

information the manual then will identify and summarise the best practice methods for data collection (or set out the alternatives if no single best method can be established).

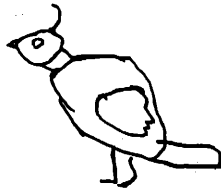
Emphasis will focus on methods than can be used by all researchers, even those with access to only limited resources. Additional methods where researchers have larger available resources (of funds, equipment, people and/or time) will also be identified.

We are now discussing the best way of taking forward this project, which needs to draw on the expertise of a great many active wader researchers. Watch for further announcements in future *Bulletins*.

Nick Davidson

ERRATUM

We understand that the collection and editing of data concerning the breeding conditions for waders in the tundras of Russia in 1991 (*Bulletin* 71: 20-25) was undertaken by Dr Pavel Tomkovich and not, as stated, Dr Vadim Ryabitsev. Our apologies to both.



ANNOUNCING INTERNATIONAL WADER STUDIES

A CHANGE OF TITLE FOR WSG BULLETIN SUPPLEMENTS & SPECIAL ISSUES

WSG Members will know of the long-running debate about the treatment and titling of the increasing number of single-topic special issues being produced by WSG in addition to the three normal Bulletins each year. The result is a decision by WSG Executive Committee to relaunch these volumes as a publication series treated entirely separately from WSG Bulletins. This series will be called International Wader Studies.

This article explains the background to the decision; describes the arrangements for publication of the series; and lists volumes already published, those in preparation and those under consideration for future publication.

BACKGROUND

The *WSG Bulletin* is proving to be an increasingly sought-after outlet for publishing and disseminating large reports and proceedings - documents that are too large to treat as an ordinary *Bulletin* papers.

Initially these have been such products as proceedings of WSG workshops. Increasingly, however, these special *Bulletin* issues are being seen by other wader/waterfowl research and conservation organisations as a particularly appropriate and effective route for publishing information, since these publications reach *active* wader workers worldwide.

Improved desk-top publishing facilities and the use of full colour on

covers have meant that recent special issues such as *The migration of Knots* have achieved a high quality appearance, and the trend of increasing interest in these issues seems likely to continue.

These extra issues originally were each treated as a *Supplement* to an ordinary *Bulletin*. We have felt increasingly, however, that this titling undervalued the quality of the science and increasingly high production standards of these issues. In an attempt to improve their perception and value we recently changed to treating these volumes as *Special Issues*, numbered in the main *Bulletin* sequence.

This has not, however, resolved widespread concern that the titling fails to convey the correct message about the high quality of the peer-reviewed international science published in these *Special Issues*. This means that, particularly in academic circles where publication in high-quality recognised journals is increasingly essential for getting research funding, these volumes are being undervalued. This in turn may be discouraging active researchers from contributing to the volumes.

After further debate at the 1993 Ipswich conference and afterwards, we have reached the decision to relaunch the continuing 'special issues' series with an entirely separate title from *WSG Bulletin*. The title of the new series will be *International Wader Studies*.

We will be sending an information note explaining the objectives and procedures for *International Wader Studies* to a wide variety of relevant journals and newsletters.

OBJECTIVES OF PUBLISHING INTERNATIONAL WADER STUDIES

The WSG functions to establish and maintain contact between wader workers worldwide and to exchange and disseminate information and

ideas about waders (shorebirds). Production of volumes of *International Wader Studies* enables WSG to capitalise on the group's enthusiasm and research interests to review existing knowledge of features of wader biology and, importantly, to identify gaps in this knowledge.

Publishing such volumes through the WSG means that information and ideas are effectively disseminated to the wader research community worldwide. These issues are also intended to provide background information and summaries of current knowledge as guidance for future research directions and for wildlife conservation initiatives such as integrated coastal zone management and the development of international flyway conservation plans.

Volumes of *International Wader Studies* will continue to be often, but not exclusively, 'proceedings volumes' of WSG conferences/workshops. Volumes are increasingly, however, coming also from meetings or projects with which WSG has no direct involvement. The medium of the series provides an appropriate route for the objective of reaching the wader research community where the topics of these volumes fall within the scope of the series. A recent example is the *Disturbance to waterfowl on estuaries* volume, which derived from a workshop meeting jointly arranged by the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PREPARING AND PUBLISHING VOLUMES OF *INTERNATIONAL WADER STUDIES*

International Wader Studies will be published as an occasional series, as topics and resources permit, rather than as a journal series published at regular intervals. Volumes are currently being

produced at the rate of one to two each year.

It is intended that the costs to the WSG of each volume will be kept to a minimum through financing from grants and other funding and that, wherever possible, all WSG members will as now receive a copy of each future volume free of charge as part of their annual subscription.

Production of the series will be overseen by the WSG Executive Committee which will function as an editorial board to guide series production. Additional editors for individual volumes may be appointed with the agreement of the WSG Executive Committee. The Committee's responsibilities in relation to *International Wader Studies* will include approving topics for inclusion in the series; agreeing volume editors; and ensuring sufficient finance is available for the volume to proceed.

