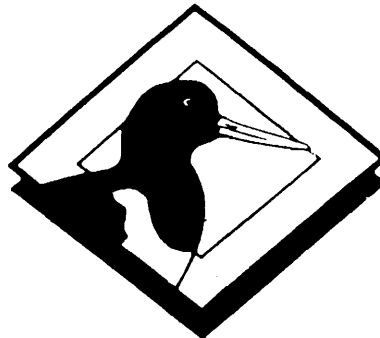


WADER STUDY GROUP



BULLETIN 77 August 1995

WSG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1995 AVEIRO, PORTUGAL

The 1995 WSG Annual General Meeting will be held at 09.15 hrs on Saturday 16 September 1995 during the annual meeting in Aveiro, Portugal.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 22 October 1994 at Büsum, Germany (*Bulletin 75: 1-2*)
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Membership Secretary's Report
6. Editor's Report
7. Co-ordinator's Report
8. WSG-IWRB Liaison Officer's Report
9. Election of officers and members of the Executive Committee
10. Subscription rates for 1996

The Chairman, Gerard Boere, Vice-Chairman Nick Davidson and the Treasurer, Bob Loos 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:

Chairman	Dr G.C. Boere
Vice-Chairman	Dr N.C. Davidson
Treasurer	B. Loos

The terms of office of Elena Lebedova, Pavel Tomkovich and Sacha Yurlov are completed this year. They have indicated their willingness to stand for a further term of office on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee thus proposes the election of Elena Lebedeva, Pavel Tomkovich and Sacha Yurlov for a further term of office.

To strengthen the links with the Americas, Rob Butler has been nominated by two Wader Study Group members and he has indicated his willingness to stand for election to the Executive Committee. He is thus proposed for election at the 1995 AGM.

OFFICER'S REPORTS FOR 1994

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The 1994 Wader Study Group year showed a steady continuation of work completing a number of projects such as the proceedings of the Odessa meeting, rather than the development of new areas of activity. The 'routine' amount of work keeping the Group running is still substantial and takes much of the time of volunteers making it difficult to develop a large number of new activities. We are always keen for new volunteers to come forward to help with the many tasks of the Group.

One new work area started in 1994 is the Arctic Waterbird Breeding Conditions Programme. Following wide-ranging discussions at the 1994 WSG meeting in Büsum and with the IWRB Goose Research Group, David Stroud and Nick Davidson have developed a pilot sheet to collect information on breeding and environmental conditions and we await the first returns from this season's fieldwork. In the meantime, discussions are taking place concerning the long-term establishment of a formal data collation system, possibly establishing the project at the Moscow Zoological Museum where the ornithological

Department is headed by our Committee Member Dr Pavel Tomkovich. It is to be expected that much of the data will in any case derive from the Russian/Siberian arctic, and the establishment of the data-base in Moscow will aid Russian participation in this project.

The established contacts that WSG have with the Secretariat of the Council for Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) are an important development and create a good basis for this arctic monitoring programme.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague, The Netherlands: it is Friday 16 June 1995 and an important event has just occurred - almost 60 countries have signed the Final Act and concluded the text of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement of the Bonn Convention. The AEWA includes about 170 species, among them many waders, and the territories of 177 countries. This is an important event for the Wader Study Group and a detailed article in a future *Bulletin* will be published concerning the implications of the Agreement, including an analysis of the way in which the WSG can participate in the implementation of the AEWA Action Plan.

Preparations have started to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Wader Study Group. This will take place during the September meeting in Aveiro. The previous Chairmen of the WSG have been asked, with other WSG luminaries, to prepare a small insert to the *Bulletin* to summarise the achievements of the first quarter century of the WSG. This will outline the history of the WSG, its development, its aims and future tasks.

With reference to the activities mentioned in the other Officer's Reports one must conclude that the WSG is a well respected group with a clear niche amongst international organisations, and enough continuing activities and ideas for at least another 25 years.

