

activity becoming apparent with revised population estimates for East Atlantic flyway populations being prepared.

Progress has been made with the development of a flyway atlas for waders in the African-Eurasian region with Wetlands International funding.

10. Elections of Officers and members of the WSG Executive Committee

Following the expiry of their terms of office, and their indication of willingness to stand again, the following were re-elected for a further term as Officers of the Executive Committee:

Vice-Chairman **Theunis Piersma**

Membership Secretary

Rodney West

Project Co-ordinator **Ole Thorup**

The post of WSG-Wetlands International Liaison Officer had been filled on a co-opted basis until formalisation by the Wetlands International Board of Members in November 1998. Accordingly, David Stroud was elected to the Executive Committee as:

WSG-Wetlands International Liaison Officer **David Stroud**

Nicola Baccetti was re-elected for a further term as an ordinary member of the Executive Committee.

In seeking wider geographic representation within the Executive Committee, **Les Underhill** (Africa) and **Bob Gill** (North America) were co-opted to the Committee as ordinary members, together with **Robin Ward**.

11. Subscription rates for 2000

For reasons outlined in the Treasurer's Report, there will be no subscription rate increase in 2000 for those paying in UK Sterling. The Treasurer noted, however, that for some of those paying in other currencies, increases had occurred owing to the consequences of a strong Pound on exchange rates.

At least for the time being, the Group would continue to budget in Ster-

ling. This was a sensible response to the fact that much of WSG's expenditure (related to *Bulletin* production) was paid in the UK.

The Treasurer noted the Executive Committee's view that, in order to avoid the Group falling into deficit on running costs over the next few years, a rise in subscription rates was anticipated to be needed in 2001.

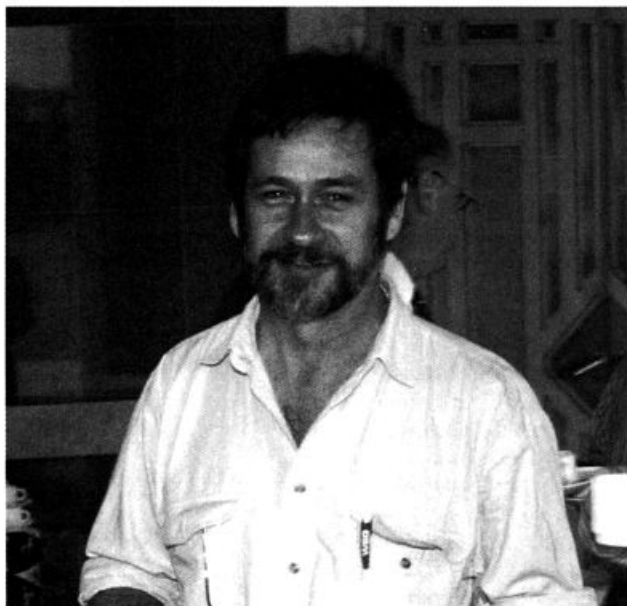
12. Future conferences and Conference Co-ordinator's Report

On behalf of the BTO, Mark Rehfish invited everybody to the UK where the 2000 conference will be held in East Anglia from 8-11 September.

Petra de Goeij outlined proposals for meetings in the coming years. In 2001, it was anticipated that the annual meeting would be held in The Netherlands, although the precise location and timing were currently unclear. A special meeting was being planned for May 2001 to be held at Delaware Bay (to coincide with the peak of spring wader migration there).

In 2002, there were possibilities of a return meeting, ten years on, in Odessa or alternatively somewhere else in the southern Mediterranean. There were no current plans for the meeting in 2003 and Petra noted that the Executive Committee would be pleased to receive suggestions.

13. Any other business



PABLO CANEVARI

It is with huge sadness that we report the death of Pablo Canevari, a long time supporter and friend of the Wader Study Group. As some of you may have known already, Pablo was diagnosed last month with brain cancer after being unwell for some time. His contribution to wader and waterbird science and conservation in South America and elsewhere has been huge. He was key to setting up Wetlands International's South American programme and had recently returned to Buenos Aires to lead the development of Wetlands International in the region after spending three years working for the Bonn Secretariat. In his many years of conservation activity, Pablo was largely responsible for establishing many of the wetlands and waterbird programmes throughout the region. His name was synonymous with waterbird conservation and had earned the respect of his peers worldwide. His enthusiasm and wealth of ideas have made an important contribution to the thinking of the WSG through his membership of EXCO, and as a personal friend of many of us this is dreadful news. He will be sorely missed. An obituary will appear in the next *Bulletin*.

