

Membership Secretary's report (Robin Ward)

The International Wader Study Group's membership for the year 2010 stood at 526 (as of 31st August 2011). This was made up as follows:

Life Members	11	
Members	479	(Individual/Family/Low Income/Institutional)
Gratis members	20	
Exchange	16	

It is pleasing to report that our membership continues to slowly recover from a low of 467 members in 2007 following a period of steady decline. However the numbers of new members recruited in 2010, 89, only just exceeded the number of members, 80, who did not continue their membership after 2009; 29 of the latter first joined in 2009. Membership in 2010 comprised of 390 paying members who were in 2009 or an earlier year(s) members.

Following the attendance to over-scribed conferences of many non-members, a non-members Annual Conference fee was introduced in 2007 to the value of the current year's membership into which it can be converted. This led to the recruitment of a number of new members amongst the delegates attending the 2010 Conference in Portugal. Correspondence with new members during 2010 continues to show the *Wader Ageing and Sexing Series* published regularly since 2007 in the Bulletin, has particularly attracted wader ringers to join, some back dating their subscription for the earlier issues.

The delivery of membership renewal reminders electronically since 2007 to those members having provided a current e-mail address, has continued to help improve efficiency (e.g. by reducing the cost) and the final results of the renewal process. Those members willing to receive membership reminders electronically are requested to keep the Membership Officer informed of their current e-mail address. This can be best done however by visiting the new IWSG Web site where upon registering you can view and edit your contact details whilst also checking up on your current membership status. Furthermore, since early 2008, you have been able to pay for your next membership renewal by Credit Card via the Web site using PayPal. Why not take a look?

Robin M. Ward
31st August 2011

Treasurer's Report 2010

Receipts and Expenditure Account

The financial year ended with a surplus of £3,971.00. While this is good news it is the ultimate result of internal transactions/transfers (from the Conference Fund towards the bulletin costs and the release of previous years advanced subscription payments totalling c£6,500.00) and the fact that we were not invoiced in 2010 for one of the DTP costs of the bulletin, which has been subsequently paid in 2011.

The production (print and despatch only) of bulletin 117/2, the final bulletin of the 2010 financial year, was by our new UK printers. These production costs, compared to our previous suppliers, are approximately 75% for print and 66% for despatch. The 2011 costs also support this percentage reduction so we are very hopeful that our overall cost of production can be maintained at these levels. The increase in subscriptions for the year seems to be significant. When taken into context of the internal transactions for subscriptions for future years it is actually less but it still shows an annual increase over the previous year.

Balance Sheet

The Capital has increased to £5,212.00 as a result of the surplus.

Following the comments above about the payment of advanced subscriptions it should be noted that there will only be £2,002.00 to be released at the end of the 2011 financial year compared with £4,557.00 in this the 2010 year. It seems that having the ability to pay via our web-site in 2009, in particular, and 2010 has meant that more members chose to pay in advance. This now seems to be evening itself out.

The Conference Fund is showing a slight reduction but this shouldn't hide the fact that we received a good surplus from our colleagues in Lisbon from the 2010 conference plus the Fund contributing to the bulletin costs as described above.

There is also a one-off exchange loss which will be written off in 2011. After consultation with accountants it was decided not to continue with the practice of converting our euro transactions into sterling annually. This is because we don't transact business between euro and sterling. Our only other 'foreign' currency transactions are with South Africa (now only bulletin DTP costs) and a few subscription transactions outside the euro/sterling zones. The only time this would be an issue would be if ever the Group was wound up. This has also been discussed and agreed by our auditors.

Audit Report

I'm delighted to report that the Receipts and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet for the financial year 2010 was approved by the auditors on 25th August 2011.

The Budget

As with the Budget for 2011 the Budget for 2012 has been drawn up to produce a break even result. At this time (August 2011) it is too early to predict the result of the 2011 financial year. The Group's financial position remains weak. Our over-riding transactions are simply to receive subscriptions and pay for the production of the bulletin.

