



Bulletin 110

Editorial



Elena Lebedeva and Jan Jaap Hooft
on their wedding day

One of the things I *love* about the International Wader Study Group and editing the *Bulletin* is being part of a friendly, enthusiastic worldwide community of like-minded people. As editor for the past five years, I have conducted amiable, vigorous and informal correspondence with authors in 37 countries. I have friends – as members of the IWSG we all have friends – all over the world!

In the introduction to his recent field guide to the birds of Brazil, Deodato Souza says “Knowledge of nature, and its beauty, where birds occupy an outstanding place, is not only a source of pleasure but also a much needed tool when it comes to building a new civilization, this time on a basis of cooperation, not of contradiction.” That rings true to me. Interest in natural history and a common concern for conservation are things that bring the people of the world together in friendly cooperation. It is often said that sport brings people together. Well it does: to do battle!

As waders know no political boundaries, we researchers often have to travel and sometimes that leads to more than friendship! This brings me to the reason for this editorial: to offer our congratulations to two leading members of the IWSG.

Elena Lebedeva has been an enthusiastic member of the IWSG’s committee for no less than 15 years.

She is well known for her work with the Russian Bird Conservation Union based in Moscow. She is also very well known to the Oystercatchers of the White Sea! On 26 April this year Elena and Jan Jaap Hooft were married in the city hall of Groningen in the Netherlands. Congratulations Lena and Jan – we wish you every happiness!

Few of us have studied waders in more parts of the world than Silke Nebel who compiles *Notes & News* for the *Bulletin*. From her native Germany, her education took her via the Canary Islands, the Netherlands and Scotland to Canada where she did her PhD on Western Sandpipers at Simon Fraser University. In Canada she married a Canadian, Graham Thompson, and a couple of years ago they moved to Sydney Australia. On 26 May this year, Silke gave birth to a lovely girl, Maya. Latest reports are that mother, daughter (and father!) are doing well. Congratulations! We wonder whether the baby has the laughing skills of her mother!



Silke Nebel and Maya

Humphrey Sitters
(with help from Petra de Goeij)