Gerard Boere

CO-ORDINATORS REPORT

International co-operation in wader research is one of the main fields of activity of the WSG. This was certainly the case in 1994 as in previous years. The WSG has tried to improve such international co-operation by several means, among them the co-ordination of the colour marking register. Jane Marchant is doing an admirable and invaluable job which provides a fundamental basis for many research projects.

Another important issue is co-operation with other international and national research and conservation bodies (see Chairman's Report above). International co-operation is also achieved through research projects co-ordinated by WSG. Two such projects have been concluded in 1994.

1994 was the last field season for the WSG Inland Wader Counts, a project co-ordinated by the Biologische Station Rieselfelder Münster. The project aimed mainly at obtaining a better understanding of wader migration through inland Europe. Waders have been counted at sites in up to 15 countries, usually once a week. Most of the data has already been computerised but funds are still needed for the final data processing and publication of results. Fund raising is underway.

The WSG Kentish Plover project (co-ordinated by P.-E. Jönsson) was set up to study the population biology of a wader species with a declining population in Europe. Much work has been undertaken in the years the project has been running. The results of the project will be presented at a workshop at the forthcoming WSG conference in Aveiro and - possibly - in a future issue of *International Wader Studies*.

More WSG projects are in the pipeline, one of them is Waders breeding in Europe, co-ordinated by Ole Thorup.

A prerequisite for international co-operation is international communication. The WSG tries to facilitate such communication by organising annual conferences. The

1994 meeting took place in Büsum and was attended by nearly 160 delegates, many of them from central and east European countries. Reports of the meeting appeared in the *Bulletin*.

Hermann Hötter

EDITOR'S REPORT

The focus of editorial activity during 1994 has been to maintain the publication of three *Bulletins* to timetable, whilst improving the speed of editorial response to authors, and further enhancing the scope of *Bulletin* coverage.

A supplementary *Bulletin*, No. 74, was published in late 1994. This beautifully presented special issue summarised simultaneous waterbird counts undertaken in the international Wadden Sea between 1980 and 1991. The publication of this special issue, and thus its free availability to WSG members, was made possible by generous financial support from the Common Secretariat for the Co-operation on the Protection of the Wadden Sea (CWSS). Particular thanks are due to Hans Meltofte for his help in making the arrangements with CWSS to the benefit of WSG members.

Nick Davidson has undertaken much work to put in place editorial systems for the new WSG publication series *International Wader Studies* announced in *Bulletin* 72. The incubation periods for such volumes are often lengthy - not least because of the large numbers of authors involved, and complex publication and funding arrangements. There are currently several volumes under active development.

Work has continued with the publication of the proceedings of the 1992 Odessa WSG conference with an editorial meeting at Büsum in the autumn. This will be by far the most substantial volume ever published by WSG and additional financial assistance is being urgently sought to speed the volume through the final stages of production. It is likely that it will be the first *International Wader*

Studies volume to hatch; probably late in 1995 or early in 1996.

During the year Phil Grice resigned from the editorial team after several years, and we thank him for his considerable assistance during his period.

We also welcomed Julianne Evans who has recently joined the team as an assistant editor. Particular thanks are also due to the many WSG members who regularly act as referees for papers as well as those who have given time to act as reviewers. The continued inputs of Phil Holland in summarising recent ringing recoveries, and of Henk Koffijberg in collating recent publications are also much valued.

David A. Stroud

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

The membership of the Wader Study Group during 1994 remained at the record level attained in 1993. Membership at the end of December was 620. Three high quality *Bulletins* and a further special issue, on 'Numbers and distribution of waterbirds in the Wadden Sea', were published during the year and helped to keep the Group's name in people's minds.

I hope that during 1995 we are able again to increase our membership and towards an optimum of 750 members. So, please help if you can. If you require membership forms, copies of the logo or anything else that you might think would help encourage other wader workers to join the Group, contact the Membership Secretary.

