



**Wader Study Group
Annual General Meeting
Kollumerpomp, The Netherlands
30th August – 2 September 2001**

Ten years ago was the last time the WSG Annual General Meeting was organised near the Dutch Wadden Sea. It was then organized on the island of Texel along the western edge of the area. This time you will be hosted in an embanked part of the Wadden Sea along the mainland coast: the Lauwersmeer area. It was embanked in 1968 and we hope it will be the final embankment of a part of the Dutch Wadden Sea. It was done for safety purposes. Nowadays, it is mainly functioning as a fresh water nature reserve and large areas are under the management of the National Forest Service. The congress centre 'Kollumeroord' is situated in the SW corner of the

Lauwersmeer-area. It is an excellent spot for the few wader-people that hate all those talks on Avocets: the buildings were constructed on the former breeding grounds of this species It is also an excellent spot for all those people wanting to see Greylag Geese, Spoonbills, Ruffs, Little Gulls, Black-winged Stilts and many other species.

Place and date

The 2001 annual meeting of the Wader Study Group will be held at Kollumerpomp in the north of the Netherlands near the mainland coast of the Wadden Sea. The conference will take place at the recently established cultural centre

'Kollumeroord' and will start on Thursday evening 30 August and finish on Sunday 2 September. The European Ornithological Congress precedes it on 22 - 26 August in Groningen, the Netherlands.

How to reach Kollumerpomp

Planes and trains. There are half-hourly train services taking 150 -210 minutes from most main centres (Schiphol, Hoek van Holland, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht) to the cities of Groningen and Leeuwarden. You can travel to either then change for Buitenpost. The trains between Groningen and Leeuwarden have basically an easy



scheme: 20 minutes past every whole hour (7:20, 8:20,, 23:20) and 10 minutes before every whole hour (7:50, 8:50,, 21:50, on Sunday only between 17:50 and 21:50). Leave the train at Buitenpost. From here there is a regular bus service passing through Dokkumer Nieuwe Zijlen. The time schedule of this bus service is linked up with the arrival times of the trains. In addition, regularly scheduled transport will be organized at the start and the end of the meeting to or from the train station at Buitenpost. In between we will try to organize transport on request.

Car. From Leeuwarden follow the N355 to the east in the direction Hardegarijp or Buitenpost. Turn left to the N358 after 25 km just before arriving in Buitenpost. From Groningen follow the N355 to the West in the direction of Zuidhorn or Grijpskerk. Turn right to the N358 after 30 km and just having passed Buitenpost.

Follow the N358 for about 10 kilometres until a signpost signals the N388 to Zoutkamp. Follow this route to the East for about 2 kilometres and watch the signs 'WSG meeting 2001' and/or 'Kollumeroord'. These signs want you to turn to the left and immediately again to the left. Then there is a complex of buildings with bright red roofs (www.kollumeroord.com) and a large party tent. When you see these, you have reached your destination. Welcome!

Workshop on Friday

On Friday a workshop will be held entitled '*Ecology and conservation of farmland waders during the non-breeding season*'. The following topics might be addressed: migration systems, population trends and numbers, (shifts in) distribution, farmland practice and international conservation topics (for instance the EU-Bird Directive).

now received some sort of protection. However, several wader species only frequent such areas part of the day or season and for another part they frequent farmland. Sometimes such species are legally protected, whilst their feeding habitat (agricultural land) is not. Data on the dependency of these waders on agriculture are often incomplete, especially during the non-breeding season. This workshop aims to present new data on the importance of agricultural land for non-breeding waders and the patterns of use of these areas by waders. The recognition of such patterns is important when dealing with protection measures. We hope attention will be paid to wader species like Golden Plover, Whimbrel, Curlew or Black-tailed Godwit. You are invited to contribute. Please contact the organizers Eddy Wymenga (eddy.wymenga@wxs.nl) and/or Kees van Scharenburg (kvscharb@xs4all.nl).

Talks

Apart from the workshop on Friday, talks will be presented on Saturday morning and during the whole of Sunday. Basically, every talk will not exceed 20-30 minutes including questions and debate. If more time is needed, another room will be available for starting a debate and meanwhile following the new talk via a closed circuit television. Powerpoint presentations can be presented and slides as well as overhead sheets can be projected. Computer facilities will be available for preparing your last-minute sheets, presentations and summaries of discussions. **Please send your offers for talks or posters to Meinte Engelmoer.**

If you are tired of talks

Canoes can be hired, so you can easily paddle away. You can swim near the centre and bikes are also available. And you can strengthen your body condition on all the tower constructions hanging around...

The excursions on Saturday

On Saturday in the afternoon an impression will be given of the Lauwersmeer area and parts of the mainland coast of the Wadden Sea. For sure, attention will be paid to the largest EC-Life Fund project in the Netherlands: Noard-Fryslân Bûtendyks. By the end of August the Lauwersmeer-area is populated with Spoonbills (hundreds), Greylag Geese (> 2.000), the first few Barnacle Geese, large numbers of several duck-species, Marsh, Hen and Montagu's Harrier, Hobby, Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Ringed Plover, Golden Plover, Lapwing, Little Stint, Spotted Redshank, Little Gull, Black Tern, Bearded Tit and many more species. Some of the rarer species are Wood Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, White-winged Black Tern, Whiskered Tern. The mainland coast of the Wadden Sea is attractive for many species in large numbers like Shelduck (20,000 individuals), Pintail (1,500), Oystercatcher (70,000), Avocet (10,000), Grey Plover (4,000), Dunlin (70,000), Curlew (40,000), Spotted Redshank (1,000) and Redshank (7,000) being the most characteristic.

Organization

Both nature organizations 'Natuurmonumenten' and 'It Fryske Gea' will sponsor the meeting. Possible sponsoring by some other nature organizations is not yet known. The conference will be organized by the Fryske Feriening foar Fjildbiology, the Wadvogelwerkgroep F.F.F. and the Avifauna Groningen. All three are organizations are run by volunteers and all three are responsible for much of the fieldwork in the northern part of the Netherlands. We look forward to show you these fields..... **For further information please contact Meinte Engelman, Bentismaheerd 39, 9736 EC Groningen, The Netherlands, Phone +31-50-5421158, Fax +31-50-5491010, Email: m.engelman@compaqnet.nl.**