We have and will continue to manage and curb costs and it is important that we increase, and sustain our increased, membership numbers. ExCo is also exploring additional opportunities for annual and continuing income. The aim is to achieve a 'real' surplus in 2011 and an increased surplus in 2012.

David Turner
Treasurer
30th August 2011

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - 2010

Receipts:	2009	2010
Subscriptions	13,689	16,587
Subscriptions from past year	338	605
Donations	0	0
Interest received	7	21
Colour Marking Register	0	0
Sale back Bulletins and publications	18	70
Merchandise	31	605
Merchandise profit	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
Exchange profit	0	0
External contributions to publications	0	3,030
Liberated reserves	0	0
Total income	£ 14,083	£ 20,918
Expenditure:		
Bulletin costs - printing	10,950	8,635
- dispatch	4,602	4,566
Editorial and DTP	4,393	2,524
Secretarial costs	159	170
Colour Marking Register	0	0
Bank charges	785	774
Exchange loss	0	0
Investments	0	0
International Wader Studies	0	0
Miscellaneous	260	278
Merchandise	264	0
Total expenditure	£ 21,413	£ 16,947
Excess of income over expenditure	Deficit	Surplus
	£ -7,330	£ 3,971

BALANCE SHEET - 2010

	31.12.09	31.12.10		31.12.09	31.12.10
Computers & printers	0	0	Capital	1,241	5,212
Stock back bulletins & IWS	p.m.	p.m.	Subscriptions in advance	4,557	2,002
Merchandise	788	788	Life Time Membership Deposit	3,819	3,459
Cash at Bank and on deposit	27,271	35,454	Conference Fund	5,365	4,750
Debtors	-251	-6,251	Hebrides Project	0	0
			Creditors	-2,405	-2,405
			Low Tide Atlas	0	0
			Exchange Loss	0	1,348
			Reserve Fund IWS	0	0
			IWSG Foundation	15,231	15,625
	£ <u>27,808</u>	£ <u>29,991</u>		£ <u>27,808</u>	£ <u>29,991</u>

BUDGET 2012

<i>Subscriptions</i>	14,300
<i>Subscriptions from past year</i>	300
<i>Interest received</i>	10
<i>Colour Marking Register</i>	0
<i>Sale back bulletins and IWS</i>	100
	<hr/>
£	14,710

<i>Bulletin costs:</i>	<i>printing</i>	6,000
	<i>DTP</i>	4,500
	<i>postage</i>	2,760
	<i>admin</i>	500
<i>Misc</i>		200
<i>Colour Marking Register</i>		0
<i>Bank charges</i>		750
<i>Reserve Fund Intern. Wader Studies</i>		0
<i>Excess of income over expenditure</i>		0
		<hr/>
	£	14,710

25th August 2011

Dear David

Re Independent audit of the Wader Study Group accounts for the year 2010.

I have examined the groups accounts in accordance with the general guidance given by the UK Charity Commission. The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and explanations from you as treasurer concerning any such matters.

I believe that the accounts are a true and accurate record of the WSG's financial situation for the year 2010.

Yours sincerely

Nigel

Dr Nigel A Clark
Head of Projects
British Trust for Ornithology
The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU UK
Tel: 01842 750050 Fax: 01842 750030 www.bto.org
Charity No 216652, Company Limited by Guarantee No 357284 (England and Wales)

Editor's report (Humphrey Sitters)

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.

A feature of the scientific content was the first two papers on migration strategy using the newly available light-level geolocators. Both presented spectacular results that could not have easily been predicted. Clive Minton *et al.* showed that although three Ruddy Turnstones migrated from Australia to Siberia and back along much the same tracks, one did a 27,000 km loop migration north through China and returning via the Aleutian Islands and then right across the Pacific. Similarly Larry Niles *et al.* described highly variable migration strategies in New World Red Knots, with one bird flying 8,000 km non-stop from the Uruguay-Brazil border across Amazonia and the Atlantic to North Carolina. I am sure that in the near future we can look forward to learning much more about the movements of long-distance migrant waders through the deployment of geolocators.

