

Forthcoming talks: All 'Wader Quest' unless otherwise stated.

26/02/2019 **Milton Keynes Parks Trust** (An Inspiration of Waders)
 04/03/2019 **Teeside Bird Club**
 07/03/2019 **Bucks Bird Club**
 13/03/2019 **Emmerson Garden and Environment Group** (Subject to be announced.)
 20/03/2019 **Valiant Nightjars, Aldbury** (Confessions of a Bird Guide)
 25/03/2019 **Newbury District Ornithological Club**
 11/04/2019 **Gravesend RSPB local group** (Plover Lovers' World of Delights)
 12/04/2019 **Loughborough RSPB local group**
 17/04/2019 **Tonbridge RSPB local group**
 25/04/2019 **North West Surrey RSPB local group**
 08/05/2019 **East Surrey RSPB local group**
 15/05/2018 **Walsall RSPB local group**
 10/06/2019 **Burbage Bird Club**
 01/10/2019 (14:30) **York Ornithological Club**
 01/10/2019 (19:30) **York RSPB local group** (Plover Lovers' World of Delight)
 07/10/2019 **Sutton Coldfield RSPB local group** (New Moon on the Wane—The Curse of the Curlews)

For complete listing with time and venue visit our [Talks page](#). If we are giving a talk near you come and meet us.

2018 a quick look back — Rick Simpson

As we head into 2019 it is worth pausing a little to look at the year just finished.

During 2018 we gave talks at 31 venues to a total of 1,460 people. 17 of the talks were our standard *Wader Quest* presentation which we like to give on the first visit to a club or society so we can introduce who we are, what we do and little of why we do it. On subsequent visits we have a number of options to choose from with regard to subject matter. This year we gave 5 renditions of *New Moon on the Wane - The Curse of the Curlews* 4 of *Confessions of a Bird Guide* (about our time guiding in Brazil) 2 of *Plover Lovers' World of Delights* and 1 *Seapies, Smudgies and Tobies*, *The World's My Oystercatcher*. We also did a non standard talk on *British Waders* and another on *The Waders of Milton Keynes* (yes they do have them). A full list of talks can be found on page 9.

Events included some local to us in Newport Pagnell and Milton Keynes like the Parks Trust Wetland Day with the Parks Trust Junior Rangers which kicked off our year and another in July, this time a family day. Weekend



Common Redshanks *Tringa totanus*—Elis Simpson

events included the Curlew Festival at Bolton Castle, The British Bird Fair at Rutland Water, Falsterbo Bird Show in Sweden, Severn Wader Festival, Wirral Wader Festival, Wader Conservation World Watch and the year rounded off as usual with the Martin Mere Birdwatching Festival, certainly one of our busiest years yet.

Other events attended included a Quiz night in February, the Upland Wader Summit on Dartmoor hosted by HRH The Prince of Wales in March, The Scottish Curlew Conference (Wader Quest represented by Andrew Whitelee and Penny Insole) The Naze Centre Migration Festival

in September and the Scottish Ornithological Conference (attended by Andrew and Penny).

In addition we held four Trustees meetings as per our constitution so all in all we were kept very busy. So busy in fact that we were only able to launch two new pin badges in 2018, the Black-fronted Dotterel and the Eurasian Curlew plus a redesigned Ruddy Turnstone.

Somehow we managed to find time to do a bit of research, cobble together some thoughts and produce *An Inspiration of Waders*, our book explaining why waders have been so inspirational not just our lives and those of fellow waderologists, but also, unbeknown to many more people besides in myths, legends, literature, art, music and a variety of other ways. The purpose of the book however is to persuade people to refer to the pulsating mass of waders over an estuary, not as a flock, nor even a murmuration, a noun reserved for the European Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris*, but, due to the inspiration they have brought to humanity, surely the collective noun has to be 'an inspiration of waders'?

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Magellanic Oystercatcher *Haematopus leucopodus* — Elis Simpson

Total raised by Wader Quest to date: £26,360.65

Things are changing at Wader Quest — The Trustees



At a recent Wader Quest Trustees meeting it was reluctantly agreed that the subscription fees would need to increase this year. They have been at the current rate for five years now and a number of things have prompted this review.

First and foremost it was suggested by a number of Friends of Wader Quest that we should do so. The feeling was that the price (that we initiated with a view to making it within reach of most pockets and therefore available to all) was perhaps too low and that most people could afford more per year.

The second consideration was that some have expressed the belief that charging so little suggests we are not serious about what we are doing, and indeed, don't take ourselves seriously enough.

The third reason is that as a non-profit charity we need to be earning a higher percentage of our income through charitable giving and membership as opposed to merchandising and sales.

We try to direct support through the Conservation Grants Fund to smaller projects that may find funding difficult to obtain through other sources, or wish to request small amounts of funding for community-based projects or for species that face a specific conservation threat. However as we are not getting a large number of such requests at present, as a charity we should not be accumulating funds, and need to show that we are using the money that we are raising to

good effect. As a result we will be, on occasions, assisting with certain high profile wader conservation projects such as Spoon-billed Sandpipers, Eurasian Curlews, Hooded Plovers and other species that are under pressure.

We are currently going through the process of applying to the Charity Commission to obtain formal charity status with them. As part of the process we need to be able to show that we have funding coming in to support our activities. Whilst these costs are kept at the lowest possible level, we still need to show that we have funding to cover them at events such as the British Bird Fair and other venues where there are fees for stands or pitches.

Currently we have been putting all of the annual Friends of Wader Quest fees into the Grants Fund, and making up some of the costs from other income such as sales, which I am sure you will appreciate are variable. We need to meet Charity Commission guidance to allocate some of the annual Friends monies into running our organisation to show we have a solid base to fund our activities during the year. We will, when we have covered the commitments Wader Quest makes to attend these events, make any surplus available to our Conservation Grants Fund (CGF).