Table 1 gives a detailed summary of the membership broken down by country as at 31 December 1994. The figures represent the number of current subscriptions to the Group, including both individual members and institutions.

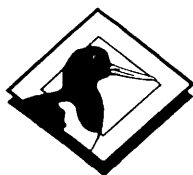


Table 1. WSG members at 31 December 1994 listed by membership total.

UK	179
The Netherlands	70
Germany	66
USA	48
Canada	28
Spain	28
Denmark	24
Italy	18
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
Ukraine	2
India	2
Kenya	2

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

Rodney West

WSG/IWRB LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

1994 has been a year spent in consolidating the liaison rôle through developing and maintaining the links between of the Wader Study Group and the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB). This has occurred in a period during which there has been major progress in the plans to merge IWRB and the Asian Wetland Bureau, and form closer affiliation with Wetlands for the Americas, so as to form a global partnership for waterfowl and wetland expertise. These negotiations will come to fruition at IWRB's Board

Meeting in Malaysia in October 1995. As a member of the IWRB Board in my rôle as an IWRB Research Group Co-ordinator I have commented on these proposals which are likely to be beneficial in strengthening the world-wide delivery of expertise, but have expressed the concern that expanding coverage on wetland habitats should not lead to a reduced emphasis on IWRB's unique international expertise on waterbirds including waders.

IWRB's have also developed a strategic plan for research group development, which has the aim of improving current research group structure and functioning. The suggested overall changes fit very well with how WSG already operates, will help maintain efficient exchange of information, and will increase the support to WSG for maintaining its expert group work.

Exploring ways of forging stronger links between wader groups in different parts of the globe is another important part of the ability of WSG to ensure that a good flow of expert wader information is available world-wide. We have been discussing ways of doing this, so paralleling IWRB's developing affiliations, with the Australian Wader Study Group and in the Western Hemisphere.

A major and continuing task has been preparing for a review and revision of the population estimates for waders using the east Atlantic flyway - an exercise that was identified as needed during the workshop on estimating international waterfowl populations, held in January 1994 in Denmark. This workshop (see *Bulletin 73*: 19-26 for a full report) agreed a useful framework for the timescales over which expert groups such as WSG need to evaluate population sizes and changes, so that they can be used in determining conservation criteria for international conventions such as the Ramsar Convention. During the year preparations have been made to use the increasingly widely adopted 'Underhill indexing' methods to analyse wader population trends, although the more recent discovery of complications with the IWRB wader datasets mean that the analyses being prepared by late 1995 (and so available to IWRB's revised global *Waterfowl population estimates* report

to the 1996 of the Ramsar Convention contracting parties) may be more restricted than originally planned.

During the year we began preparations for the three-yearly joint meeting of the WSG and the IWRB Waterfowl Ecology Research Group, this time in Aveiro, Portugal in September 1995 (at which this report is being presented). This collaboration between Research Groups provides a particularly effective way of widely sharing knowledge and ideas: we will be looking at developing firmer links with other IWRB research groups.

Since the 1994 period covered by this report, there have been important developments concerning waders (shorebirds) in the Western Hemisphere. In May 1995 I represented WSG at a workshop in Ottawa, Canada celebrating the 10th

anniversary of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), which now operates as part of Wetlands for the Americas. Some of the outcomes of this exciting meeting are reported elsewhere in *Bulletin 77*. Of particular importance was the priority identified for setting up a western hemisphere shorebird group that will provide technical advice to WHSRN, develop wider count networks in the western hemisphere, and promote the establishment of a 'global' wader flyway network (see elsewhere in the *Bulletin*). There is much to be learnt from the different ways in which wader expertise is applied to conservation in different parts of the world, and this workshop also well demonstrated the great value of sharing these ideas.

The great potential for using the Internet to exchange information and

ideas on waders world-wide was amply demonstrated at this workshop - such electronic communication will become a major theme in the future development of wader expert networks.

