

EDITORIAL AND CRG NEWS

It is a pleasure for us to present hereby the fifth volume of the Wetlands International Cormorant Research Group Bulletin. From the editorial board our best wishes for the year to come! The activities of the group are mentioned below in brief:

1. The group participates in the Pan European project of REDCAFE. This is the EC - Framework V concerted action: Reducing the conflict between Cormorants And Fisheries on a pan-European scale (REDCAFE). Four work packages were defined relating to conflict definition (Hull), the ecology/damage interface (Lelystad), management tools (Horsens) and problem resolving (London). Up to some 18 countries in Europe took participation. David Carss of ITE Banchory took the inspiring lead to get the people, ideas and data together. The final reports will appear during the first half of 2003. For information contact David Carss at dnc@ceh.ac.uk who sent around 19 newsletters in order to feed the flock.
2. We encourage people actively involved in cormorant issues, either problem-related or scientifically or managerial working in the area of the Americas and Australasia to contact Mennobart: YOU COULD BE OUR REGIONAL COORDINATOR!!!
3. For information please refer to the Cormorant Research Groups website which is coordinated by Stefano Volponi from Italy. On this site you can find any update information about the group's activities, plans and ringing programmes (<http://web.tiscali.it/sv2001>)
4. We continue to publish the WI Cormorant Research Group Bulletin. Depending on activities and contributions, a number is prepared. This 5th number will be published also on the website.
5. This winter in January Cormorant roost counts are organized all over Europe and North Africa (announcement elsewhere in this volume).
6. The Freising proceedings will be produced during the first quarter of 2003. They will be a supplement of the 2002 volume of "Die Vogelwelt - Beiträge zur Vogelkunde" (Vogelwelt 123, Suppl.).
7. The next International Cormorant Research Group meeting is planned in Odessa, Ukraine in 2003. Preliminary dates are 10-14 September 2003. The organization is in hands of Dr. Rusev and Dr. Korzukov (olegk@te.net.ua) from the Odessa National University, Department of Biology.
8. We continue to manage the database which records the developments of the European breeding numbers of the Great Cormorant.

9. Mennobart van Eerden has been at the European symposium on the great Cormorant in Strasbourg, organized by the French Ministry of Environment and the Superior Council of Fishing in March 2002. Discussion included the possibilities of European wide management of the population.

We sincerely hope that this issue will be at least as readable, entertaining and worthwhile as its four predecessors and that its contents will stimulate ever more cormorant workers to make their work, or summaries of it, available to their colleagues by means of this bulletin in the following issues.

Mennobart R. van Eerden & Stef van Rijn

