

International Wader Study Group

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 09:15 – 09:45, 24 September 2011, Strathpeffer, Scotland

The Chair, Yvonne Verkuil, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to Strathpeffer. Apologies were received from Mark Collier, Simon Gillings, Patricia Gonzalez, Tómas Gunnarsson, Pedro Lourenço, Hans Schekkerman, Henk van Huffelen, and Robin Ward. The minutes of the 2010 AGM, published on the website, were accepted by the delegates.

Chair's report

The Chair's written report (and those of the Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Colour Marking Officer, Project Co-ordinator, and Editor) are available on the website of the IWSG (<http://www.waderstudygroup.org>). A summarised version of all reports is published in the *WSG Bulletin* 118/2.

The year 2010 was again successful with good co-operation within the Executive Committee. One important change took place in this year. The Membership Secretary stepped down. A replacement has since been found.

There were no comments on the Chair's report.

Treasurer's report

The Treasurer's report can be found on the website. Additionally, David Turner pointed to some special points in his report. In 2010 the group made a profit of £3,971. This was due to both reducing the cost for printing and despatch of the *WSG Bulletin* and increasing the membership.

The Receipts and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet for the financial year 2010 were approved by the auditors on 25th August 2011.

For 2011, with all measures taken, a break-even situation is possible. Nevertheless, more members are needed to bring the group into a healthy financial situation.

There were no comments on the Treasurer's report.

Membership

The report of the Membership Secretary had been published on the website. Robin Ward was not personally present but sent his report by email which was summed up by Yvonne Verkuil. Robin Ward reported that membership stood at 526 at the end of 2010. We have had a continuous increase in membership since 2007. During the conference in Portugal many new members were recruited. Furthermore, the ageing and sexing series in the *WSG Bulletin* attracts new members. Members are encouraged to make use of the website and check their details. When necessary, members are asked to change their details like email addresses online via the website.

There were no comments on the Membership Secretary's report.

Editor's report

The report of the Editor had been published on the website. Humphrey Sitters pointed out that it is worth sending manuscripts to the *WSG Bulletin* because they usually get published.

In 2010, the three issues of the *Wader Study Group Bulletin* comprised 27 papers and seven short communications from 17 different countries, as well as the usual regular features such as Notes & News, Wader Thesis Abstracts and the IWSG Conference Report. The 2010 Bulletins covered an aggregate of 220 pages.

Humphrey Sitters thanked all contributors involved in the production of the *WSG Bulletin*.

There were no comments on the Editor's report.

Project Co-ordinator's report

The report of the Project Co-ordinator had been published on the website. At present four projects are active.

Magda Remisiewicz reported that to date 12 scientific papers have come out of the *Tringa glareola* 2000 project. Data collection for the project was completed four years ago. A monograph of the species based on the collected data is still planned.

Pavel Tomkovich reported on the Arctic Breeding Birds Condition Survey. The compilation of circumpolar information depends very much on people conducting research in the arctic providing data. Information from everybody visiting the arctic is welcome. Preferably, data should be submitted on the form provided by the project. At present there is no funding for the project. Information is published on the project's website, as soon as the information becomes available.

Jeroen Reneerkens reported on the Sanderling project. More groups than last year were catching Sanderlings, in particular in Portugal, Poland, and Great Britain. Everybody is called to look for colour-ringed Sanderling.

Yvonne Verkuil reported on behalf of Simon Gillings that the Golden Plover Survey 2008 data will be published soon in the *WSG Bulletin*. A new survey is planned for 2014 if sufficient funding is available.

There were no comments on the Project Co-ordinator's report.

Conference Co-ordinator's report

Jutta Leyrer reported that for the Strathpeffer conference a limit of 120 participants had to be set. Unfortunately, people interested in attending the conference had to be rejected.

Future conferences are 21 – 24 September 2012 in Séné, Brittany, France and 28 – 30 September 2013 in Wilhelmshaven, Germany.

Within 2-3 years a big World Wader Conference is planned. For the organisation of such a big conference funds have to be raised.

Colour Marking Register

The report of the Colour-Marking Officer had been published on the website. Yvonne Verkuil reported that the newly introduced system of Species Experts works very well, reducing the time between the observation of a colour-ringed bird and the information being provided to the observer through the ringer. This system also reduces the workload of the Colour-Marking Officer tremendously.

In 2010 there were 86 schemes issued to 54 ringers. Ringers interested in a colour-ring scheme are asked to register their scheme three months before they want to start ringing birds. This allows the Colour-Marking Officer enough time to handle the request. Even when funding of the project is not sure, the requests should be sent to the Colour-Marking Register in time.

The Colour-Marking Register co-operates with Dirk Raes, webmaster of the website cr-birding.org. All colour-ringing schemes of the Colour-Marking Register will be available on the website cr-birding.org. This step will further increase and speed up communication between colour-ring observers and ringers.

Election of Officers

The following members of the Executive Committee were elected:

Chair:	Yvonne Verkuil
Vice-Chair:	Ole Thorup
Treasurer:	David Turner
Publicity Officer:	Pedro Lourenço
Membership Secretary:	Julia Karagicheva
Project Co-ordinator:	Simon Gillings
IWSG-Wetlands International Liason Officer:	David Stroud
Ordinary member:	Ken Gosbell

Any other business:

Yvonne Verkuil announced that the position of the editor of the series International Wader Studies is vacant. Any member who has suggestions for filling this position or is interested in it for himself/herself should contact the Chair or the General Secretary.

A further opportunity for members to help the IWSG is to become a news correspondent for the website. To keep the news section up to date, about four members are needed who are willing to put news from the wader world on the IWSG website and Facebook page. Anybody interested in this task should contact the Chair or any member of the Executive Committee.