Another key paper published in 2010 was by Christoph Zöckler *et al.* who were able to demonstrate that the key to saving the Spoon-billed Sandpiper from extinction was almost certainly stopping them from being hunted in SE Asia.

For ten years the *Wader Study Group Bulletin* was printed with care and efficiency by Mills Litho Book Printers in Cape Town, but in 2010, for economic and logistic reasons, we decided to move printing to the United Kingdom. This was prompted partly by the strength of the South African Rand, but also by the fact that production in the UK would facilitate quicker distribution to our largely European membership.

I am always greatly encouraged by the support I receive from the team involved in compiling and producing the *Bulletin* and I would particularly like to express my gratitude to all those who contributed in 2010: Marja Wren-Sargent for typesetting and layout, Włodzimierz Meissner for co-ordinating the *Ageing and Sexing Series*, Silke Nebel for compiling *Notes & News* and Rob Robinson for compiling *Wader Thesis Abstracts*.

Officer report of the Colour-mark Register Coordinator IWSG 2010 by Henk van Huffelen

Observations dealt with by the IWSG

In 2010 of the team of species experts (SPEX) who support the Coordinator with dealing with the resightings submitted to the IWSG was completed. For each species in the Register there is now an expert coordinator to administer the observations.

In 2010 we saw some changes in the team of SPEX:

- Hermann Hötker (Avocet) stepped down; the new SPEX is Guillaume Gelinaud.
- Jannik Hanssen (interim SPEX for Common sandpiper) stepped down, the new SPEX is Andre Thiel.
- Szymon Bzoma stepped down as Whimbrels/ Curlews coordinator: the new SPEX is Gerrit Gerritsen.
- Willem Bil stepped down as Lapwing SPEX. The new SPEX is Sara Bone (she started in early 2010).

I want to thank all the people that stepped down for their contribution to the Register. The new SPEX I want to welcome in the team!

During 2010 I have kept the ExCo updated about the achievements of this crew of 20+ volunteers through progress reports. It took some time to get the whole process started but in 2010 for most species the resightings were processed accurately and in a timely manner. Most SPEX operated more or less independently but when needed I have provided SPEX with more detailed guidance.

Scheme issuing

In 2010 scheme issuing was again the most time consuming aspect of the Colour-mark Coordinator task. The last-minute requests were most stressful. There were even occasions that my regular job was jeopardised by this high pressure to process a scheme request. Some ringers assumed irrationally fast processing times for their requests. The average processing time was between 4-6 weeks, though some very good documented scheme requests, which were prepared by researching www.cr-reading.be (or cr-reading.org) were processed faster. Sometimes I managed to process scheme requests within 1 week. In total I received 54 requests in 2010. The numbers of requests were divided over the months as follows:

Jan (6),Feb(6)Mar(10),Apr(7),May(7),Jun(5),Jul(2),Aug(4),Sep(3),Oct(1),Nov(3),Dec(2)

In total I received 54 requests. Some requests concerned more than one species so the total number of schemes registered was as high as 86!

Looking forward to 2011

Dirk Raes (cr-birding.be) has been developing a system on his website where independent webmasters can operate. Dirk and I have been in discussion how I and my team of SPEX can participate. The Colour-mark Officer will be the editor of the wader section of cr-birding. The draft website-structure was ready at the very moment I write this (Aug 26th 2011). Dirk and I together have been facing the challenge to make a really good web application to report resightings for waders. Note that the wader section of the new cr-birding.org site is not yet available: you will still have to search on cr-birding.be.

Publicity Officer – Pedro Lourenço

During 2010, the publicity officer was responsible for the production of new IWSG t-shirts which are to be sold at IWSG meetings and other related international or regional meetings as means to publicize the group and obtain a small profit. A total of 100 t-shirts were printed, using a design made by Portuguese artist Maria Nunes, and these were a great success at the group's annual meeting, where we were able to sell about half the stock. The cost of this endeavour was of 475 euros and the expected gross revenue is of about 1000 euros (at a unitary sale price of 10 euros for IWSG members and 12 euros for non-members).