on a range of other European studies.

Bulletins 69 relates to needs identified by the Odessa Protocol to encourage the making of training and reference material more widely available and thus promote common standards. Access to such training and reference material is a particular problem in the countries of former Eastern Europe. To this end, the focus of the annual WSG meeting this autumn is to derive a methodological manual for wader studies in the western Palearctic. This will outline current 'best practice' in field techniques. Wider adoption of standard methods will in turn have benefits in facilitating aspects of international overview and conservation.

The past 67 issues of the *Bulletin* have carried a large number of papers concerned with a number of methodological studies. The *Bulletin* has received a very limited circulation in Eastern Europe and early numbers are especially restricted in distribution. There are considerable advantages in the collation and reprinting of such methodological papers. This will provide training material in its own right and also provide a basis from which to condense a more succinct manual of wader studies.

Bulletin 69 will collate and reprint some of the various methods papers that have appeared over the last 21 years. These will include aspects relating to wader catching, ringing and marking, cramp studies, statistics and morphometrics etc. Funding permitting, an additional supplementary *Bulletin* will reprint key papers relating to wader census, feeding studies etc. It is intended to circulate *Bulletin 69* with the December 1993 *Bulletin* (number 71).

