

Come and meet us:

- 15th-17th August 2014. British Birdwatching Fair: www.birdfair.org.uk
- 23rd-24th August 2014. Dutch Bird Fair: www.dutchbirdfair.nl/
- 5th-7th September 2014. Falsterbo Bird Show: www.sofnet.org/fbs
- 22nd-23rd November 2014. North-west Birdwatching Festival Martin Mere WWT: www.wwt.org.uk

Forthcoming talks:

- 11th September 2014 North Bucks RSPB local group: The Cruck Barm Milton Keynes MK13 9AP www.rspb.org.uk/groups/northbucks
- 3rd November 2014. Sutton Coldfield RSPB local group: Bishop Vasey's Grammar School, Sutton Coldfield B74 2NH www.rspb.org.uk/groups/suttoncoldfield

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Editor's diatribe – Rick Simpson

What is the difference between a birdwatcher and a conservationist?

To my mind there should not be any difference at all. If we, who are passionate about birds, are not the ones actively trying to save them from hardship and harm, then who will?

It was this thought that dramatically transformed our need to see a Spoon-billed Sandpiper, while we still could, into a desire to help save the species from extinction in the first place.

The journey that Elis and I have been on together is incredible, not just literally, flying across the globe alighting in 14 countries on 6 continents, but also the more significant journey we have made from being people desperate to see a Spoon-billed Sandpiper, come what may, to what we are today, founders of a brand new charity dedicated to wader conservation.

In the following pages you will read about our current position and what we plan for the future but we can't help occasionally casting an eye back over our shoulders at those glorious 15 months of freedom and adventure from time to time.

But the fun and frivolity of all that travel brought home some of the more serious problems that waders are facing; wetlands being drained, Prairies and Steppes being turned into agricultural wastelands, perversely, the abandonment of traditional farms allowing open areas to become overgrown and unsuitable for waders to continue to thrive and intertidal zones are being 'reclaimed'. Reclaimed? As if they ever



© Elis Simpson

Ibisbill *Ibidorhynchos struthersii*

'belonged' to us in the first place! Even the few birds of this genre that live in dry areas are not free from problems. Afforestation is occurring across southern Africa for example, savannah turning to trees, the increased use of off road vehicles is eating away at hitherto undisturbed habitats. Pollution of seas and fresh water, transformation of rivers due to dredging and conversely silting due to soil erosion. It all looks pretty bleak.

Yet there is good news, we have been discovering that, if you look, there are hundreds if not thousands of people across this benighted planet that are getting off their backsides to do something about all this, apart from the essential researchers and field ornithologists there is a veritable army of volunteers who care enough to give up their own time freely to be an antidote to all this negative impact we humans are having.

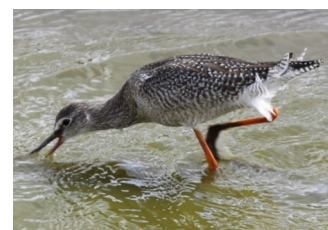
Elis and I have been discovering projects both large and small where people are making a difference. Local communities supporting beach nesting bird protection programmes, schools becoming involved with the self same projects, concerned citizens taking the local authorities to task for the lack of effort being put into conservation, it is great to see and the more we see the more it makes us believe that there is a growing section of society that is not solely led by the need for 'economic growth' and 'wealth creation'; two popular sound bites of politicians today.

We need to take stock and think about these words found on a wall in a Brazilian school: *Only when the last tree is felled, The last fish dead And the last drop of water polluted, Will mankind realise he can't eat money!*

Featured wader: Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*



© Elis Simpson



Limited edition Wader Quest Collectables snapped up!

We recently launched a limited edition Wader Quest Collectables item with a batch of 20 hand-crafted Spoon-billed Sandpipers. Each one is in a slightly different pose and as they are all hand painted each is unique. The models were numbered and a small certificate of authenticity included in the hand-made boxes.

These little models proved very popular and we soon sold out.

When we first got them we placed them on a table to photograph them and we felt that we were in possession of our own little terracotta army.



Our terracotta army.

© Elis Simpson

They first went on sale at the Norfolk Bird Fair where they aroused a great deal of interest and several people also contacted us having seen them on our blog postings.

They had a truly international appeal, we found ourselves scurrying off to the Post Office to send parcels both within the UK and beyond to Finland, Canada and even New Zealand!

