
Reports on Working Groups

Aquatic Birds

Limnology and Aquatic Birds: Monitoring, Modelling and Management. 2000.

F.A. Comin, J.A. Herrera-Silveira, and J. Ramirez-Ramirez, Editors.

Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán, Mérida, Yucatán, México. (ISBN 968-7556-98-7)

The Working Group on Aquatic Birds of SIL meets periodically, usually triennially, to evaluate limnological aspects of aquatic birds. This book contains the proceedings of the Second International Symposium on Limnology and Aquatic Birds that was held in Mérida (Yucatán, México) in November 1997. Some 22 papers are grouped into three subject areas. (1) The limnological basis of aquatic bird habitats evaluated characteristics of aquatic environments in relation to the abundance, distribution, behavior, and ecophysiology of aquatic birds. Methods of monitoring aquatic birds and their habitats were discussed. (2) Modelling of energy and other links of aquatic ecosystems to aquatic birds are evaluated. Particular attention is directed toward sources of food and the impacts of birds on lower trophic levels, as well as how the birds can influence nutrient dynamics in these ecosystems. (3) Integration of management of aquatic ecosystems in relation to bird conservation.

Robert G. Wetzel

Aquatic Invasive Species (WGAIS)

During calendar year 2000 a workshop, "Invasions of European and North American Ecosystems by Ponto-Caspian Species", was held under the sponsorship of the WGAIS in association with the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO). The purpose of this workshop was to bring together scientists from Europe and North America to discuss the recent predominance of successful Ponto-Caspian aquatic species invasions in the Laurentian Great Lakes and Baltic Sea, and to examine the potential for future scientific collaborations on research studies and information exchange. Financial support for the workshop was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Great Lakes National Program Office), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Canadian Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

The workshop was held in association with the ASLO 2000 Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark and was convened on June 2-3, 2000 at the H.C. Ørsted Institute at the Science Faculty in Copenhagen. Thirty-four scientists, students, and program managers attended, representing the USA, Russia, Canada, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, Austria, Estonia, Finland, Norway, Poland, Romania/Canada (a doctoral student at the University of Guelph, Canada), and Ukraine/Canada (a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Windsor, Canada).

The first full day of the workshop was reserved for scientific presentations. The second day was used to identify and discuss international cooperation and future directions. It became clear that additional efforts and resources would be needed to identify and engage additional scientists, especially from Ponto-Caspian basin countries.

Please see the following web site:

<http://www.zin.ru/projects/invasions/gaas/silwg99.htm> for background information on the WGAIS and existing goals.

Changes in Working Group leadership effective April 1, 2001

Vadim Panov has assumed primary leadership as Chairperson of WGAIS. He is a Senior Research Scientist with the Laboratory of the Freshwater and Experimental Hydrobiology of the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg, Russia. Vadim can be contacted by e-mail at: gaas@zin.ru.

I have assumed the role of Vice-Chairperson and North American liaison for the Working Group. I am a Senior Physical Scientist at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA. I can be contacted by e-mail at: reid@glertl.noaa.gov.

During the coming year, Vadim and I will work to expand international participation in WGAIS; review and revise goals for CY2001 and CY2002; and, plan an activity for the next SIL Congress (2004).

To participate in WGAIS, please contact Vadim at: gaas@zin.ru with your name, mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address, and an indication of how you would like to be involved.

David Reid for WGAIS