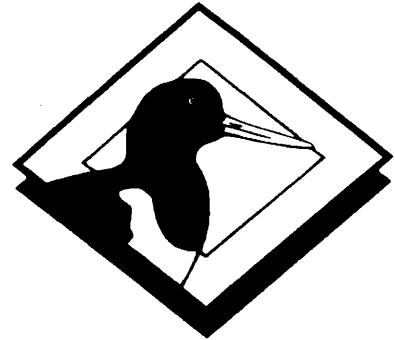


# WADER STUDY GROUP



*BULLETIN 73 August 1994*

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## **WSG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1994 BÜSUM, GERMANY**

The 1994 WSG Annual General Meeting will be held at 09.00 hrs on Saturday 22 October 1994 during the annual meeting in Büsum, Germany.

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM, held on 30 October 1993 at Ipswich, Suffolk, UK (*Bulletin 71: 1-3*)
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Membership Secretary's Report
7. Editor's Report
8. Co-ordinator's Report
9. WSG-IWRB Liaison Officer's Report
10. Election of officers and members of the Executive Committee

### 11. Subscription rates for 1995

The Co-ordinator, Hermann Hötter, and the General Secretary, Petra de Goeij, 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:

Co-ordinator            Herman Hötter  
General Secretary    Petra de Goeij

The term of office of Pablo Canavari is completed this year. He has indicated his willingness to stand for a further term of office on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee thus propose the election of Pablo Canavari for a further term of office, and also of Ole Thorup (who was co-opted for 1993/94, and who has also indicated his willingness to stand for election to the Executive Committee).

Alternative nominations for the posts of Officers and Executive Committee members listed above 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 indicating that they are willing to stand. All of 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 1994.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

This is not a real report. As I mentioned in last year's report, there is a good and hard-working team of officers in the Executive Committee and there is not much down to earth work for the Chairman to do. However, this gives me the opportunity to focus on some more strategic issues and provide some general remarks and thoughts about the position of the Wader Study Group in international science and conservation circles.

In early June I attended the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bonn Convention in Nairobi. Following this meeting, the First Consultative Meeting of the Range States for the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) was also held in Nairobi. Both events were attended by large numbers of countries. The growing interest in developing co-operation in the field of migratory bird protection was striking. The AEWA meeting was attended by representatives of 80 countries

showing a very positive attitude towards the draft Agreement and the need to achieve consensus on all matters of substance.

Another two years is probably needed to formally bring the AEWA into force. Then we will have an important international instrument for co-operation in research and conservation for migratory waterbirds, including waders. A similar Agreement is in preparation for Asian-Pacific Waterbirds. Both Agreements would cover the major flyways of Europe, Asia, Africa and the Pacific. It is a challenge for the Americas to follow.

The long-term research by the Wader Study Group as a whole, and of its individual members, has contributed greatly in unravelling the complex migrations now the subject of international legal measures. The WSG has shown that almost half of the globe is connected through the long distance movements of, in particular, arctic breeding waders.

The other WSG Officer's reports show the amount of work undertaken during the past year to further contribute to the scientific basis for such international agreements and other initiatives. Co-operation with IWRB is developing well, a large number of publications are under way (in addition to the regular appearance of the *Bulletin*) - many as a result of the highly successful and enjoyable Ipswich meeting, and in the meantime, the WSG is again, in a healthy financial position.

The established contacts with our colleagues from central and eastern Europe are rapidly developing and we expect to see many of them in Büsum as a result of the generous financial support from some organisations in Germany and some 'wader-friendly' governments. Moreover, there are several possibilities between formal WSG meetings to meet with them and keep the momentum of international contacts moving forward.

In the light of the above mentioned developments with international flyway agreements, the Wader Study Group

needs to develop a policy to contribute to the scientific activities underpinning these agreements. This may, in my opinion, include more joint fieldwork in the Mediterranean and Africa, but also in the breeding areas. The joint Polish/Ukrainian/Italian/Dutch WIWO expedition to the Gulf of Gabes in Tunisia in early 1994 could act as a good model for similar future projects.

Financial resources remain scarce for such activities, but bringing these resources from various countries together for clear targeted projects would be an excellent way of implementing the goals of the WSG: training wader researchers in developing countries and contributing to wader and habitat research and conservation along the whole flyway.

*Gerard Boere*

## CO-ORDINATORS REPORT

The scientific work of the Wader Study Group has become more diverse in recent years. Members of the Group cover many fields of biological research ranging from faunistics (often as basic research for nature conservation), to highly specialised genetic or physiological studies. Examples may be taken from recent issues of the *Bulletin* or from the programmes of the latest few annual conferences.