The rates are due to go up on the 6th of April 2019, this is the first day of our financial year. The new rates are displayed on page three. You will note that Life Friends of Wader Quest will not be changing and so

will represent better value for money being just 20 instead of 40 year's worth of subscriptions. Corporate Sponsorship will also remain unchanged, for the time being, at £50.

Wader Quest would like to invite any member with a renewal due in 2019 but after the 6th of April, who wishes to renew early before this date, to do so at the current rate and their membership will run still from their current renewal month.

We would also like to remind our Friends and Sponsors that currently the Trustees attend events (such as Bird Fair) and meetings at their own expense, and do not claim their travel, subsistence or accommodation costs.

We would also like to reassure Friends and Supporters that any general donations, additional donations given when renewing subscriptions, or donations given in response to a specific campaigns run by Wader Quest will always be entirely directed to the Conservation Grant Fund, and not utilised for the running of Wader Quest. The Conservation Grants Fund will continue to be ring fenced, remaining independent of our day to day running budget, and held in a separate account.

We hope that these changes will not affect anyone's pocket too badly nor cause anyone to feel they can no longer support Wader Quest. The increased income will greatly improve the efficacy of Wader Quest and help us to reach more wader conservation projects.

New Subscription rates applicable from 06/04/2019 — The Trustees

Our subscription rates will rise on the 6th of April to coincide with the financial year.

If your 2019 subscription is due after this date, why not pay it early before 5th April to avoid the rise?

If you have a standing order please remember to change the rate on or after 6th April.

THE NEW RATES

FRIENDS OF WADER QUEST

Individual £10.00

Family £15.00

Life £200 (no change)

WADER QUEST SPONSORS

Club Sponsor subscriptions £20.00

Corporate Sponsors £50.00 (no change)

Nature's Valley Trust update — Rick and Elis Simpson

We have been supporting, in our own modest way, Nature's Valley Trust (NVT) in South Africa for some time. They always actively support our Wader Conservation World Watch each year and send us feedback on the grants and donations that we send their way.



Kellyn (NVT Intern manager) wearing her new vest out to the field to erect nesting area signs around new nests on Lookout Beach — NVT

Recently Brittany Arendse got in touch with some information about the equipment our funding supplied (*i.e.* fieldwork vests, backpacks, writing paraphernalia as well as brochure printing and field work support), with the photos which you can see on this page.

At the same time we discovered that they have been creating a series of short stories about the birds they are protecting called *The Sands of Change*. We asked what this was all about, Brittany replied;

'These stories were written in order to make our coastal work, namely the shorebird component of coastal impact



Christina (left; York university intern), Megan (middle; NVT volunteer) and Brittany (right; project manager), processing a White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus* nest on Nature's Valley — NVT

programme, more accessible to the lay-person. This is the person to whom the jargon of scientific work does not resonate but they do indeed still care for our environment and the animals that live in it. So we use this social media platform to bridge the gap, to share the plight of the shorebirds in a way that appeals to everyone. With this out the box idea we try to connect people emotionally to shorebirds,

and of course to spread awareness in that way. Everyone loves a good soapy!

These stories are mainly written by the interns and staff of NVT who work on the shorebird programme. We grow to know each and every pair of shorebirds that nest on Nature's Valley and Lookout beach very well and try to make it a bit easier for them to fledge their young. We are with the nests from egg to fledge, constantly monitoring and so we get very well acquainted with the social structure and general behaviour of the adults. The stories are based on true events with a little bit of imagination added here and there to make it a palatable read.'

[We loved this idea of connecting with the local community so decided to serialise the stories in the newsletter for your enjoyment too:- Ed]



Kellyn taking pictures of a new nest. She has her new backpack next to her that carries the equipment for floating eggs. We float eggs to ascertain the age of eggs so we can monitor them and be back on the day of hatch to ring the little chicks; insert floating egg about 20 days old — NVT



Another new nest found on Nature's Valley earlier this season, with two eggs. Brittany (left) is recording important data for our shorebird monitoring programme while Christina is taking pictures of the newly laid nest. — NVT

The Sands of Change: Series 1 Episode 1— Nature Valley Trust

THE SANDS OF CHANGE

Episode 1

Han Solo (White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus*—F054) and his unringed mate, Princess Leia had always thought that they would have a big family when they moved into their territory on Solar Beach, Plettenberg Bay. Unfortunately, their beach was not the safest place to raise chicks. As Princess Leia sat on their very first nest in 2014, she was so excited to have the chance to finally raise chicks with the love of her life. However she and Han Solo soon had to flee as a municipal bakkie [an offroad pick up truck] tore through their home, destroying the nest. The brave pair

continued to try to build a family for the rest of the season but they were unable to successfully hatch the eggs.

Once the breeding season ended, Han and Leia were dejected, but still not ready to give up on their dream of having a family.

As the 2015 season began, Han Solo began building nest scrapes for Leia with optimism and a new hope. As Leia laid three little eggs in the sand, she and Han knew that this time, they were going to get it right. The pair successfully hatched three cute little chicks. With cautious optimism, they started teaching the chicks how to look for food and hide from predators. To their horror though, Han and Leia were again forced to flee, this time from a rescue Quad bike on the beach, which took the lives of two of the two-day-old chicks leaving the grieving parents with just one chick to rear.

The precocious little girl who survived the quad bike horror was given the name Darth Plover for the way she would do anything to survive and get ahead. Finally, with their little family together at



Quad bike tracks on Solar beach. This quad bike was to eventually kill two of these chicks — NVT

last, Han and Leia were happy to raise Darth Plover to be a strong and independent adult. After learning to fly, Darth Plover flew all the way to Lookout Beach, and even found a nice male to settle down with. She hopes now that she may have a few brothers and sisters after the 2016-2017 season is done. Although Han and Leia have not been successful yet this year [2016], they also remain optimistic and proud of their daughter who survived.

