

WADER STUDY GROUP

The WADER STUDY GROUP (WSG) is an association of amateur and professional workers on the Charadrii (waders or shore-birds) from all parts of the world. The Group was established in 1970 under the chairmanship of Dr. Clive Minton and the auspices of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), but has become an increasingly international organisation. For studies within Britain, the WSG still maintains close links with the BTO, and internationally the WSG works with several regional, national and international bodies in co-operative studies. By 1978 membership of the WSG was over 400 people, about half of members living in countries other than Britain and including some from America, Asia, Africa and Australasia as well as Europe. North American members have recently formed a distinct section within the WSG. Interests of the Group have diversified from the original concentration on ringing and related studies to include counts, breeding biology, feeding ecology, behaviour, and all aspects of research on waders.

The aims of the WSG are to maintain contact between both amateur and professional individuals and groups studying waders; to help organise co-operative studies; and to provide a vehicle for exchange of information. The main means of achieving these aims is by publication of the Bulletin (see below). The WSG maintains informal contacts with other bodies interested in bird research and conservation. The Group has also been involved in the organisation of expeditions to remote areas to fill gaps in the information on waders. Management of the WSG is vested in the Officers listed on the inside front cover, supported by an Advisory Panel which considers plans and future projects.

MEMBERSHIP of the WSG is open to all individuals or groups interested in waders. For an application form, please write to the Administrative Secretary (or, in America, the N. American Membership Secretary) whose address is on the inside front cover. The subscription is mainly devoted to the cost of production and circulation of the Bulletin. Prospective members in countries from which it is not possible to make overseas payments may write, explaining the difficulty, to the Administrative Secretary, who may be able to help. Publishers of other bulletins or journals wishing to receive WSG Bulletin on an exchange arrangement should contact one of the Editors.

The WADER STUDY GROUP BULLETIN provides a forum for news, notices, recent recoveries and publications, new methods of catching and study, articles and preliminary or interim publication of results from all parts of the world. Items are normally published in the next issue after their receipt. The Editors try to maintain a balance of material ranging from newsletter, informal descriptions of ringing group activities and expeditions to formal presentations of interim results or preliminary analyses and lists of ringing recoveries.

The Bulletin appears three times per year, in April, August and December, deadlines being the first of February, June and October, respectively. Articles must be received well before these dates, and it helps if other items are also (see inside front cover). Articles, notes, papers, notices, obituaries, requests for information, books for review, reprints of papers, lists of recoveries and all other items should be sent to one of the Editors at the addresses on the inside front cover. Articles and notices relating to America may be sent to the Editor of the North American section. Matters relating to the circulation of the Bulletin (including changes of address) should be sent to the Administrative Secretary.

The Editors are always ready to discuss possible contributions with potential authors and to advise on presentation. Manuscripts should be typed or written clearly, well spaced on the page, leaving wide margins, and following the format of recent Bulletins. Line illustrations are welcome and should be produced neatly in black ink on white paper with linear dimensions about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times intended publication size. These can then be used directly in printing. Scientific names should appear at first mention of each species or, if all species occur in a table, scientific names may be given there instead. It would be helpful if two copies of each manuscript could be submitted.

Publication of interim results in WSG Bulletin is not intended to pre-empt publication of final results as journal papers. Readers are requested to bear in mind that results and analyses published in WSG Bulletin are generally of a preliminary nature and to take account of this if making reference to these articles in publications of their own. If editors of other publications wish to reprint items from WSG Bulletin with suitable acknowledgement, this can usually be arranged; the persons concerned should contact one of the WSG Editors.