Not only the diversity of the research has increased but also its quantity. The best proof for this is the necessity to formalise the new WSG publication series *International wader studies* for all the material which appears due to the work of WSG. (A possible increase in the quality of the scientific research should be refereed by someone more outside the group). Considering the generally very healthy state of the scientific work within the group, the work of the co-ordinator could be somewhat subsidiary in many cases.

At present fewer members of the WSG are involved in common WSG programmes than in former years. This is partly due to the fact that both

the interests and the geographical distribution of WSG members have stratified. There are two WSG programmes in which field work is going on at present: the Kentish Plover project run by Paul-Eric Jönsson and inland wader counts co-ordinated by the OAG Münster. Some of the forthcoming activities are likely to involve many WSG members: the update of breeding waders in Europe and the revision to population estimates for Western Palearctic waders (see elsewhere in this *Bulletin* for details). The fact that not so many members are involved in common projects does not mean a lack of common activities within the WSG. Many members participated in workshops during the last annual meeting, both on wader field research methods and on Dunlins. An increasing number of activities are also taking place between members from the former "East" and member from the former "West". The WSG often is not directly involved directly in this, but it offers an important forum for such contacts.

One way of achieving a better scientific exchange between East and West is through common publications. The Odessa Proceedings will be one such common publication. Although editing is proving to be much more time-consuming that previously expected there has been much progress in this matter over the past few months.

*Hermann Hötker*

## EDITOR'S REPORT

Progress in 1993 has particularly been made particularly with the progressing to publication of several *Bulletin Special Issues*. A detailed progress report was published in *Bulletin 72*. As indicated there, following discussions at the 1993 Annual Meeting, the status of the *Supplementary Bulletins/Bulletin Special Issues* will be enhanced by the launch in 1994 of a new *ad hoc* publication series: *International wader studies*. As indicated last year, the *Special Issue/International wader studies* series (co-ordinated by Nick

Davidson) not only provide the membership with additional benefits at no extra cost, but also provide a means of wide international dissemination of appropriate material. We continue to be approached as to the possibilities of this form of dissemination.

The long-awaited *Bulletin Special Issue 69* concerning 'Disturbance to waterfowl on estuaries' (Davidson & Rothwell 1993) was published late in the year, and work has continued on a number of other Special Issues, some of which will be published in 1994. Significant progress has been made with the large amount of work needed to retype over 50 key methodological papers from past *Bulletins*. These will appear as two large *Special Issues* in 1994. This initiative is linked to objectives in the Odessa Protocol which stress the value of making such methodological information available to wider audiences, especially for training purposes.

Major progress with the translation and editing of papers and posters from the Odessa WSG conference has been made by Elena Lebedova and Pavel Tomkovitch. An editorial meeting was held in the UK following the 1993 annual meeting. Detailed planning is underway by the small editorial team to identify how best to see this volume through to speedy publication.

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 the editorial team continue to be indebted to Rodney West, who gives considerable time and professional expertise to *Bulletin* production in addition to his role as WSG Membership Secretary.

As previously noted, the regular appearance and professional design of the *Bulletin* has resulted in a 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 always to improve editorial procedures to attempt to minimise these delays.

David A. Stroud

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

During 1993 membership increased gradually to stand at a new record high of 622 by the end of December. The publication of three *Bulletins* and another high quality *Special Issue* undoubtedly helped to raised WSG's profile. Also local members can influence membership - sterling work by Ole Thorup saw Danish membership grow in 1993 from 9 to 24! - thanks Ole.

We still need to push on with recruiting more members until we have a core of 750 which will help make the Group more financially secure. So please help: if you require any membership forms, copies of logos etc., contact the Membership Secretary.

Table 1 gives a detailed summary of the current membership. The figures represent the number of current subscriptions to the group, including both individual members and institutions.

Table 1. WSG members at 31 December 1994 listed by membership total.

UK	183
The Netherlands	71
Germany	66
USA	50
Canada	28
Spain	28
Denmark	24
Italy	18
CIS	17
Sweden	14
Belgium	13
Australia	13
Poland	11
Norway	10
France	9
Portugal	6

Ireland	5
Argentina	5
Finland	4
South Africa	4
Austria	3
Brazil	3
China	3
Hungary	3
New Zealand	3
Switzerland	3
Bulgaria	2
Malaysia	2
Pakistan	2
Zimbabwe	2
India	2
Kenya	2

In addition to Table 1 there was one member in each of the following countries: Canary Islands, Chile, Czech Republic, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Korea, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Panama, Philippines, Tanzania and the former Yugoslavia.

Rodney West

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Due to unforeseen circumstances it has not been possible to compile a full Treasurers Report for 1993 in time for this *Bulletin*. I expect, however, to have all the details at the latest in September 1994. As far as I can currently estimate, our financial holdings will show a slight increase and that the financial situation of the group is healthy. Because of the decrease in the US and Canadian \$, it will be unavoidable to increase the membership rates in 1995 for those members who pay in these currencies.