We are hopeful that we will have more available soon, our man in Brazil is working on them as we write so if you missed out on the first batch, you'd better be quick with the second, they won't be around for long we suspect.

The Wader Quest mobile charity shop!

Almost every High Street in the land is now littered with charity shops vying to relieve you of your money for their chosen 'just cause', so why, we thought, should Wader Quest be any different?

We were very fortunate in that we happened to come across a couple of treasure troves in the form of people downsizing their living accommodation and wanting to 'get shot' of a load of old junk. We volunteered to shift this 'junk' to the local tip, our payment being that whatever we thought salvageable we could keep to sell in our charity shop. The deal was done.

Unfortunately we do not yet have sufficient funds to risk the overheads of renting a shop in the High Street, so we came up with the idea of a mobile charity shop, i.e. a series of car boot sales!

After a great deal of toing and froing with



visits to the local dump, cleaning, buffing, sand-papering, painting and polishing we set off for our first car boot sale to see what we could raise for the charity.

We cannot say that this is a vast return on our time, but at least it is enjoyable for the most part and many of the car boot organisations let us have a discount or even a free pitch as we are raising funds for a good cause.

We have now completed six car boots and as a result have raised around £250 which is a very useful sum at this stage. In addition some of the better items that we have received we have sold on ebay and that has brought us a further £340, after costs. We therefore consider this to be a worthwhile use of our time and will continue to carry out these sales as and when we can, and besides, it's fun.

Hooded Plover 2013/14 breeding season update

The 2013/14 breeding season for the Hooded Plovers was a mixed one.

There were some successes and equally there were many failures too but, as BirdLife Australia's Beach Nesting Birds Programme Project Manager, Grainne Maguire put it, 'this comes as no surprise for a species that has a multitude of threats facing it'.

Due to the work that has been carried out by BirdLife Australia and other

organisations a strong case has now been made for nominating the eastern form of Hooded Plover to be raised to Vulnerable status. If this is achieved it will assist greatly in the management of the species as a whole. Much of the data that has been collected to make this case has come from the 1,000+ volunteers that form an army of 'Hoody' protectors across Australia.

The news from the Mornington Peninsula, where we visited with Renee Mead during our trip to Australia, was that over the whole peninsula 37 pairs of Hooded Plovers were monitored, 139 eggs observed and just 34 chicks observed of which just 1 fledged. This success rate was down 25% on the average and since hatching rate was down by 10% it shows that chick mortality rates were high this year.

These terrible statistics tell the sad story of the Hooded Plover in a nutshell, and while this was a particularly bad year, just 1

bird from 35 pairs is a shocking result.

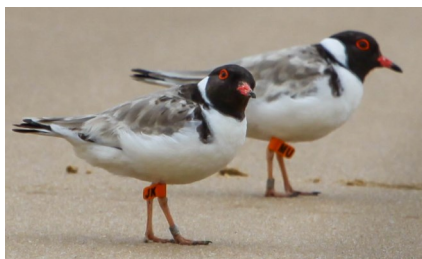
On the Bass Coast the birds fared better, but still the results look dismal. From 29 pairs of birds there were just 7 chicks fledged. In this case it is thought that high tides and fox predation were the main causes of failure.

The Bellarine Coast produced 4 chicks and the Surf Coast a further 3 with one chick being killed by an unleashed dog less than a week before fledging.

On Waratah Bay 6 birds fledged while on Philip Island there were 21 nests, containing 50 eggs of which 22 hatched but only 8 fledged.

In Western Australia the annual survey of Hooded Plovers counted a total of 658 birds of which a little over 10%, 69, were juveniles.

Whilst this is not the complete picture of the Hooded Plovers' season by any means, it does illustrate what they are up against.



© Elis Simpson

Hooded Plover *Thinornis rubricollis*

Wader Quest Magellanic Plover project

The Magellanic Plover project is advancing slowly but surely. Ricardo Matus is raring to go in Chile and we have had a favourable quote for the nets he is going to require to complete the project.

So what is this project all about? Well, it



© Elis Simpson

Magellanic Plover *Pluvianellus socialis*

seems that there is a general perception, of which we became aware at the British Birdwatching Fair last year when seeking information and help, that it is getting harder to locate these interesting and little studied birds these days. We were told by a local birder that where once 40 birds could be found the numbers now rarely reached

double figures.

The real problem this bird faces at the moment is that we simply do not have an accurate estimate of the population and therefore we cannot possibly establish a trend for that population.

