



WADER STUDY GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, NORWICH, UK - SEPTEMBER 2000

All WSG members are warmly invited to the turn of the millennium Annual General Meeting, which will be held at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, between Friday 8 and Monday 11 September 2000. Norwich is close to the Wash estuary and the North Norfolk Coast. Between them, these two sites annually hold up to 430,000 waterfowl.

This year the conference has as a central theme "Counts and marking - past, present and future." Keynote speakers have been invited to sum up each of the three sessions. On Sunday, there is no theme and talks will include a wide range of wader studies.

The conference will start on Saturday morning and end on Sunday evening. During the opening session on ringing we would like talks to highlight what has been learnt during the

last thirty years of ringing and decide the priorities for the next 30 years. During the second session we invite talks which describe how in the past counts have been used and how new counting techniques and perhaps wider coverage will improve our knowledge of wader population dynamics. We hope to receive offers for talks in the third session which will suggest how integrated studies that make use of marked birds and counts can improve our understanding of wader behaviour, phenology, population dynamics and will help ensure that Wader Study Group members are prepared to face the challenges of the new millennium.

During Sunday morning, talks covering the range of wader issues will be presented. On Sunday afternoon there will be a choice of

excursions. The main excursion will visit Snettisham and/or Titchwell RSPB Reserves on the Wash estuary at a time of year when impressive numbers of passage waterfowl should be present. The other excursion will visit the Brecks, a heathland habitat special to East Anglia. Numbers will necessarily be restricted on this latter excursion to 25, so early booking is recommended!

The subject of the workshop on Monday will be 'Global Climate Change - Understanding and Predicting the Effects on Waders (see below).

The easiest ways to reach Norwich are as follows:



By plane

There is a regional airport at Norwich with direct flights from several European cities including Schiphol, Amsterdam and the London airports. A bus service operates from the airport to the city centre or alternatively, there will be transport arranged from the airport to the University.

By train

From London there is a regular fast service out of Liverpool Street station to Norwich, a journey time of around two hours.

By car

There are good road connections from the Port of Harwich to Norwich via Ipswich.

For more detailed information on any aspect of the conference, please contact Mark Rehfish or Steve Holloway, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU, UK. Tel: 0044 1842 750050; Fax: 0044 1842 750030; e-mail: mark.rehfish@bto.org or steve.holloway@bto.org

**WSG CONFERENCE
WORKSHOP 2000**

*Global Climate Change –
Understanding and Predicting the
Effects on our Waders*

The issue of Global Climate Change is a very relevant one for the first - or last! - WSG conference of the millennium. The topic should follow on nicely from the main conference theme as the threat of climate change is likely to provide the major impetus for much wader research over the next 30 years. As the precise effects of global warming in any particular area are often disputed, it is hoped the workshop will be based around approximately five 20–30 minute presentations that will stimulate further discussion. These presentations will cover several of the following topics:

- < An overview of global change on birds
- < How to maximise the effectiveness of monitoring for detecting global change effects

- < The likely impact of sea-level rise on wintering estuary birds
- < Global change and the Atlantic Flyway
- < Changes in behaviour including breeding patterns, feeding patterns and the timing of migration induced by global change
- < The likely impact of global change on the Arctic breeding grounds of waders
- < The indirect effects of global change, including prey availability and changes in predation pressure
- < Changes in inter-specific competition

The workshop will take place on Monday 11 September 2000, from 0900 to approximately 1600. Short contributions on all aspects of climate change, past, present and future will be welcome. **Please send your offers of talks or posters to Mark Rehfish or Steve Holloway.**