A proposal will be made to the next Annual General Meeting, where the definitive Treasurer's report will be available. Those members who wish to have a copy of the income and expenditure account and a balance sheet in advance are requested to contact me direct. For other members, these will be published in full in the December *Bulletin*.

Bob Loos

## WSG/IWRB LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

Discussions about how best to maximise benefits of the work of WSG in relation to the need of the International Waterfowl & Wetlands Research Association (IWRB) for expert technical advice on wader issues were reactivated during 1992. This has led to a formal agreement between the two organisations that, for the purposes of links with IWRB, WSG will act in the rôle of an IWRB research group. A Memorandum of Agreement to this effect was formally signed at the 1993 WSG Annual General Meeting and its text appears in *Bulletin* 71: 2-3. By joint agreement I have been elected to the rôle of WSG/IWRB Liaison Officer (the equivalent of an IWRB Research Group Co-ordinator) by IWRB at its November 1992 Board Meeting and by WSG at its 1993 AGM.

The underlying objective of the agreement is to improve the flow of information between the two organisations and to avoid unnecessary confusion and duplication of effort through the operation of several expert groups undertaking similar work.

It is important to stress that nothing in the agreement affects in any way the independent status of WSG. Rather the agreement recognises that WSG has long been fulfilling a rôle analogous to that of an IWRB research group, and that formalising the link neatly avoids any duplication of groups covering the same tasks and topics. Indeed the extent and quality of WSG information exchange through its *Bulletins* and *Special Publications* more than adequately meets the rôle required of a research group. IWRB is now also looking at the agreement with WSG as a model for link-ups with other independent groups.

The work of the WSG/IWRB Liaison Officer has initially concentrated on developing the most effective ways of maintaining links with IWRB staff and other research groups, and with the IWRB Western Palearctic Wader Counts Database and its co-ordinator,

Cor Smit. In line with current IWRB practice this database, formerly managed as part of the Wader Research Group co-ordination, is now managed separately.

One consequence of establishing the link is the need further to consider the most effective ways of developing contacts and information flows outside WSG's main sphere of operations in the Western Palearctic, and in particular with both northern and southern parts of the New World and with AWSG in Australasia. Options are under discussion with the relevant WSG Executive Committee members and others to agree the most effective structures.

Since the initial set-up phase covered by this report further benefits of the improved link with IWRB are now beginning to emerge. In January 1994 I participated in an international workshop on "Estimating Waterfowl Populations" held in Kalø, Denmark. One consequence of this workshop was identifying the need to review and update population estimates for western Palearctic waders. This will form a major co-ordinating task for the WSG/IWRB Liaison Officer during 1994/5 and forms the first big challenge to WSG to demonstrate its effectiveness in meeting the needs of the research group. A further recent development is the drafting by IWRB of a Strategic Plan for future research group operation. More detailed information about these developments will appear in the *Bulletin* and progress will be reported to future WSG Annual General Meetings.

*Nick Davidson*

## **WSG Annual Conference, Büsum, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany**

**See page 49 for location map**

The 1994 Wader Study Group Annual Conference will take place from Friday 21 October to Sunday 23 October with an additional day, Monday 24 October for a workshop on measuring and monitoring breeding success of

waders. On Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 October there will be an optional guided two day field trip to one of the Halligs in the North Frisian Wadden Sea (see April *Bulletin*).

The meeting is to be held at the Haus des Kurgastes situated at the harbour of Büsum. Hosts to the conference will be the Forschung- und Technologiezentrum Westküste (FTZ) of the University of Kiel, with the assistance of the Landsamt für den Nationalpark Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer (NPA) and the Wattenmeerstelle Schleswig-Holstein der Umweltstiftung WWF Deutschland.

Delegates are recommended to arrive on Friday afternoon. Dinner will be at 19.00 in the Youth Hostel (5-10 min walk from the conference hall), and will be followed by some introductory talks on the Wadden Sea National Park (in the Haus des Kurgastes, where the bar will be). As in previous years, the formal part of the meeting will begin with the AGM on Saturday morning (22 October) which will be followed by talks for the remainder of the morning session.

Further talks will take place on Sunday morning, with field trips during the afternoon to the Meldorfer Bucht and the Speicherkoog Dithmarschen, both close to Büsum. The field trips will end at 17.00.

The talks at the meeting will cover a variety of topics, ranging from general theories of wader migration to applied problems of the conservation of breeding habitats of waders. We hope to see many contributions from central and east European countries.

The Monday after the meeting (24 October) will be given over to the one-day workshop on measuring and monitoring the breeding success of waders. This will finish at approx. 17.00. For more information see *Bulletin* 72 and map on page 49.

We look forward to seeing you in October in Büsum!

*Hermann Hötter*