Ricardo Matus was the person who helped us with specific information that enabled us to see these birds on our travels. For a long time he has wanted to start a ringing and flagging programme that would, in time, reveal some details about survival rates and longevity as well as perhaps answering some questions about where individual birds go when they leave the breeding grounds.

Ricardo has much experience ringing waders and hopes to catch them both at the nesting sites and also on their migration stop over points and wintering grounds such as Bahia Lomas.

We have agreed to fund the purchase of the nets and also fund his field expenses at least for the first year, and of course hope to continue to do so into the future.

Later the project could include tracking devices giving us even more insight into these birds' movements and also we hope that a full survey on the ground may be

possible, it is certainly much needed.

It may turn out in the end that the Near Threatened status this species currently holds is correct, it may even get downgraded to Least Concern, let's hope so, but there is also the grim prospect that it could be upgraded to Vulnerable, or worse.

Although our project is on a small scale we hope that our results will be the first steps in assessing this species allowing decisions to be made about its possible management; better to act in a small way now than to find, later on, that we need to start fund raising for yet another captive breeding programme!

If you feel that you would like to support the project by making a donation you can do so through the website or, if you wish to be involved in any other capacity, feel free to contact us by email.



© Elis Simpson

Magellanic Plover *Pluvianellus socialis*

Meetings, talks and events

On May the 5th the first AGM of Wader Quest together with a meeting of the Board of Trustees was held at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, London. It was a superb venue which was secured for us by Trustees Lee Dingain and Rachel Walls who are members there. Those present were Rick Simpson, Elis Simpson, Martin Simpson, Lee Dingain and Rachel Walls, apologies for absence were received from David Lindo.

Many topics were discussed about the future of the charity and how to progress. One thing that was stressed was that it is very important for us now to manage the transition of Wader Quest from being the fundraising event that it was to making sure that it was evident that the character of Wader Quest had now changed and that it had become a charity dedicated to wader conservation.

An election of Officers was carried out with the results being; Rick Simpson — Chair; Elis Simpson — Treasurer; Martin Simpson stood down as Secretary, a post he held as an interim measure and Rachel Walls was elected to that post. Thanks were given to Martin for his help in getting the charity started by taking on the role. He will remain a Trustee with the remit of overseeing IT development in the future.

It was also decided that more Trustees

should be sought and the result since then has been that Chris Lamsdell has agreed to join the Board. He is a welcome addition with much experience in this role and his experience as a ringer will strengthen the Board's breadth of knowledge.

Since then Wader Quest has attended a number of events starting in May when we attended the Norfolk Bird Fair (NBF). The weather was kind to us and, with the stand situated alongside our friends and Founder Corporate Sponsors Wildsounds, we knew we were in for a fun weekend.



© Elis Simpson

Wader Quest stand at the Norfolk Bird Fair

The only disappointment was the low turn out from visitors, but it did not diminish the atmosphere in the marquee at all. We also gave a talk on the Saturday with many of the audience coming to the stand afterwards to sign up and/or make donations. We sincerely hope we will be able to attend again next year and that it will be better attended, as it deserves.

The NBF was the beginning of a very busy

period for us. On the following Wednesday we visited the Slimbridge Wetland Centre to give a talk to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust staff and volunteers about our travels and plans for the future. Sadly, due to the delicate stage of the 'Spoonies' breeding season we were not able to visit them while we were there but we did get to see some adorable Common Crane chicks and heard the 'Spoonies' singing in the nearby breeding pens!

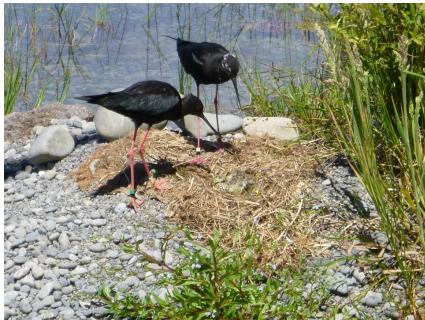
Hot on the heels of this, the next weekend, we found ourselves in Norfolk again, this time at the Neotropical Bird Club AGM where we were able to give a short presentation and had a stand in addition. Plenty of interesting talks on a wide variety of topics and on this occasion we were able to talk about our plans for the Magellanic Plover project.

On the 5th of July we had yet another trip to Norfolk, this time to the OSME summer meeting. It was an enjoyable meeting with yet more fascinating talks, and we met some really interesting people there. We gave a short talk about our time in the UAE and had a stand where we showcased our work.

