

**1995 WSG CONFERENCE
& TENTH
INTERNATIONAL
WATERFOWL ECOLOGY
SYMPOSIUM: FIRST
ANNOUNCEMENT**

The 1995 WSG Annual Conference will take place in Aveiro, Portugal in September 1995. As at Ribe (Denmark) in 1989 and Hadjúsoboszló (Hungary) in 1992 the meeting will, by agreement with the International Waterfowl and Wetland Research Bureau, be linked with the next in the series of Waterfowl Ecology Symposia arranged by IWRB's Waterfowl Ecology Research Group.

ICN/CEMPA and the University of Aveiro are hosts to the 1995 meetings which will be held at the University of Aveiro, Portugal. Local organisers are Rui Rufino (ICN/CEMPA) and Antonio S. Luis (University of Aveiro). Dates are 15-21 September 1995.

This first announcement provides preliminary notification of the arrangements for the conferences, an outline of the arrangements and objectives of the meetings, and a summary of when further information will be available.

Discussions during the 1992 Hungary meetings revealed a general view that the overall timespan of the joint meeting should be shortened. Accordingly we are planning that the meetings will end one day earlier than previously, on the Thursday. So as to meet the needs of WSG members, the normal time schedule of WSG conferences (Saturday and Sunday) will be continued.

The WSG conference will take place over the weekend of 15-17 September 1995, and will be followed by the Waterfowl Ecology Symposium on 18-21 September

1995. To simplify the administration, there will be a single set of forms for the registration and bookings for both conferences. Delegates will be free to attend either the WSG Conference, the Waterfowl Ecology Symposium, or both.

THE 1995 WSG CONFERENCE

As usual, delegates will be advised to arrive on the Friday evening. There will be no specific theme for the 1995 conference, and talks and posters will be invited on all aspects of wader biology. Saturday will be devoted to a programme of talks. The 1995 WSG Annual General Meeting will take place on the Saturday morning. There will be further talks on Sunday morning and the opportunity of an excursion on Sunday afternoon.

We are investigating the possibilities of holding specialist workshops on wader subjects on the Monday of the conference week. These may include workshops on Kentish Plovers and Black-winged Stilts. The provisional arrangement is to hold these workshops on the Monday afternoon, in parallel with other round-table discussions taking place as part of the Waterfowl Ecology symposium (see below).

THE TENTH INTERNATIONAL WATERFOWL ECOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

The symposium will open formally on the Monday morning, and those wishing to attend only this part of the meetings will be recommended to arrive on the Sunday evening.

The plenary theme of the the symposium will be *Approaches to predicting the effect of habitat loss and change on populations of waders, wildfowl and other water birds*. The talks will be concerned with the theoretical background to making predictions, with approaches to making predictions that are being tried now, and with particular case histories where attempts were made

to make predictions before the habitat loss or change took place. In the latter case, speakers will be asked to answer the question: "with the benefit of hindsight, what research should we have done before the habitat was lost or changed to have predicted what actually happened afterwards?"

There will be a number of invited speakers on the plenary theme but we wish also to have as many offered papers on this topic as we can. Predicting the effects of habitat loss and change on wintering sites, breeding areas and migration sites will all be discussed.

We are hoping to publish either a book or a special volume of a journal on this theme. Using the symposium talks on this plenary theme as a basis. We will also consider contributions to this volume from people who were not themselves actually able to attend the symposium. The aim will be to produce an up-to-the-minute volume on how to predict the effects of habitat loss and change rather than to produce a volume that solely records the proceedings of the symposium itself.

Talks on the plenary theme will be given on each of the four mornings of the symposium, with plenty of time available before lunch to discuss the mornings' contributions. The afternoon sessions will consist of a) an excursion; b) poster sessions; but mostly c) workshops and talks on other aspects of waterfowl ecology. We are particularly keen to have talks on new developments in methodology on any aspects of waterfowl ecology. However, delegates will be free to submit offers on any topic and we will try to combine as many as possible of these into unifying themes for these afternoon sessions.

If you would prefer to make your contribution as a poster, please do so - we intend to allow plenty of time for poster presentations. It would also help us to arrange the programme more easily, in the event of too many talk offers being made, if