[NVT do not do research on Robberg Beach (of which Solar Beach is a part) anymore so Han Solo and Princess Leia do not feature in any future stories:- Ed]



Princess Leia incubating eggs on Solar beach — NVT

Wader Conservation in Action — Ciénaga de San Juan de los Cayos

In the last newsletter we published an update from Proyecto Conservación de Aves Playeras en Venezuela that was the recipient of the Wader Quest Anniversary Grant, the article was written by Sandra Giner. Funding for conservation in Venezuela is hard to come by in these difficult times, so we were very pleased to find a project that ticked all our required boxes and where the grant would be a most welcome addition to funds available.

One of the things that attracted us to this project was the emphasis on education and engagement with local communities by promoting wildlife tourism as a source of income, establishing value in protecting the habitat and its birds. This will be done through a workshop aimed at municipal tourism officials, site managers from the Directorate of Biological Diversity and local community organisations and another workshop will be aimed at teachers and students of educational institutions. Members of the community will be invited to participate in the census activities.

As part of the run up to these events Sandra has produced this wonderful poster which is being printed prior to the workshops, and, we are proud to tell you, that these posters were paid for from the funding we supplied as our Anniversary Grant.

We greatly look forward to further updates from Sandra and her team as the project progresses and we hope you will all feel the same sense of pride in knowing that between us we have helped the waders to be found in Venezuela despite the fact that few of us will ever get to visit the country and see the birds first hand.

Thank you to all our Friends, Sponsors and supporters without whom none of this would be possible.

PLAYEROS DEL GÉNERO CHARADRIUS en Venezuela

Dos especies y una subespecie son residentes con migraciones intratropicales. Se movilizan desde los sitios de anidación hasta sitios no reproductivos dentro del país.

Tres especies y una subespecie son migratorias hemisféricas, se reproducen en el norte de Norteamérica y migran hacia el sur a los territorios no reproductivos.

Durante las migraciones se detienen en sitios de parada en humedales, donde se alimentan principalmente de invertebrados para recuperar la energía necesaria para continuar su recorrido.

6 Especies registradas en Venezuela

C. wilsonia, *C. nivosus*, *C. melodus*, *C. collaris*, *C. vociferus*, *C. semipalmatus*

Especies migratorias

- C. semipalmatus*
- C. vociferus*
- C. w. wilsonia*
- C. melodus*

Especies residentes

Reproducción en zonas costeras:

- C. wilsonia cinnamominus*
- C. nivosus*

Reproducción en las playas y barras de arena de los ríos:

- C. collaris*

ZONAS DE ANIDACIÓN

Las especies residentes anidan en el suelo, en sustratos arenosos. Sus zonas de anidación están amenazadas por actividades humanas, especialmente en las zonas costeras, por el uso de vehículos en las playas donde anidan o las mascotas no controladas.

La protección de estos sitios es una necesidad para garantizar el éxito de la reproducción y así la conservación de las especies residentes.

Los humedales costeros y continentales de Venezuela son utilizados como sitios de alimentación y descanso.

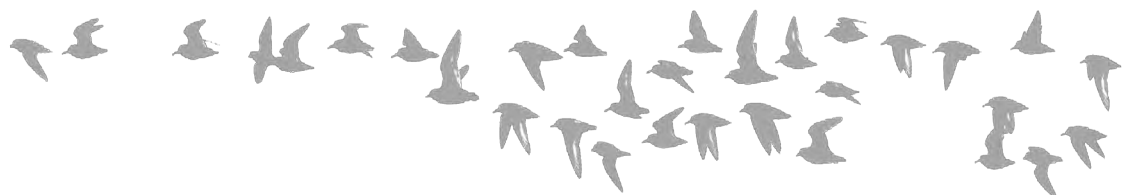
La supervivencia de estas aves playeras depende de la conservación de sus hábitats.

Charadrius wilsonia cinnamominus Playero Pico Grueso
Charadrius nivosus Frailecito
Charadrius collaris Turillo
Charadrius melodus Frailecito Sillabito
Charadrius semipalmatus Playero Acollarado
Charadrius vociferus Playero Britón

Charadrius wilsonia cinnamominus Playero Pico Grueso

PROYECTO CONSERVACIÓN DE AVES PLAYERAS EN VENEZUELA
 Contacto: Sandra Giner / Correo electrónico: sandraginer@gmail.com

Dueño gráfico: Carolina Dávila
 Fotografía: Jonathan Miranda, Lermih Torres, Adán Aspruez, Sandra Giner, Jorge Matheus, Adriana Rodríguez Ferrás, Mauro Aguilar



WADER CONSERVATION WORLD WATCH6; 2nd & 3RD NOVEMBER 2019

The changing face of the Wader Quest stand at the British Bird Fair



2013



2014



2015



2016



2017



2018

See you at Rutland on the 16th—18th August 2019

Waders in poetry; Pectoral Sandpiper — Diane Hine

Pacific vacationer flies north to nest,
parades on some high arctic shore.
Puffing his fine feathered, stippled grey
breast,
persuasively seeking rapport.

Provided with radio tags which attest
perpetual day may ensure,
Pectoral Sandpiper's sleep is suppressed,
perhaps for a fortnight or more.

Perusing she sandpipers swoon for his chest,
percentages measure the score.
Pedigrees prove that deferment of rest
profusely enhances l'amour.



Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* — Elis Simpson

Novel use of a Wader Quest Dunlin pin badge — Stephen Carroll



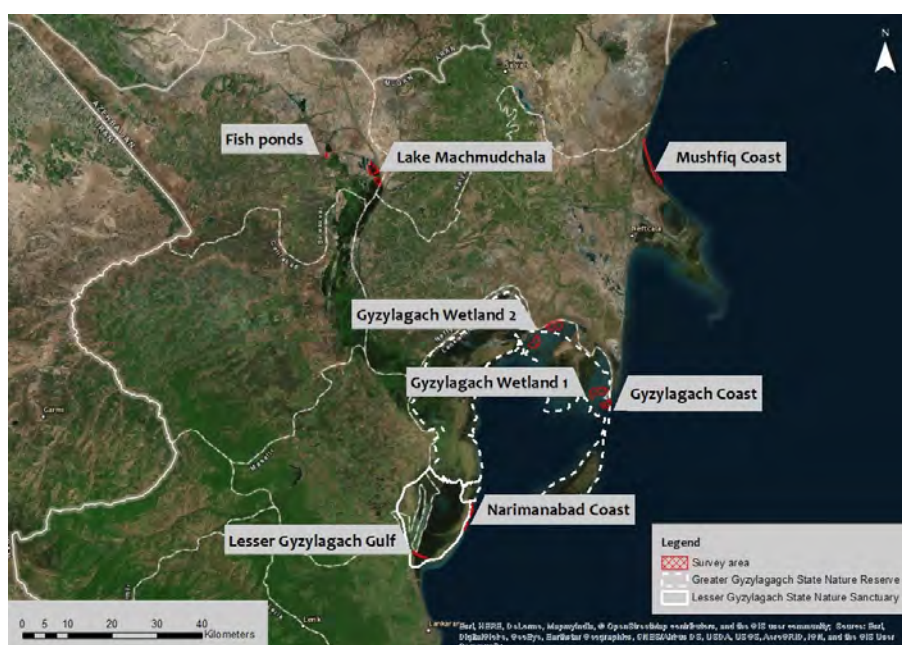
The reason for using a Dunlin *Calidris alpina* badge is that it was to make up a gift card for a colleague who works on Dartmoor. Dartmoor has the southernmost breeding population - very small - of Dunlin in the UK therefore Dunlin is one of Dartmoor's priority conservation targets and a flagship for the high bog habitats. I've been making bespoke cards for friends and colleagues, painting appropriate backgrounds on which to mount various pin badges and this latest project being to paint a Dartmoor bog card.

Gyzylagach Wader Project — Christoph Himmel

The Caspian Sea as a hub of the West Asian – East African flyway connects the vast breeding grounds of the Arctic, Subarctic and West Siberian Plane with the wintering grounds in the southern Caspian region, India, the Middle East and Africa (Tomkovich et al. 2017, Vilkov 2013).

Within the Caspian region the Gyzylagach Gulf in Azerbaijan, one of the most important stop-over and wintering sites at the western Caspian shore, forms, together with the Gilan region in northern Iran and the Northeast Caspian shore, an area which supports around 11.2 million waders (Shubin 1998, Barati & Khalilipoor 2006, Gistov & Little 2014), comparable with international wader hotspots like the Wadden Sea in Europe (12 million waders) (Laursen et al. 2010) or the Yellow Sea in China (>7 million waders) (Barter 2006).

Despite the importance for waders and other waterbirds, the West Asian – East African Flyway is the least studied flyway of the Western Palearctic (Stroud et al. 2004, Davidson & Stroud



2006, Tomkovich et al. 2017). Monitoring and conservation work along this flyway

should be increased to detect population declines of threatened bird species at an

Gyzylagach Wader Project — cont'd

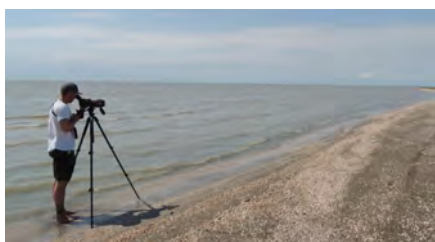


Caspian Plovers *Charadrius asiaticus* — Christoph Himmel

early stage, which would consequently initiate bird conservation implications and thus counteract population declines of certain species, such as waders (Davidson & Stroud 2006).

Shubin (1998) conducted the last comprehensive census of waders in the Greater Gyzylagach Gulf in 1984 and 1985. No particular data for waders is available since then.

Due to the lack of knowledge and the negative population trends of many waders along the flyway, I conducted a census from July to September 2017 in



Christoph on field work on a Caspian beach
— Sönke Twietmeyer

southern Azerbaijan. As a main result, twelve wader species (Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*, Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*, Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*, Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*, Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* and Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*) occurred or estimated to occur with more than 1% of their flyway population. Thus, the whole Gyzylagach Gulf

and Lake Machmudchala were identified as 'Important Bird Area' for several wader species. Especially the Greater Gyzylagach Gulf hosted outstanding numbers of waders, ten species were counted with more than 1% of their flyway population. In conclusion, the survey revealed that the southern Azerbaijan region is of higher importance for waders than expected from counts in the past. This importance makes this area to an essential place for assessing the population trends of waders breeding north of the region. Furthermore, data from stop-over sites are very scarce but of immense value, both in respect to providing additional information on abundance and distribution and to identify and protect important sites (Schielzeth et al. 2008).

A continuation of the census in 2019 would be necessary to assess if the numbers of waders are reached on a regular basis, to confirm the importance of the area and to provide basis for a long-term

monitoring and so subsequently assess the population status of several wader species. Additional to the census of waders, a colour-ringing project, supervised by Marcel Tenhaeff, will be conducted to gather precise data about turnover-lengths of waders and the migratory connectivity of different species. In 2019 the project will be supported by a junior researcher of the Institute of Zoology of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Science, which is a huge step in capacity- and leader-building. Furthermore, it is considered to train rangers of the Gyzylagach Nationalpark in wader identification and counting to give them the possibility to conduct the census in the future on their own. Additionally, environmental education could be a further output of this project. At comparable spots workshops and classes for local people, especially children and students, sensitized people for nature and nature conservation. The interest of ornithologists and birdwatching tourists from all over the world in exploring Azerbaijan and its unknown places is increasing from year to year. Thus, the Gyzylagach Gulf and its adjacent wetlands with their great variety of waterbirds could be a superb location for sustainable ornithological eco-tourism, similar to the Volga or Danube delta.