We are now looking forward to the British Birdwatching Fair and the Dutch Bird Fair in August and the Falsterbo Bird Show at the beginning of September.

Black Stilt and Shore Plover captive breeding programme, NZ – Sabrina Luecht

The Black Stilt or Kaki is a large wader endemic to New Zealand. This species is one of the most endangered birds globally



© Glynn Taylor

Black Stilt *Himantopus novaezelandiae*

and remains the rarest wader, despite twenty years of intensive management. The Black Stilt is classified as Threatened (Nationally Critical) in the New Zealand Threat Classification System 2012; and listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The Kaki Recovery Programme began in 1981 when the population declined to 23 adult birds. The Department of Conservation (DOC) and the Trust now run one of the largest captive breeding programmes in New Zealand. Annual releases of captive birds, wild egg collection and predator control have likely prevented Black Stilt from becoming extinct in the wild.

The Trust plays a pivotal role in black stilt conservation, housing up to 45 birds per season. Three to four clutches of eggs are collected from each captive breeding pair per season. All eggs are transferred to



© Glynn Taylor

Black Stilt *Himantopus novaezelandiae*

DOC for artificial incubation and hatching. On their last clutch, day old chicks are returned to captive breeding pairs, which replace dummy eggs in the nest. The chicks stay with the pairs until August, when they are released into the wild in the Mackenzie Basin. Many juveniles are also transferred to the Trust, and remain in captivity for pre-release conditioning until release into the wild in August. On average 120 chicks are released annually. The population is slowly increasing, though the release survival rate is only 33%. The species' long-term survival therefore remains dependent on captive breeding and predator control efforts.

The New Zealand Shore Plover is a colourful shorebird endemic to New Zealand. It is one of the rarest plover species globally, with a very small and vulnerable population. There are currently only fourteen known females on the New Zealand mainland and continuing conservation efforts are extremely essential. The species is classified as Threatened (Nationally Critical) in the New Zealand Threat Classification System 2012, and listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red



© Elis Simpson

Black Stilt *Himantopus novaezelandiae*

List of Threatened Species.

NZ Shore Plover were previously found around the New Zealand mainland, but were extirpated by the 1870's. The retreat from their traditional range coincided with the spread of introduced mammalian predators last century. Norway rats and cats are proposed as the principal causes of loss, since NZ Shore Plover disappeared after the arrival of these species and prior to the arrival of ship rats and mustelids.

Since then NZ Shore Plover were confined to the Chatham Islands, where their range continued to shrink as predators spread. By 1900 they were confined to a single population on predator-free Rangatira/South East Island. Conservation



© Sabrina Luecht

Shore Plover *Thinornis novaeseelandiae*

efforts over the past twenty years have aimed at founding additional populations. Within the Chatham Islands, birds have been translocated from Rangatira/South East Island to Mangere Island. Some stragglers also reach Pitt Island, but are unable to maintain a sustaining population there due to predation. In 1999 a small genetically distinct population that rapidly declined was discovered on Western Reef. In 2013 the total Chatham Island



© Elis Simpson

Shore Plover *Thinornis novaeseelandiae*

population consisted of 120-140 individuals (containing 45-50 breeding pairs).

During the 1990's a captive population was founded at the Trust and Pukaha Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre; using wild eggs transferred from Rangatira/South East Island. Over 400 captive bred juveniles have since been released on select predator-free offshore islands. Unfortunately released birds are prone to dispersal to the nearby mainland, where they encounter predators and human disturbance. Therefore the total wild population fell to about 60-65 pairs in 2013.

The Trust currently holds eleven adult birds, eight of those being breeding birds. Breeding begins in late October/November, with two to three clutches produced per



© Sabrina Luecht

Shore Plover *Thinornis novaeseelandiae*

breeding season. The first clutch of eggs from each breeding pair is removed, to artificially incubate eggs and hand rear chicks. The breeding pairs then re-lay a second or third clutch. The last clutch is left with the adults to rear. The first clutch of chicks is released into the wild in January, with the second and third clutches released in March.

Footnote: The 2013/2014 Shore Plover breeding season produced 29 eggs, of which 26 hatched. Of these 22 survived and fledged; 2 were retained (females) to add to the breeding stock and 20 birds were released on predator-free island release sites.

This work is carried out by the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust: www.isaacconservation.org.nz

Little Curlew tracking project by AWSG.

