

WI-IUCN SSC Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group



2016-2017 Report



David Gonçalves

Chair

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Red List Authority Coordinator

BirdLife International

Location/Affiliation

Research Center in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources (CIBIO), University of Porto, Campus Agrário de Vairão, Vairão, Vila do Conde, Portugal; Biology Department, Faculty of Sciences, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal

Number of members

140



Mission statement

The first aim of the Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group (WSSG) is to provide an up-to-date knowledge on eight woodcock and 18 snipe species in the world. It is also expected to encourage new research and to facilitate contacts between researchers. WSSG plays the role of expertise platform for biologists, conservationists and wildlife managers interested in woodcocks and snipes for share and exchange of information. As these are games species, the final objective is to ensure the sustainable use of the populations.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Communications

■ Communication

i. Publication of the annual newsletter of the group (numbers 42 and 43); uploaded in the web site of Wetlands International. (KSR #28)

■ Scientific meetings

i. The 8th Woodcock and Snipe Workshop was held in the village of Madalena, Pico island, Azores, Portugal; 9 - 11 May, 2017. Organised by the Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e Recursos Genéticos (CIBIO, University of Porto, Portugal) and the Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS, France). There were thirty three participants, from 10 countries, the majority members of the WSSG. Twenty six communications (19 oral and 7 posters); the "Programme and abstracts" book is available here: https://www.wetlands.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Program_and_Abstract_book_final.pdf. (KSR #28)

ii. The participation in the 11th American Woodcock Symposium materialized with two communications on the management of woodcock in Europe, one in partnership with Andrew Hoodless (Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust) for hunters and woodcock enthusiasts, during a special session. Andrew is also WSSG member. It was possible to divulge some studies and activities carried out in Europe.

Increasing diversity of SSC

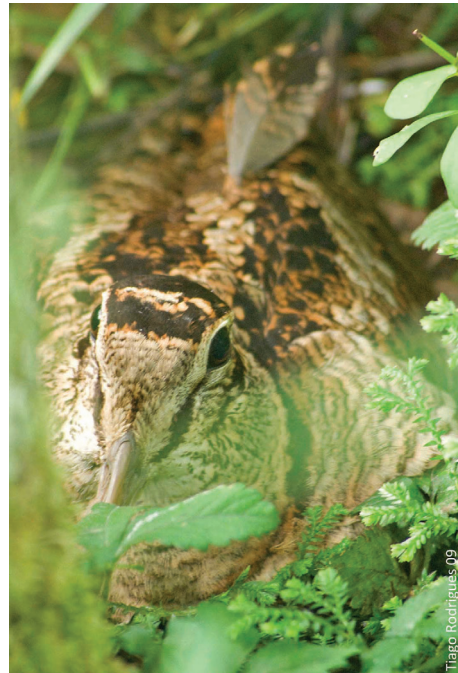
■ Membership

i. The visit of the Chair to the US (18-28 October) allowed the contact with American colleagues, members of the WSSG, and the recruitment of new members for the group.

Acknowledgements

We thank the following donors who helped cover the costs of the 8th Woodcock and Snipe Workshop: ONCFS (France), Direção Regional da Ciência e Tecnologia (DRCT, Azores, Portugal), Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT, Portugal), Direção Regional dos Recursos Florestais (DRFF, Azores, Portugal). Moreover, we want to thank the Municipality of Madalena for making available some of its facilities, including a modern auditorium. Thanks also to Al Stewart (Michigan Department Of Natural Resources) for his hospitality and all his work during D. Gonçalves' visit to the US. We also thank the Rectory of the University of Porto (Portugal), for the financial support given to D. Gonçalves travel to the US, through the program "Santander Universities".

Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), Least Concern
Photo: Tiago M. Rodrigues



Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), Least Concern
Photo: Tiago Silva



Common Snipe chick (*Gallinago gallinago*), Least Concern
Photo: Tiago M. Rodrigues



Eurasian Woodcock chick (*Scolopax rusticola*), Least Concern
Photo: Tiago M. Rodrigues

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Research activity: improve the knowledge on the conservation status of African, South American and Asian woodcock and snipe species.

Communications

Communication: (1) publication of the WSSG annual newsletter (numbers 43, 44, 45 and 46); (2) publication of the Proceedings of the 8th Woodcock and Snipe Workshop.

Scientific meetings: (1) organisation of the 8th Woodcock and Snipe Workshop; (2) participation in the 11th American Woodcock Symposium, 24-27 October, 2017, Roscommon, Michigan, US.

Increasing diversity of SSC

Membership: visit to the US, to meet American colleagues and strengthen collaboration within the group and recruit new members.

Policy

Policy advice: continue working closely with entities involved in hunting management.

Projected impact for the quadrennium

2017-2020

The group's workshop, held in Pico in 2017, the publication of the respective minutes and the annual newsletter, contribute to increase knowledge about our target species and their conservation and sustainable management. In this sense, we also perspective an increasingly important role of our member's next to the entities responsible for assuring that. By 2020, we also envisage having new data on the populations of some poorly known woodcock and snipe species, from Africa, South America and Asia.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 2/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Communications (3 activities)
- Increasing diversity of SSC (1 activity)

Main KSRs addressed: 28

Resolutions 2016 WCC: 027

KSR: Key Species Result