Further reading on the Gyzylagach Wader Project:

[First impressions of a wader study at the Caspian coast](#)

[Pacific Golden Plover and more](#)

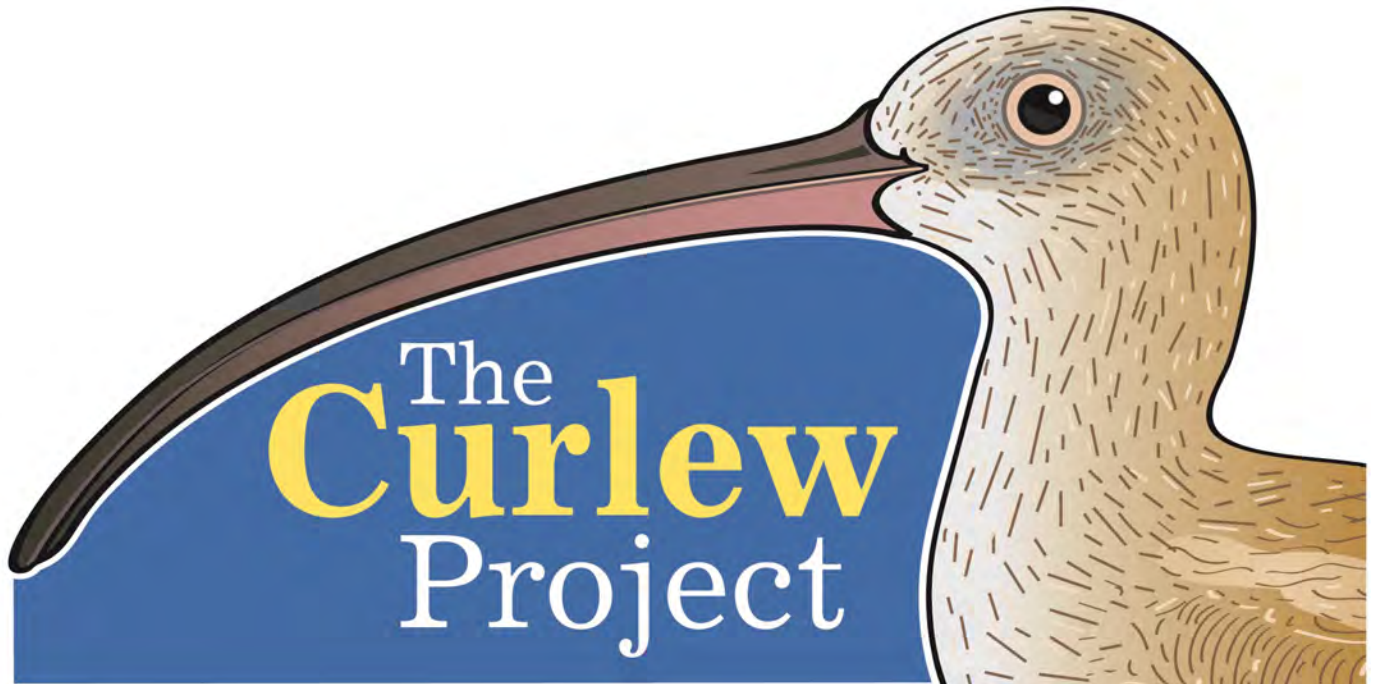
[Finish of the wader study at Gyzylagach](#)

[First record of White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* for Azerbaijan](#)



Mixed flock Kentish *Charadrius alexandrinus* and Common Ringed Plovers *C. hiaticula*, Collared Pratincoles *Pratincola glareola* and Little Stints *Calidris minuta* — Christoph Himmel

The Far Eastern Curlew Project— Amanda Lilleyman



Strategic Planning for Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

The critically endangered Eastern Curlew (often referred to as the Far Eastern Curlew) is the largest migratory shorebird in the world, weighing up to 1.2 kg at its maximum departure weight. Yet very little is known about the international movements this species undertakes every year and its ecological requirements within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway; information that is essential for its effective conservation management.

To address this gap, a new national project – the Far Eastern Curlew Project has recently taken off. The FEC Project is funded by the National Environment Science Programme Threatened Species Hub and run out of the Darwin, Northern Territory node.

The project aims to quantify the importance of habitats for Eastern Curlew on the non-breeding grounds of Australia as few tracking studies have focused on the detailed movements of shorebirds during the non-breeding season.

The FEC Project team will also investigate the foraging ecology of Eastern Curlews and determine their diet preferences across mudflats. These data will



Curlew in the hand — Gabriel Low



Catching site, Yallock Creek, Koo Wee Rup, Victoria — Gabriel Low

provide strategic guidance to developers and decision-makers.

Study sites located in Darwin, south-east Queensland, north-Western Australia, and Victoria will allow researchers to better understand and compare the habitat use of these large migratory shorebirds.

To calculate their home range size and track the long-distance migrations Eastern Curlews undertake every year, the researchers are working with the Victorian Wader Studies Group to cannon-net and fit birds with GPS satellite tags to enable fine-

The Far Eastern Curlew Project— cont'd

scale tracking of movements within harbours.

Each GPS tag weighs 15g (this is within the 3 % body mass threshold for flying birds) and is attached to the bird using a leg-loop harness made of Teflon ribbon with an elastic weak link between the leg loops, then crimped with aluminium fishing crimps.

YALLOCK CREEK EASTERN CURLEW CATCH

Amanda Lilleyman researches migratory shorebirds in northern Australia. She is based in Darwin, Northern Territory where she works on #TheCurlewProject.

On Sunday 14th January, the Victorian Wader Study Group organised a catch to target Eastern Curlews for the FEC Project at Yallock Creek, near Koo-wee-rup, Victoria.

The catch was successful, resulting in 3 Eastern Curlew being fitted and released with satellite transmitters.