The AWSG (Australian Wader Study Group) is a special interest group of BirdLife Australia and it has been carrying out a tracking project this year investigating the northerly migration of Little Curlews.

Wader Quest is one of three websites that have been following and publishing the results from this tracking project with information and maps supplied by Clive Minton and Inka Veltheim; along with BirdLife Australia and the EAAFP (East Asian and Australasian Flyways Partnership).

Until this study was instigated ringing and flagging programmes had produced little or no information from outside of Australia, so where these birds went once they left there was something of a mystery. There were very few reports of migrating Little Curlews in Asia and so when the opportunity arose for attaching some satellite transmitters to a number of them it was eagerly taken.

Five transmitters were attached to birds in late 2013 but by the time it came for the birds to move north two had already been lost. One spent its last days and hours in a forest which rather suggests that its carrier had become the victim of a predator of some kind.

The remaining three birds varied greatly in their timing and migration strategy although not greatly in the direction they took; the birds were all given leg flags in addition to their transmitters and those that survived to migrate were 131947 (BB), 131943 (BC) and 131945 (BD).

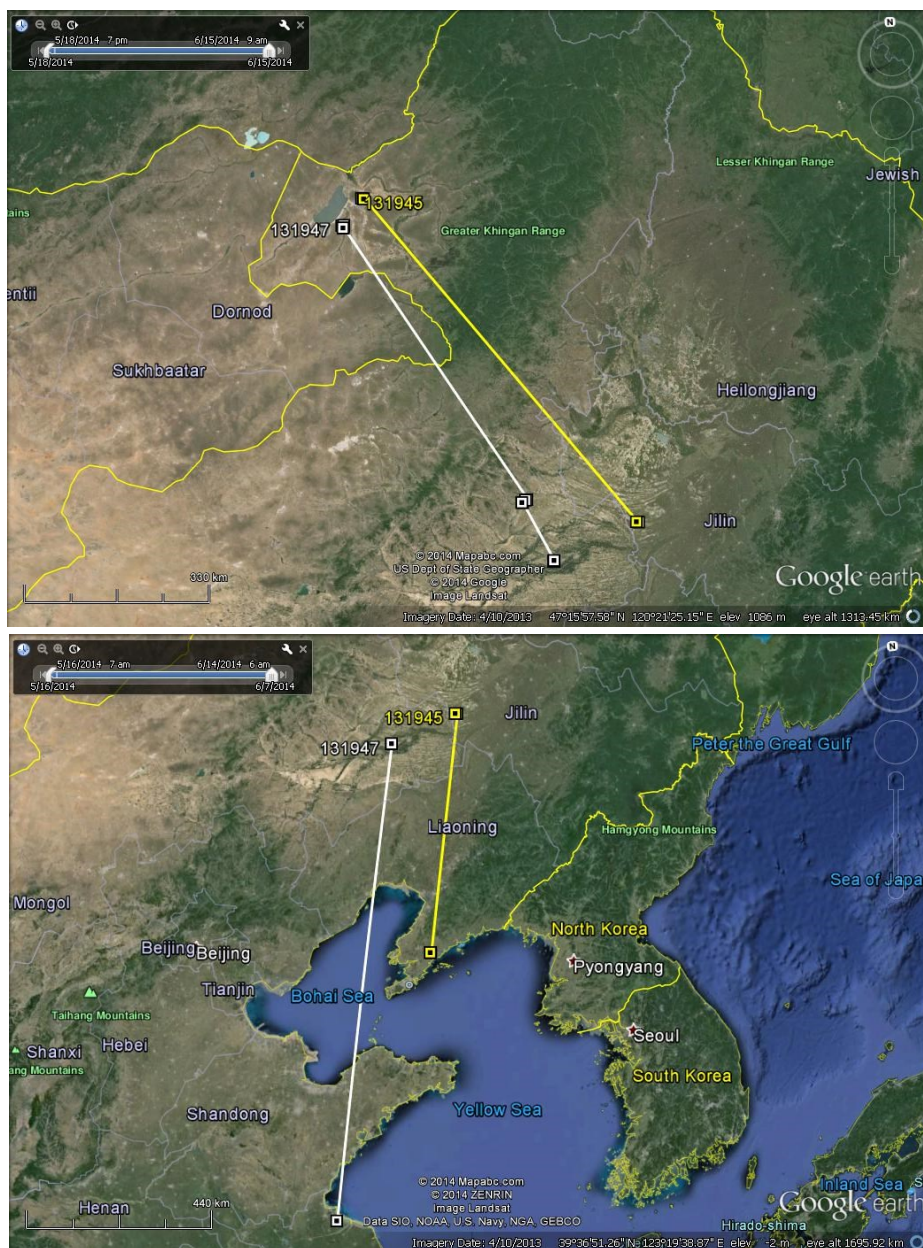
The first to set off on the long migration was BD. Little Curlews put on little weight before migration so it was not surprising that the first leg was not exceptionally lengthy by comparison to some species, BD made its first stop in the Philippines where it stayed for about 10 days, it then went on to make further short stops in China and eventually arrived in Siberia having travelled about 10,000km in a month.