Production of the series will be managed by a General Editor. This is currently Nick Davidson. The General Editor has responsibility for ensuring that each volume meets house style for layouts and cover designs; and that general refereeing and editorial standards are met.

Primary editorial work, including arranging the refereeing, scientific editing and correction of papers, for each volume will be the responsibility by one or more volume editor, approved by the Executive Committee. For each volume an Executive Committee member will be identified to help overseeing preparation of each volume, by agreement with the General Editor.

Production of camera-ready copy will generally be the responsibility of the volume editors. Where finances allow, production of camera-ready copy may, however, be arranged by the General Editor. Similarly, arrangements and finance for printing and delivery of a volume are by agreement with the General Editor.

Individual volumes may be issued, where appropriate, as joint publications with other collaborating organisations.

Copyright for all publications resides with the Wader Study Group, unless otherwise agreed.

Marketing of all volumes will be by WSG, unless other arrangements are approved by the Executive Committee. Should any profits be made from additional sales these will go to WSG to help offset any publication or circulation costs. Any additional profit will be used by WSG to underwrite the production of future volumes in the series.

Those proposing a volume for inclusion in the series should note that WSG financial resources cannot generally cover the production costs of a volume. Finance for the issue should be obtained wholly (or at least substantially) from sources other than WSG, before WSG can agree to take on publication. Finance should cover the costs of editing, printing and circulation to WSG members, but WSG may consider covering postage costs to members, to be recouped by additional sales. For membership circulation WSG currently needs 700 copies of each issue.

Supplements and *Special Issues* already published will henceforth be treated as initial volumes in the *International Wader Studies* series. This will be clearly identified, and all titles listed, on each future volume. Note that some future volumes already in late stages of production have already been allocated *WSG Bulletin* issue numbers - these will continue publication as *Special Issues*.

PROPOSING FUTURE VOLUMES

If you are organising a workshop or symposium, or are compiling and reviewing information on a wader topic, and think that publication in an *International Wader Studies* volume

might be appropriate, WSG would be pleased to discuss this and offer guidance. Contact the series General Editor in the first instance.

WSG would also welcome hearing from anyone with information about possible sources of funding for future volumes, or from anyone offering funding. All sponsoring organisations will be fully acknowledged, and have their logos printed on the cover. Again contact the series General Editor in the first instance.

A SUMMARY OF WSG BULLETIN SUPPLEMENTS & SPECIAL ISSUES

A. Already published

1. **Breeding waders in Europe.** 1986. *WSG Bulletin 48, Supplement.* Edited by T. Piersma. 116 pp. Price: £5.

Comprehensive bibliography of breeding waders in 24 European countries, with a first Europe-wide assessment of their population sizes and distribution. Prepared following WSG identification of a major gap in knowledge vital for developing conservation programmes for breeding waders.

Financed by the UK Nature Conservancy Council and the Netherlands Directie Natuur, Milieu en Faunabeheer of the Ministerie van Landbouw en Visserij.

2. **The conservation of international flyway populations of waders.** 1987. *WSG Bulletin 49, Supplement.* Edited by N.C. Davidson & M.W. Pienkowski. 151 pp. Price: £10.

Reviews current knowledge and gaps in knowledge of major wader flyways and how effectively they are conserved, through invited reviews, reports of recent research and summaries of conservation initiatives. 24 papers from a WSG workshop held in 1986.

Published and financed jointly by WSG and the IWRB.

3. **Waders breeding on wet grasslands.** 1991. *WSG Bulletin 61, Supplement.* Edited by Hermann Hötter (assisted by N.C. Davidson & D.M. Fleet). 107 pp. Price: £15.

Containing 18 papers based on a 1989 WSG Conference workshop that review the situation of wet grasslands in Europe, report fundamental and applied research, summarise the state of breeding wader populations, and make recommendations for the urgent future conservation of grasslands and their characteristic waders.

Financed by the Danish National Environment Research Council, the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee, and the Netherlands Directie Natuur, Milieu en Faunabeheer of the Ministerie van Landbouw en Visserij.

4. **The migration of Knots.** 1992. *WSG Bulletin 63, Supplement.* Edited by Theunis Piersma & Nick Davidson. 209 pp. Price £15.

Reviews the current knowledge and gaps in understanding one of the supposedly best-known of migrant waders, based on a WSG workshop in 1989. 28 papers review subspecies migration systems, recent research findings and future research and conservation needs. Contains much material not previously published, the first worldwide comparison of the migration strategies of Knot populations, and an assessment of the ways in which this information contributes to national and international efforts to conserve migratory waterfowl.

Financed by the Danish National Environment Research Council, the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee, WWF-Wattenmeerstelle, and the Netherlands Directie Natuur, Milieu en Faunabeheer of the Ministerie van Landbouw en Visserij.

5. **Disturbance to waterfowl on estuaries.** 1993. *WSG Bulletin 68 (Special Issue).* Edited by Nick Davidson & Phil Rothwell.

106 pp. Price: £15 (from RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, UK).

