

Minutes of the 2006 International Wader Study Group Annual General Meeting

The Chairman (Hermann Hötter) opened the meeting at 9 am and welcomed everyone to Höllviken. Apologies were received from Gerard Boere, Elena Lebedeva and David Stroud. The minutes of the 2005 AGM, published in the IWSG Bulletin 108, were accepted by the delegates and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's report

The report was distributed with the conference package. In addition, the Chairman stated that the group is functioning well, producing several publications during the last year. He thanked the ExCo for the co-operation. One extra meeting of the ExCo took place in spring. Furthermore, political activities of the group increased. In Wilhelmshaven a workshop on serious declining wader numbers in the Wadden Sea was organised in co-operation with the International Wader Study Group. One of the bases for the workshop was the Cadiz conclusions of the IWSG.

A worrying development for the IWSG is the membership, which is still decreasing. The ExCo is discussing actions to increase membership, as well as increasing the group's income.

Members are asked to take an active part in the group's activities. In particular, more material should be added to the IWSG website.

Treasurer's report

The report was distributed with the conference package. No questions were put to the Treasurer.

Auditor's report

The report of the auditing committee, which consisted of Tom van der Have and Martin de Jong, was read by Bob Loos. The report confirmed that the group's finances were in excellent order.

Membership Secretary's report

Robin Ward reported that membership had declined by 4%. The bulk of the membership is stable but rather old. Therefore, more effort has to be put into recruiting more young members. One suggestion was to include the membership fee in the conference fee for non-members, so that all participants are automatically a member for one year.

Editor's report

The report was distributed with the conference package. Humphrey Sitters made a short presentation summarising five years of his editorship. In total, 214 papers from 37 countries were published during this time. The Editor is happy to receive suggestions to improve the bulletin.

Project Co-ordinator's report

The report was distributed with the conference package. There were no projects with fieldwork in 2005.

Magdalena Remiciewiz reported on the *Tringa glareola* 2000 project, which is in the final writing-up phase. It is planned to write the report in 2007 with 2008 as the proposed publication year.

Pavel Tomkovich reported on the Arctic Breeding Conditions project. The last printed issue was published in 2005 with the results from 2004. There was no grant available in 2006, however the project was continued. As long as no grants are available, the reports will not be published as hardcopy, but will be put on the project's website. As soon as money becomes available, the reports will be printed. Nick Davidson pointed out that 2007 is International Polar Year and that a linkage with the Breeding Conditions project might be beneficial.

Simon Gillings reported on the 2003 Golden Plover Count Project. Within this project a further Europe-wide count is planned which should take place on 18 October 2008. There



A big problem taking the conference photograph was the distraction of the raptor migration. This time it was a White-tailed Sea Eagle.

are still some gaps in the coverage by national co-ordinators. Further information on the project will be put on the IWSG website. In the 2006–2007 winter, monthly Golden Plover counts are planned for Great Britain.

Humphrey Sitters reported on a potential IWSG project about obscure waders. The proposal is based on the observation that only little is known about the majority of waders. The idea behind the project is to boost the knowledge of the scientific community about these waders. The project needs a co-ordinator who would be backed up by a working group. This group should define what obscure waders really are and formulate the aims of the project. It is important to look for people who are already working on 'obscure' waders, contact them, and get them involved. The suggestion is further to look for volunteers who are ready to co-ordinate the collection of data and information for single species.

Conference Co-ordinator's report

The report was distributed with the conference package. Petra de Goeij reported that the 2006 Annual Conference was again very popular, so that not enough places for all waderologists interested in the conference were available. A waiting list had to be set up.

In 2007 the conference will take place during 29–30 September in La Rochelle, France. For this conference there will be a limit on the number of participants, set by the size of the lecture hall, of 140.

IWSG–Wetlands International Liaison Officer's report

As David Stroud was unable to attend the conference, he had sent a report presented by Nick Davidson. This informed members about progress in the group's relations with Wetlands International. As the IWSG acts as the wader specialist group of Wetlands International, we are asked for regular population estimates. Volume 15 of the International

Wader Studies series publishes the actual estimates. However, the process has to continue. As new information comes in, we need to update the population estimates. The next step is Waterbird Population Estimates 5 which will be published in 2008. To ensure a sound contribution by the IWSG, it was suggested:

- 1) that we should identify members who are willing to input as species experts;
- 2) that we should circulate all members with details about the most needed information, particularly on small, rapidly declining wader populations; and
- 3) that we should make more use of count data, despite the gaps that exist, leading to a semi-quantitative approach.

IWSG Support Foundation

Bob Loos reported on the progress made with the IWSG Support Foundation. The foundation is not yet founded. The launch is scheduled for the conference in La Rochelle, France.

Election of Officers and other members of the Executive Committee

Bob Gill and Les Underhill were unanimously elected as members of the Executive Committee for another three-year's term.

Any other business

Rodney West produced some goods for sale to increase the group's income. He presented to the members a bag, book markers, and a sweatshirt, which were on sale during the conference.

Cor Smit and Tom van der Have were elected to the auditing committee.

INTERNATIONAL WADER STUDY GROUP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007

WELCOME TO LA ROCHELLE!

The annual conference of the IWSG will be held during 28 September to 1 October at La Rochelle, France, hosted by the Research Centre on Coastal Ecology at the University of La Rochelle and the LPO (Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux) in cooperation with local nature reserves.

Further details will be announced in the next issue of the *Bulletin* (April 2007). In the meantime any enquiries about the conference should be addressed to Pierrick Bocher (pbocher@univ-lr.fr) or Francis Meunier.