BB followed a very similar route but was travelling two weeks behind BD and the latest information has it still in China in June.

Something very strange happened to BC. It stopped its northward trajectory in Indonesian Borneo, from there it flew



Little Curlew *Numenius minutus* receiving its transmitter, sadly this one did not make it to migrate.



These traces show just how close these two birds' migration routes were 131945 (BD) and 131947 (BB), BB following two weeks behind BD. Maps supplied by Inka Veltheim.

south-east to an island off Sulawesi, then south-west, later turning south, to spend some time in Lombok, Indonesia; there was some doubt as to whether it would continue north at all as it was getting very late in the year. Finally it set off north again and stopped in two locations in the Philippines and was last reported in China.

The routes taken by BD and BB are very close to each other, it is interesting to note that they use agricultural land frequently and lakes and salt pans along their route. As there has been no such study carried out previously, all of this information is new and therefore crucial to our understanding and knowledge about these birds. We will watch with interest what happens next, especially

to see if BC will eventually reach the breeding grounds or if it'll give up and return south due to being well behind schedule.

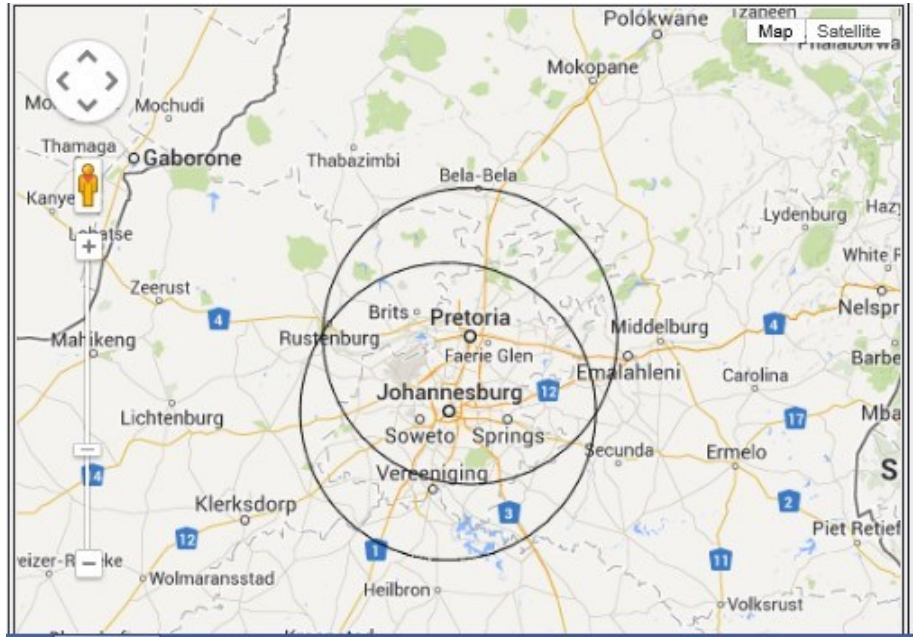
For more information and for information about many other interesting wader related studies and projects in the region visit the website and look at the latest Tattler newsletter www.aws.org.au/tattler/Tattler-33.pdf

Footnote: Similar tracking projects have revealed some fascinating information about migrating waders; the Bar-tailed Godwit flying from Alaska to New Zealand non stop and more recently the discovery that Scottish Red-necked Phalaropes migrate west to the Pacific for example.

The Gauteng Wader Challenge, South Africa- photographing waders within a 100km radius – Sue Oertli

Inspired by the Wader Quest initiative, I took up a challenge to find and photograph a target of 40 wader species within a 100 km radius of Johannesburg and Pretoria during 2014. The list of species was compiled using records of waders previously identified by birders participating in the Wider Gauteng Challenge - a yearly challenge to identify a possible 500 bird species within the 2 boundary circles shown in the diagram to the right. To date 489 species have been recorded within these 2 circles.

