



**West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
Africain**



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Society Notices

Third Biennial Meeting of the Society

The third biennial meeting, 6-8 May 1994, was held in the Netherlands at the suggestion of Peter Alexander-Marrack. Arrangements for the meeting, held in Kampen, a Hanseatic town on the River IJssel, were made by Jan Nap. The meeting was attended by 24 members and guests, from the Netherlands, France and Britain.

The General Meeting of the Society was held on Saturday, 7 May. The minutes are given below.

Dinner on Saturday evening was followed by a presentation by Frans Schepers and P. Edelaar of two field studies set up by International Wader and Waterfowl Research (WIWO) in West Africa, as part of their research programme into the Afro-Palaeartic migration system. Frans Schepers described a project on waders in the coastal region of Gabon and Mr Edelaar a research project in irrigated rice-fields in north Cameroon. It was particularly encouraging to hear of research currently being carried out in West Africa.

In addition to the business of the meeting, members were able to take advantage of the proximity of the Zwarte Meer reserve and the well known wetlands of Oostvaardersplassen in Flevoland. Jan Nap had obtained permission for a visit to the ringing site at Zwarte Meer which is the stronghold of the Great Reed Warbler in the Netherlands. Indeed, besides excellent views of that bird, Icterine, Savi's and Reed Warblers and Reed Bunting were noted in the reed beds. In the surrounding fields there was a good population of Marsh Harrier, Lapwing and Black-tailed Godwit. Members were also privileged to be able to visit a breeding colony of Purple Heron on private farmland.

The meeting ended with a visit on Sunday morning to Oostvaardersplassen. Despite the rain, members visited several locations in this wetland reserve and were well rewarded with views of Bluethroat and Spoonbill, and close views from a hide of over 20 pairs of nesting Avocet, with amongst them a nesting Little Ringed Plover. Mention must also be made of the large breeding colony of Cormorant and the interesting display set out at the Oostvaardersplassen Centre.

The Society is most grateful to Mr Schepers and Mr Edelaar for travelling to Kampen especially to talk about the WIWO projects, and special thanks are due to Jan Nap for making all the local arrangements and for providing such an interesting and enjoyable programme of excursions which ensured the success of the meeting.

Amberley Moore