Nick Davidson

TREASURER'S REPORT

At first glance the Receipts and Expenditure account for 1994 shows a large decrease in the excess of income over expenditure. This figure is influenced strongly by the recent necessary investment in computers for the Editor and Membership Secretary. On the other hand we have received a great proportion of the 1995 subscriptions at the end of 1994 owing to the separate mailing of membership renewal forms earlier than in recent years.

Receipts and Expenditure account for 1993 and 1994

RECEIPTS	1992	1993	1994
Subscriptions	8,872	7,490.79#1	8,452.76
Subscriptions from past year	-	62.00	252.13
Subscriptions from next year	-	88.95	1,275.41
Interest received	1,494	874.82	684.85
Colour Marking Register	498	411.18	557.21
Sale of back <i>Bulletins</i> and other publications	2,108	1,610.01	244.00
External contributions to publications	5,222	3,000.00	2,000.00
Conference 1993	-	-	43.58
Miscellaneous	10	7.00	62.14
Exchange profit	-	-	101.51
Untraced	-	2,581.22#2	145.18
Total income	£18,204	£16,125.97	£13,818.77
EXPENSES	1992	1993	1994
<i>Bulletin</i> costs:			
printing	4,791	4,827.50	4,176.00
supplement	4,645	-	663.50
typing	-	276.96	88.00
dispatch	3,202	1,926.97	2,115.98
Editorial	-	278.75	-
Secretarial costs and misc.	1,359	1,487.19	1,763.22
Colour Marking Register	508	461.33	710.21
Hebrides Project costs	470	-	-
Bank charges	28	108.86	148.50
Depreciation on computers etc.	830	-	#3
Unpaid cheques	-	126.13	17.00
Untraced	-	252.95	46.85
Investments	-	-	£3,516.78
Total expenditure	£15,833	£9,746.64	£13,246.04
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	£2,371	£6,379.33	£572.73

#1 As a result of changing Treasurer and the impossibility of the English Girobank in being able to accept a foreign officer, there have been some problems in 1993 which we do not expect to encounter subsequently.

#2 The largest part of the untraced payments may concern subscriptions, whilst some payments may concern the Colour Marking Register.

#3 Depreciation will take place in 1995 when there is a total synopsis of WSG property.

Nevertheless, more than a third of our members do not pay on time!

Every year it takes a lot of extra time, trouble for Rodney and myself and WSG money for the Group to send out reminders and separately to mail *Bulletins* after late subscriptions are received.

Please, pay as soon as you get the new membership renewal form so that

the Group saves money and we can save the time to go birdwatching!

As foreseen, the temporary difficulties we had in 1993 owing to changes in banking procedures have now been solved.

The finances of the Wader Study Group are in a healthy state, so it will not be necessary to increase the subscription rate for 1996, although

the changing exchange rates of the different currencies (£, US \$, and Canadian \$) may force us to change slightly membership fees when these are paid in foreign currency.

This low membership fee is largely due to all the volunteer work of a lot of our Wader Study Group members!

Bob Loos

Balance sheet as at 31 December 1994

Accumulated Fund	31 December 1993	31 December 1994
Per Balance sheet as at 1 January previous year	£10,194	£16,573
Excess of expenditure over income	£6,379	£572
Ipswich Conference 1993	£4,743	-
Investments	-	£3,516
	£21,316	£20,661



Represented by:

	1993	1994		1993	1994
Computers & printers	<i>p.m.</i>	£3,516	Capital	£16,484	£16,386
Stock of back <i>Bulletins</i> and publications	<i>p.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>	Subscriptions in advance	£89	£1,275
Cash at bank and on deposit	£21,316	£17,145	Ipswich Conference 1993	£4,743	-
			<i>Bulletin</i> 69 (methodology issue)	-	£2,000
			<i>International Wader Studies</i> forward commitments		£1,000
	£21,316	£20,661		£21,316	£20,661

p.m. = *pro memoria* (item not currently estimated but known to be important)