As the Challenge habitat around Johannesburg and Pretoria includes excellent grassland, woodland, bushveld, thornveld and wetland, I was able to photograph Spotted Thick-knee and African Wattled, Crowned and Blacksmith Lapwing around my urban patch on the 1st of January.



Picture courtesy of Mr. Kevin Ravno.



Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*

On the 3rd and 4th of January I birded an area called Kgomo Kgomo about 80 kilometres north of Pretoria. The area transforms into an ephemeral floodplain from the flooding of the Pienaars River in years of good rainfall & this year the water levels were good for waders. I photographed 10 species for the challenge including Little Stint, Wood and Common Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, African Painted Snipe, African Jacana, Three-banded and Kittlitz's Plover, Black-winged Pratincole and Black-winged Stilt.

The remainder of January was spent photographing Temminck's Coursers at Ezemvelo Nature Reserve near the town of Bronkhorstpruit. I visited the banks of the Crocodile River near Hartebeespoort Dam (near the town of Brits) for Ruff and Pied Avocet.

Birding Marievale Bird Sanctuary (a RAMSAR site near Springs) on the 25th of January with Peter & Jenny Sharland of Wader Quest South Africa, we added African Snipe and Common Ringed Plover to the list.

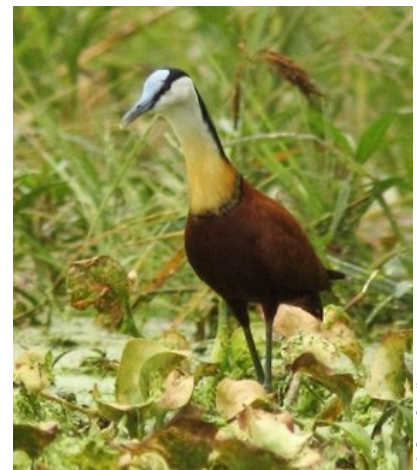
The remaining 2 months of the summer wader season here was spent photographing Marsh Sandpiper near the town of Devon in the SE section of the Johannesburg 100 kilometre circle.

2 species of Glareolidae namely Double-banded and Bronze-winged Courser were picked up in the Sasolburg area of the Orange Free Province and in the Kgomo Kgomo area north of Pretoria respectively.



Bronze-winged Courser *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*

The region experienced heavy late summer rains in March and most of the waders departed the area early due to lack of suitable habitat. I am only recording the occasional



African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*

Three-banded and Kittlitz's Plover now whilst Double-banded Courser has remained in the Sasolburg area for winter.

To summarize, a total of 22 waders have been photographed for the 6 months to the end of June for the Gauteng Wader Challenge. I eagerly await the return of more waders in September when I hope to find Caspian and Chestnut-banded Plover plus the odd godwit or two to push the tally up and raise additional funding for Wader Quest going forward. You can follow the Challenge on Facebook under the group title "Wader watch – wider Gauteng 2014" for further updates.

Inland wader watching UK – Simon Nichols

As most of you probably gleaned from the last newsletter where I gave a brief introduction to Buckinghamshire's inland waders, we are somewhat deprived, as a landlocked county, of those peak wader passages that used to hit us in the mid 80's and early 90's.

Speculation as to why we should have experienced this downturn in numbers ranges from habitat reduction to a shift in migration patterns. The former has recently gained much favour with a core bunch of North Bucks regulars as the major factor and for very good reason. This theory is somewhat born out by the blinding passage of these birds at the Old Wolverton site, locally known as "The Farm", which was on offer to us this year, with many waders stopping off as they headed north to breed.

Casting our minds back to early April the Spotted Redshank in its wonderful transitional plumage was still to be found gracing the shallow mud islands at "The Farm", remaining there until the 8th. Another, or possibly the same individual, appeared on the 22nd of April but it was only present for one day which was a pity as this was a real belter in black.

A transitional Bar-tailed Godwit dropped in for fifteen minutes on the 4th of April before continuing its westward migration path, while



© Elis Simpson

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

its slightly commoner cousin, the Black-tailed Godwit, joined us for a protracted stay of over a week from 21st of April. The Farm then attracted some tern action towards the end of the month with small parties of Arctic Terns all heading west as well.