Eastern Curlew with tracker fitted being released — Gabriel Low



Eastern Curlew being fitted with a transmitter — Gabriel Low

The Far Eastern Curlew Project— cont'd

THE RESULTS THUS FAR...

All birds have flown a straight line distance of about 14 km (map 1) ... and then made smaller movements around Westernport Bay between Jam Jerrup and The Gurdies. (map 2))

The exception so far, is the Eastern Curlew with tag 182225, which made this small flight of 14 km and then on the 15th Jan it was back at the site where it was caught! (map 3)

To learn more about the Far Eastern Curlew Project, visit the [Threatened Species Recovery Hub](#).

Amanda Lilleyman is interested in how shorebirds use habitat on the non-breeding grounds and works with industry to apply research findings to on-ground management of birds, in order that they should receive the best conservation advice possible.

Article first published on [Wing Threads](#) January 2019

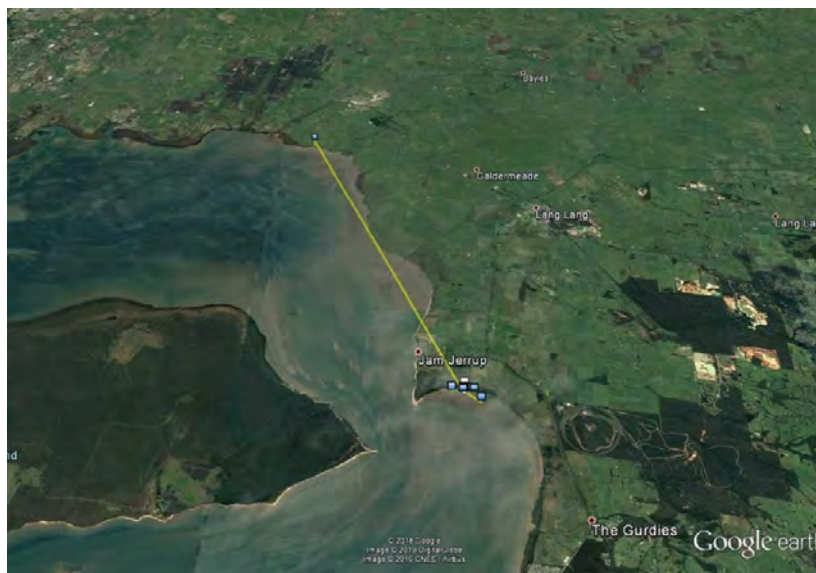
Some interesting facts about Far Eastern Curlews — Rick Simpson

The scientific name of Far Eastern Curlew is *Numenius madagascariensis*. This name was given to the species in 1766 by none other than Linnaeus himself. What is interesting about this is that, as any geographer will tell you, Madagascar is not in the Far East and, as any student of bird distribution will tell you Madagascar is well outside the range of the Far Eastern Curlew. So how did this happen, Linnaeus was, after all, a learned man? Well, it turns out that he should perhaps have visited his optician a bit more frequently as he misread the label of the specimen he was describing which read Macassar and not Madagascar. Macassar (also Makassar) is the largest town on what was once called the Celebes and is now known as Sulawesi where, naturally, Far Eastern Curlews do exist.

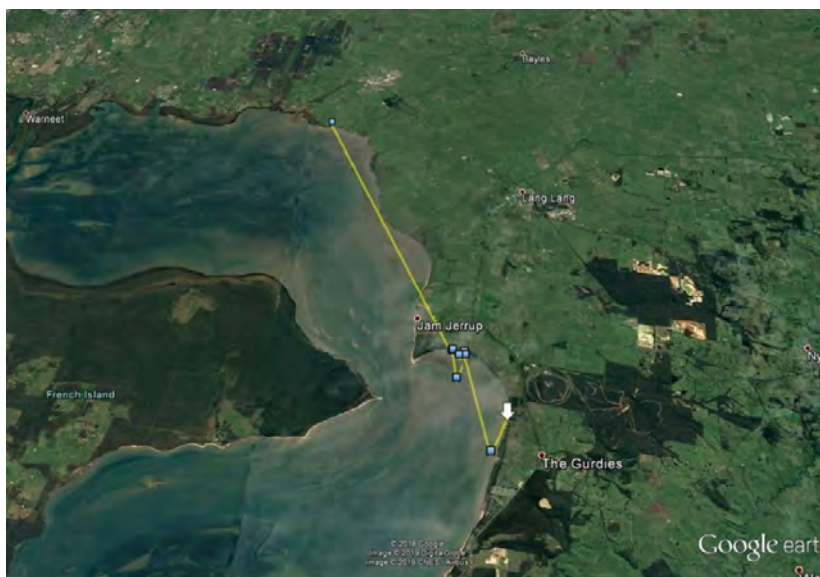
So why has this glaring error not been changed? Well that is due to science being somewhat intransigent in its rules. Scientific names have to be the very first given to any given taxon, even if, as in this case, it is patently wrong.

The Far Eastern Curlew is the largest of the Curlews, and, by dint therefore, the world's largest wader. It is closely given a run for its money by the Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americana*, which, despite the females having such absurdly long bills as the name implies, are pipped at the post by a mere 1 cm in length. In terms of body mass (according to Dunning 1992), the Long-billed Curlew is much smaller, the second place in that case falling to our own Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*.

