

Wildfowl 58: Editorial

Wildfowl has a distinctly eastern emphasis to it this year, with several papers on species and internationally important wetlands in Far East Asia. Two of these are from China. The first describes how wintering geese, including the globally threatened Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* (classed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as “Vulnerable”), use the East Dongting Lake National Nature Reserve (designated by the Chinese Government as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention); the second sheds new light on the feeding ecology of Swan Geese *Anser cygnoides* exploiting different habitats. Information is also provided on bird numbers at little-known Mongolian wetlands, including the Ganga Nuur complex (also a Ramsar site), and on variation in egg dimensions recorded for the Scaly-sided Merganser *Mergus squamatus* in south Primorye, Russia.

Other papers cover a diverse range of topics, such as the development of survey techniques for determining the numbers of Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* breeding in Minnesota, and the results of a recent survey of Algerian wetlands which identified sites currently not protected under national and international legislation that are in urgent need of conservation measures.

I am pleased to announce two changes put in place for *Wildfowl* this year. Firstly, the journal has been submitted for inclusion in Thompson Scientific database – previously known as the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) – whose database provides comprehensive coverage of the world’s most important and influential journals to raise awareness and facilitate retrieval of information. This would provide an impact factor for the journal, a measure now frequently though perhaps controversially used as a proxy to indicate the importance of a journal to its field. More immediately, I am delighted to report the appointment of an Editorial Board of distinguished scientists, listed on the page ii, who are kindly advising on the submission of papers and with the balance of the journal.

During the year we have received a number of queries from individuals wishing to subscribe to *Wildfowl*. The journal is available to WWT Members at a reduced rate of £15 (in the UK) or £25 (overseas), and to non-members at £20 (in the UK) or £30 (overseas), inclusive of postage and packaging. To subscribe to *Wildfowl*, or to purchase back numbers, please contact Margaret (“Maggie”) Sage at the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BT, UK, telephone +44 (0) 1453 891257 or send an e-mail to wildfowl@wwt.org.uk.

I remain most grateful to the referees for their valuable comments on the papers, to Daniel Bergmann for his beautiful cover photograph of Harlequin Ducks in Iceland and to the team at Cambridge University Press for their help and patience in producing the journal. I am also indebted to Nicki Hayward, Maggie Sage and Jackie Osgood for their assistance throughout, from collating the submitted manuscripts to circulating the journal.

