

lower profile of the HRC at the time. I was surprised to see that the three records of White-tailed Plover *Vanellus leucurus* have not been included (Brooks supplement) and can only assume Steve decided not to include them.

Lists covering butterflies, dragonflies, orchids, mammals will also be really useful for many visitors, as will be the list of scientific, Dutch and Greek bird names. The list of local place names and hints on pronunciation are useful although the title is missing at the top of the page.

There are >90 photographs showing sites, habitats and species, offering a good flavour of what the island has to offer. It could just be the quality of the paper used, but many of the photos do look rather 'flat'. The book suffers from a number of typographical errors throughout and there is a chunk of text missing on page 60, which is unfortunate. Another annoying mistake is the frequent use of "were" instead of "where". Such



minor points aside, the book provides an excellent up-to-date guide to Lesvos and will undoubtedly prove very useful for any visitor; thoroughly recommended.

Dawn Balmer

OSME NEWS

Geoff Welch

Conservation and Research Fund: change to sub-committee members

Due to pressure of work, Ramaz Gokhelashvili has had to retire from the committee and he is replaced by Vasil Ananian from Armenia. Vasil is a regular contributor to *Sandgrouse* and one of the most active birdwatchers in the Caucasus.

Increased funding for work in the United Arab Emirates

OSME is pleased to announce that additional funding for conservation and research projects in the United Arab Emirates, and occasionally elsewhere in the Arabian peninsula, is now available thanks to the establishment of a partnership with the Emirates Natural History Group (Abu Dhabi). Applications for funding will be considered following the existing CRF guidelines—see the OSME website www.osme.org

for details. This partnership provides an opportunity to support more small projects in the region or, where of outstanding need or importance, larger projects. Recipients will be expected to provide a report suitable for publication in the Group's monthly newsletter *Focus* or in its annual refereed journal *Tribulus* and, if possible, to give a presentation to the Group if in the Emirates.

The OSME Region List of Bird Taxa (ORL)

We are aware that not all of our members have reliable and fast access to the internet and therefore the ORL team has produced a printed version of the List that is available from OSME, price £8 including post and packing. To order a copy, please contact OSME Sales, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, UK (sales@osme.org).

The ORL team has also produced a simplified version of the List, which provides a quick reference to the recommended names and systematic order of the birds occurring in the OSME region. Copies are available as above or by download from the OSME website.

OSME Summer Meeting and AGM 2010

This year's Summer Meeting and AGM will again be held at the BTO Headquarters (The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU, UK) on Saturday 10 July. There is ample free parking. The bus station is about 10 minutes walk away and the railway station about 15 minutes. Road access is via the A11 London–Norwich road, connecting with the A14 from the north and Midlands. There are regular trains on the Birmingham–Norwich line, and also from Cambridge and London Kings Cross. Full details of the day are given in the enclosed programme.

OSME raffle 2009 and 2010

The winners of the 2009 raffle to raise funds for OSME's core activities and the Conservation and Research Fund were:

- 1st prize Ron Herbert—Opticron telescope and tripod kit
- 2nd prize John Bartley—Naturetrek holiday voucher
- 3rd prize C Northwood—Country Innovations coat
- 4th prize Clare Stringer—Birds of the Western Palearctic interactive DVD
- 5th prize Ron Herbert—British Birds interactive DVD
- 6th prize Mike Jennings—Mule pack
- 7th prize Mark Day—Wildlife Recorder computer programme
- 8th prize Chris Spooner—Birds of Turkey book

Congratulations to the above and very many thanks to the companies that donated the prizes and to everyone who bought tickets.

We are running another raffle this year and a book of tickets is enclosed (UK addresses only). As explained last year, under

UK Gaming legislation, raffle tickets can only be sold in the UK so we apologise to all of our overseas members that they are unable to participate, though those with access to a UK bank account are able to buy tickets. Extra books of tickets can be obtained from Chris Lamsdell, 4 Hardings Close, Iver, Bucks SL0 0HL, UK (ads@osme.org).

This year's prizes are:

- 1st prize Opticron Imagic BGA SE 8x42 binoculars
- 2nd prize Naturetrek £250 holiday voucher
- 3rd prize Country Innovations New Venture waistcoat
- 4th prize BirdGuides Breeding Birds of the Western Palearctic DVD
- 5th prize A&C Black Birds of Turkey
- 6th prize A&C Black Birds of the Middle East (new edition)

A small number of members contacted OSME last year expressing a preference not to receive raffle tickets unsolicited. Unfortunately, because of the way the mailing of *Sandgrouse* is organized, it is not possible to omit inserts from individual mailing envelopes so we express our apologies to those affected and hope that they will appreciate that the raffle is a cost-effective way of raising money to support OSME's work and, importantly, no-one is under any obligation to purchase tickets.

Gift Aid

Approximately half of OSME's UK members have completed a Gift Aid declaration form which allows OSME to reclaim from HM Revenue and Customs 28 pence for every £1 paid in membership subscriptions or as donations at no additional cost to the members involved. With this year's increase in subscription rates and anticipated changes in UK taxation arrangements in 2011, OSME is keen to maximize the benefits to the Society that this simple means of income generation offers. Therefore if you are a UK taxpayer and have not yet completed a Gift Aid form, please contact the OSME Treasurer, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, UK (treasurer@osme.org).