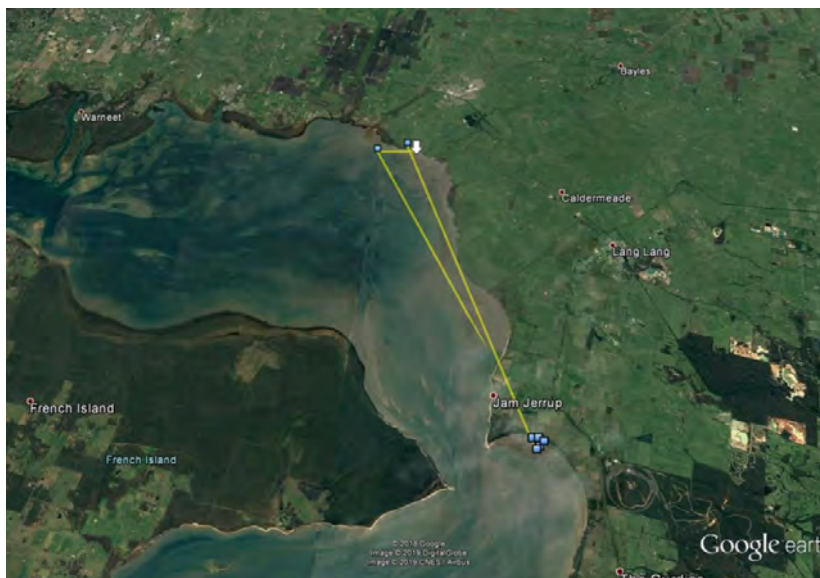
Far Eastern Curlew is considered to be Endangered in the IUCN Red list, it is a species falling victim to habitat destruction on the Yellow Sea coast.



Map 1 — Google Maps



Map 2 — Google Maps



Map 3 — Google Maps

The Myth of the Seven Whistlers — Rick and Elis Simpson

There is an old superstition concerning the Seven Whistlers, which were supposed to be a portent of impending doom as mentioned by Wordsworth in his poem, *Though narrow be that Old Man's cares*:

"He the seven birds hath seen,
that never part,
Seen the SEVEN WHISTLERS in
their nightly rounds"

The story goes that six of the Seven Whistlers travel endlessly across the night skies looking for the seventh. In days past they would often be reported passing overhead and it is widely supposed, by those of a less superstitious nature, that these whistlers were in fact Eurasian Whimbrels. The legend continues that if the six should ever find the seventh whistler then the world would come to an end! So, if you should ever come across seven Whimbrels anywhere, you had better get all your Redshanks in a row.



The Seven Whistlers; should we be worried? — Elis Simpson

An excerpt from *An Inspiration of Waders* by Rick and Elis Simpson: to get your copy email waderquest@gmail.com: see page 22 for details.

Need a speaker for your club or society? — Rick and Elis Simpson

On our first visit to any group we like to give the Wader Quest talk (see below) to introduce who we are, what we do, and little of why we do it. All talks are two halves of 45 minutes each but can be flexible.

Wader Quest: For those who have not heard of Wader Quest this talk introduces the organisation through the beauty and diversity of the waders to be found around the world, some of which are quite surprising. Liberally scattered with stunning photos and information about the birds and some amusing personal anecdotes from Rick and Elis' travels to see waders. It is both entertaining and informative while emphasising the acute crisis that is facing wader conservation and how we can all help to combat it. *'Thoroughly enjoyable, informative, well-illustrated and energising talk'*; John, East Surrey

'informative & entertaining' talk ...'; Ann, Milton Keynes

'Many thanks for a great evening. Entertaining, informative and some great pictures of birds we don't get in Watford'; John, Watford

An Inspiration of Waders: Based on the book of the same name by Rick and Elis Simpson, this talk explores how waders have inspired people, the arts, culture myths and legends and how they are, in themselves, a most inspiring group of birds. The final act is to suggest a collective noun for the mixed or unidentified clouds of waders such as we see over our estuaries in winter.

Plover Lovers' World of Delights: Plovers at home and abroad. Looking at British plovers and some of their equivalents around the world.

New - Sea Pies, Smudgies and Tobies; The World's my Oystercatcher: There are twelve species of oystercatcher in the world, half are black-and-white the other half are all black however one species can't make up its mind. We'll explore the fascinating world of oystercatchers.

New - New Moon on the Wane – The Curse of the Curlews: Curlew species are declining across the world, two are probably already extinct. We look at why this is happening and talk about each of the species in the genus *Numenius*.

Confessions of a Bird Guide: If you have ever wondered what your bird guide thinks of you this is your chance to find out; based on the book *Confessions of a Bird Guide* by Rick Simpson. Explore what it means to be a bird guide and how the clients are viewed. Lavishly illustrated by Elis' photos of wonderful mainly Brazilian birds.

'Thank you for a great talk last night. Great entertainment!' Paul, Milton Keynes

'Thank you so much for an amazing talk on Friday! The humour, information and photos were very much appreciated by the audience, whose expectations, following your previous talks, were surpassed!' Ann, Southport

Talks in preparation – Wader Quest goes down under Wader Questing in Australia and New Zealand; **Wader Quest goes 'Latin'** Wader Questing in South America; **Wader Quest goes 'across the pond'** Wader Questing in the USA; **Wader Quest goes 'to the land of smiles'** Wader Questing in Thailand (and the UAE); **Wader Quest goes 'on safari'** Wader Questing in Africa, **Wader Quest goes 'to the land of the tiger'** Wader Questing in India.

Featured Wader Photo: Eurasian Curlew (among others) — Yashodhan Bhatia



Photographer: Yashodhan Bhatia

Species: Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*, among other waders including Terek Sandpiper

Xenus cinereus and *Charadrius* plovers

Location: Jamnagar coast

Date: 17th Jan. 2019

Equipment: Nikon D5, 500 f/4 Nikon Lens+1.4 x TC

Details: 1/3200 sec, f/9 ISO 800.

The Jamnagar coast in the Gulf of Kutch has, for a long time, been notable for its waders and for being a major stop-over in the Central Asian Flyway. A fair number of species migrating towards the south from

the subarctic regions pass through or spend their winter in this region.

One, largely undisturbed, area is Balachadi beach near Jamnagar. Eurasian Curlews being the largest waders, are

always a photographers' delight. I took this picture anticipating the landing point of the curlews. However I was lucky to get a single curlew in the frame as it landed just a few feet away from the rest of its herd'

From the library

From: *The Lapwing* by Dr E. A. R. Ennion M.A.. Published in 1949 as part of the Field Study Books series by the Council for the Promotion of Field Studies.