As we headed into May things started to get interesting, near daily coverage started to turn up both quality and quantity, the biggest surprise of all was Manor Farm's first Ruddy Turnstone that turned up on the 1st of May accompanied by a Sanderling and ten Dunlins; the Dunlins were to remain a feature throughout May with probably thirty to forty birds moving through and the species was seen on most days.

The Ruddy Turnstone remained for all

admirers until at least the 6th of May, often sharing the same muddy island as the Black-tailed Godwit in breeding plumage. A Sanderling was still present on the 8th of May, but whether or not this was the same individual or a series of birds moving through we can't be sure as it wasn't seen on some of the preceding days.

Things then stepped up a notch in the world of Sanderlings when five birds were seen early in the morning on the 22nd of May. Rob Hill, a "Farm" stalwart decided, after finding this quintet of shorebirds, that an evening visit was on the cards - cue the mega! With only thirty-five minutes of daylight left Rob pulled a breeding plumage Red-necked Phalarope out of the bag. Luckily, due to the text alert being heightened at this time of the year three lucky local birders were able to make it to the site before darkness swallowed up this beautiful little waif. The month was not yet done, with yet another two Sanderlings seen on the 29th of May.

There is never a dull moment at "The Farm" and after this mouthwatering series of sightings we can only guess at what the post breeding passage will bring for us to enjoy.

Next time we'll look at what stopped to breed as its not all about the passage!

Prizes required

During the year we attend a number of events and like to be able to run both a competition and a raffle at each. These are excellent ways to raise funds as, for a small outlay, people stand a chance of winning an excellent prize.

So, as we have several events coming up over the next few months, it is timely for us to send out an appeal to anyone who has any item they would like to offer as a prize to let us know.

Books, paintings (original or prints - preferably signed), sculptures, DVDs, optics,

items of clothing, vouchers for money off or free items at outlets and travel companies, free subscriptions for magazines or clubs, they are all things that people would love to own or take advantage of.

Last year at the British Birdwatching Fair (BBF) we ran a competition called the Calidris Conundrum. We had 9 species of *Calidris* wader that had to be identified, daunting stuff, but we made it easier by giving the names of all the birds, just not in the right order, so the players had to match the picture to the name.

We do not set out to make anyone feel silly or inadequate and so we talked people through the pictures allowing them to decide, whilst offering some hints and tips on *Calidris* identification. Hopefully some of the points sank in and people left knowing just a little more than they knew when they arrived, all part and parcel of raising awareness and trying to raise the curtain of mystery that seems to fall when waders are mentioned.

We have a new competition that we will be taking to the BBF, the Dutch Bird Fair and the Falsterbo Bird Show so come along to our stand if you are at any of these events and see how you get on with Tricky Tringas!



© Elis Simpson

BirdLife's Jim Lawrence selects the raffle winners at the Wader Quest stand at the 2013 BBF assisted by Martha Argel from Brazil.

Wader Quest Competition

CALIDRIS CONUNDRUM

Win the excellent
Guide to Waders DVD
by Paul Doherty

£1.00 per entry - Simply match the photo to the species.

L-R top: Pectoral Sandpiper/White-rumped Sandpiper/Red-necked Stint. Middle: Least Sandpiper/Dunlin/Red Knot. Bottom: Sanderling/Semipalmated Sandpiper/Curlew Sandpiper.

Don't forget to make a note in your diary



Wader Quest World Watch

November 29 - 30 2014

- See how many wader species you can see in a weekend wherever you may be in the world
- Send your list to us to collate to create a worldwide weekend list
- Encourage non wader enthusiasts to look more closely at waders
- Introduce young birders to the delights and challenges of wader watching and identification
- Get sponsored to raise money for Wader Quest
- Have fun!!!



**Bird
Watching**



Contact details

Website:

www.waderquest.org

Email:

waderquest@gmail.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/WaderQuest?fref=ts>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/waderquest>

LinkedIn:

https://www.linkedin.com/profile/view?id=244810450&trk=nav_responsive_tab_profile_pic

For postal address please send email to waderquest@gmail.com



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Funding and donation news:

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Spoon-billed Sandpiper captive breeding programme. Completed:

£3,526.06 – 31/03/14

BirdLife Australia: Beach nesting birds programme, specifically for the Hooded Plovers. Latest:

£544.72 / £1,000.00

Wader Quest Magellanic Plover project. Latest:

£72.95 / £2,000