Actual and potential conflicts between waterfowl and people on estuaries, especially when people are indulging in recreational activities, are emerging increasingly as a key issue in the development of integrated coastal zone management. There are, however, few quantified assessments of the effects and impacts of such disturbance on feeding and roosting waterfowl. This volume is based on a briefing seminar held in Britain in March 1991 for NCC and RSPB staff and its 16 papers provide the most comprehensive collection yet of reviews and case studies of this important topic. It contains much new information, some of it being analyses undertaken especially for this volume.

Financed by the NCC (now through the UK JNCC) and the RSPB.

B. Future volumes

6. **Wader Study Methods: practical papers published in the Wader Study Group Bulletin. Part 1: catching and handling birds and data.** 1993. *WSG Bulletin 69 (Special Issue).* Edited by David A. Stroud & N.C. Davidson. c. 250 pp.

The 1992 Odessa Protocol recommended making training and reference material more readily available so as to promote common standards. *WSG Bulletin* has, over the last 22 years, published many methodological papers but *WSG Bulletin* has had until recently very limited circulation in eastern Europe, and many of the early issues are unavailable. To improve the availability of this information, especially as a basis for developing a wader field techniques manual, WSG is reprinting key methodological papers. These are being produced in two volumes, this

first volume containing 67 papers covering the bird in the hand: catching techniques, ringing and marking studies, biometric methods and data handling and analysis. To ensure legibility and consistency, all papers have been retyped and will be in reprinted in current *Special Issue* style.

Financed by the UK JNCC. Final editing in progress, volume now expected mid-1994.

7. Shorebird ecology and conservation in the Western Hemisphere. 1994. Edited by Peter Hicklin et al. *International Wader Studies*.

A symposium of this name took place as part of the IV Neotropical Ornithological Congress in Quito, Ecuador in November 1991. Canadian Wildlife Service is preparing a proceedings volume to be published as a joint WSG volume and CWS report.

Financed by Canadian Wildlife Service. Expected late 1994.

8. Numbers and distribution of waterbirds in the Wadden Sea. 1994. Hans Meltofte, Jan Blew, John Frikke, Hans-Ulrich Rösner & Cor Smit. c. 190 pp. *International Wader Studies*.

Results and evaluations of 36 simultaneous counts in the Dutch-German-Danish Wadden Sea between 1980-1991. Includes evaluation of results for 40 species in relation to timing of occurrence in winter, and during migration, evaluation of the importance of these populations in a flyway context, maps distributions at different times of year (including in ice-winters), discusses the protected status of different parts of the Wadden Sea in relation to the needs of migratory birds and discusses the needs for future co-ordinated Wadden Sea counts.

Analyses currently underway, planned press date October 1994. Being published as jointly as an *International Wader Studies* volume and an *IWRB Special Publication*. Financed through the Common Secretariat for

Cooperation on the Protection of the Wadden Sea.

9. Wader Study Methods: practical papers published in the Wader Study Group Bulletin. Part 2: waders in the field. Edited by David A. Stroud & N.C. Davidson. c. 100 pp. *International Wader Studies*.

Part two of the reprinting of WSG methodological papers covers feeding studies, census and survey techniques, radio telemetry, condition and energetics, and the effects of severe winter weather.

Financed by the UK JNCC and WSG. Editing in progress, volume expected late 1994.

10. European and Asian wader flyways: recent research and international conservation. Edited by Hermann Hötker, Pavel Tomkovich, Elena Lebedeva, Jaga Gromadzka and Nick Davidson. *International Wader Studies*.

A volume based on the 1992 WSG Odessa Conference on "Migration and international conservation of waders" that brought together 79 participants from 13 different countries and which produced the Odessa Protocol. The volume will contain approximately 60 papers of which about 45 are reporting research in eastern Europe and northern Asia as well as a number of papers describing a variety of recent developments in international flyway conservation activities.

Scientific editing in progress.

C. Other volumes under consideration

A field techniques manual for wader research. Edited by Peter R. Evans et al.

The Odessa Protocol identified the need for internationally agreed basic standards for the collection of wader data during a wide variety of studies, so as to

promote international collaboration in the collection and comparisons of wader biology. To meet this need WSG has begun work on developing a standard manual for field research on waders that will identify agreed basic best-practice methods for the study of waders at all times in their annual cycle. A series of field techniques workshops were held during its 1993 conference formed a first step in the information gathering exercise.

Population change in a migratory wader: the Dunlin. Edited by H.-U. Rösner, N.A. Clark et al.

This will be proceedings volume derived from a workshop on understanding Dunlin populations held during WSG's 1993 conference. The volume would aim to examine current knowledge of how, when and why Dunlin populations undergo change.

Further topics that may lead to future volumes in the series include *Shorebirds as models for global conservation*, *Kentish Plovers*, *Black-winged Stilts*, *Breeding ecology of waders in the high Arctic*, and a revision and update of *Breeding waders in Europe*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank Prof. Peter Evans for helping to refocussing our attention on this topic, and for suggesting the title *International Wader Studies* for the series.

Nick Davidson, General Editor, International Wader Studies

