

you will be willing to give your presentation as either talk or poster.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

A preliminary registration form and talk/poster offer form will be included with the August 1994 *WSG Bulletin*. A final announcement and booking form will be sent out with the December 1994 *WSG Bulletin*. We anticipate that the final deadline for offers of talks/posters will be the end of April 1995. The closing date for bookings is provisionally the end of June 1995.

## PUBLICATIONS

As usual, abstracts of all talks and posters will be published in *WSG Bulletin*, and we hope to arrange also for abstracts to be published in *Wildfowl*. In line with views expressed by delegates to the Hungary Symposium, we do not plan to publish a formal proceedings volume of the Waterfowl Ecology symposium, but (as described above) are investigating the possibility of a volume developed from the main theme of this symposium for those who might wish to contribute: although there will be no obligation on participants of the workshop to submit full papers. For those who do wish to submit papers, we will also encourage authors of other appropriate talks and posters to submit a written version of their presentation to *WSG Bulletin* for waders, and are hoping to arrange a similar facility for wildfowl papers.

*Nick Davidson, WSG-IWRB Liaison Officer*

*John Goss-Custard, IWRB Waterfowl Ecology Research Group Co-ordinator*

*Janine van Vessem, IWRB Technical Programme Manager*

## THE FIELD TECHNIQUES MANUAL FOR WADERS AND THE REPRINTING OF WADER STUDY METHODS PAPERS

*The Group is currently working on two related projects aimed at providing readily accessible methodological guidance to wader workers worldwide. Here we explain the aims of each of these, and their progress.*

## WADER STUDY METHODS REPRINTS

Over the last 23 years there have been a great many articles and papers describing new and improved methods for working on waders published in the *Wader Study Group Bulletin*. Many of these appeared in early issues of the *Bulletin*, issues that had only limited circulation even in western Europe. In line with the recommendations of the Odessa Protocol that training material and common methodologies need to be made more widely available, we are therefore arranging for the reprinting of over 90 papers that have appeared in the *Bulletin* since its first issue.

These will appear in two volumes of the *Special Issues/International Wader Studies* series under the title *Wader study methods: practical papers published in the Wader Study Group Bulletin*. The first will contain 67 papers covering catching and handling birds and data, including wader catching, ringing and marking, cramp studies, statistics and morphometrics. The second volume will have a further 30 papers covering waders in the field, including counts, census studies energetics and telemetry.

To make sure that all papers, especially those originating from very early *Bulletin* issues when production was more primitive than now, are

equally legible, all papers have been retyped and will be reprinted in current *Special Issue* style. Wherever possible, we have checked with original authors that the methods described in the papers are still relevant and appropriate, and where necessary elements of some papers which have become dated or are not relevant to the methodologies have been changed or deleted - these places being clearly identified in the texts.

These volumes will make more accessible the detail of a wide variety of tried and tested wader study methods, but do not make recommendations about which of the described methods are most appropriate for general use, or which can be identified as common standards for international data collection. Of course these volumes also cover only material published in *WSG Bulletin* - there are many methodological papers relevant to wader research that have been published elsewhere.

## FIELD TECHNIQUES MANUAL FOR WADERS

Discussions during the preparation of the Odessa Protocol identified also the need for internationally agreed basic standards for the collection of wader data so as to promote international collaboration in data collection and comparisons of wader biology. It is to meet this objective that we are working on development of a *Field techniques manual for waders*. The Field Techniques workshops held at our 1993 Ipswich conference formed part of the information gathering exercise for this project, and the *Wader study methods* volumes should provide a valuable reference source for identifying simple common standard methods for some topics but for the reasons described above cannot replace the *Field techniques manual*.

We intend that this manual will first guide wader researchers as to which categories of information could and should be collected for each type of investigation. For each category of