"This evening the lapwings came in low against the sullen afterglow—a long grey smudge above the blur of the far hedge—and no sooner over than they melted into the gloaming of the field, Not until they had flown half way up the furrows towards the road were they seen again, their white undersides shimmering as they wheeled.

They rose once more and trailed across the sky; a bunch leading the way, the rest strung out behind like a scarf caught in the wind. They closed, and swept lazily round the field, rising and falling, packed together in that curiously dappled pattern no other bird flock ever shows.'



Northern Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus* — Elis Simpson

A surprise wader sighting in the Atlantic forest of Brazil — Rick Simpson

Whilst living in Brazil, Elis and I enjoyed doing voluntary conservation work with a group of kids who were living right on the forest edge. They had a basically utilitarian approach to the forest and its denizens. Gradually as we worked with them we saw a change to a more caring and respectful attitude. These youngsters knew their forest birds well, some of them had eaten a vast majority of them at one time or other, so it was very unusual on our forest walks for Elis and I to hear someone ask for help with identification.

On one occasion exactly that happened and I turned to see the boy and some of his friends, not looking into the trees around us, but along the track at a puddle. Following their gaze I was dumbstruck to see a Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* seeking something to eat, dashing from one side of the puddle to the other, chasing flies. The kids had never seen anything like it in their lives. I told them of the bird's identity, and then had the opportunity to tell them about migration and how this tiny bird had flown down to their neighbourhood all the way from the Arctic tundra.

The children were wide eyed with



Pectoral Sandpiper, Ubatuba, São Paulo, Brazil — Elis Simpson

admiration for this bird and asked question after question about how it ended up in their forest, some of which I could not, in all honesty, answer.

After we had returned from our walk one of the little darlings pointed out that the bird, which is known in Portuguese as *maçarico-de-colete* (pronounced

'massariko gee coletch') meaning basically a sandpiper with a vest, had a bit of a pot belly and then made an observation that had the group in stitches; 'just like Rick!'

From that moment on my nickname in the group was 'maçarico,' a moniker that I carried with much pride, despite its origin.



Some of the kids enjoying a close encounter with a Pectoral Sandpiper — Elis Simpson

Jacanas — Rick Simpson



Wattlerd Jacana *Jacana jacana* — Elis Simpson

At the extremes of the wader spectrum lie species and families that look as if they ought to be included in other groups; Jacanas are one such family that consists of eight species. They are a peculiar bunch of birds and when you first encounter one trotting merrily across the floating vegetation of a pond you could easily be forgiven for turning to the gallinule page in your field guide before eventually alighting on the waders. This behavioural facet of their biology has given rise to the commonly used name of 'lily trotter' in many localities and 'lotus bird' in others. At times when the vegetation upon which they are walking is slightly submerged one gains the impression that they are walking on water and this

earned the Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea* of Australasia, among others, the colloquial name of 'Jesus bird' or 'Christ bird', names which have now all but died out in common usage.

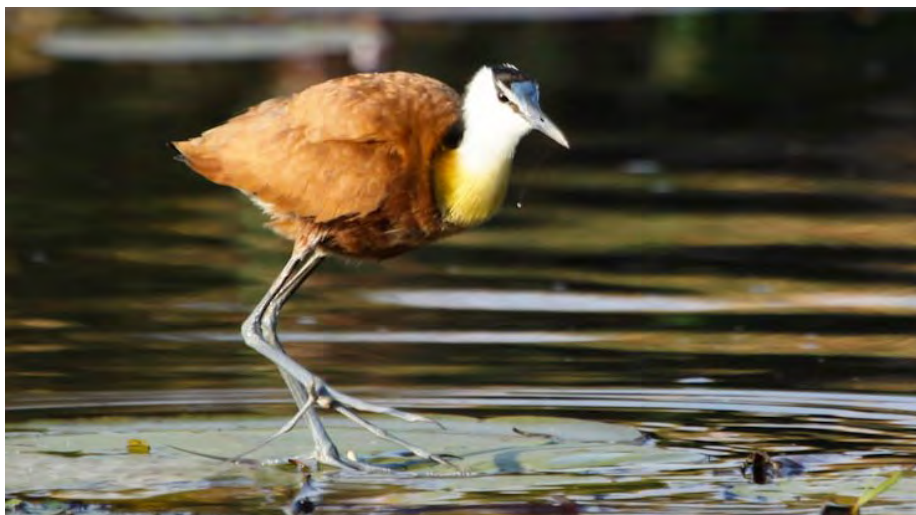
In order to traverse the lily pads and other floating vegetation jacanas have exceptionally elongated toes and claws, especially the hind claw that is usually very straight or upturned. This allows them to spread their weight across the surface of the lily leaves. However, this does not prevent them from providing observers with the amusing sight of a bird sinking slowly into the water on their lily platform once they stop moving. It also gives them an ungainly look when on more solid surfaces,

often treading on their own toes while trying to walk.

Some ornithological authorities in the past have not included them in the Charadriiformes (which includes waders, terns, gulls, skuas and auks) placing them instead within Gruiformes (cranes and allies) or in the family Rallidae (crakes and rails) because of their obvious similarity to that group of birds. However, bones and DNA don't lie and studies have shown that jacanas are strongly related to the Scolopacidae (sandpipers and allies). In addition the fact that they have precocial young, a trait they share with the other waders, separates them from the crakes and rails which do not. Jacanas are most closely related to painted-snipes and are commonly placed in a superfamily with them called Jacanoidea.

The name jacana originally came from the Tupi language of Brazilian indigenous tribes. What they called y-acã-nã (soft c) meaning 'that which has a loud voice' which was transcribed into Portuguese thus: Jaçanã (pronounced 'jassanah') with the emphasis on the last syllable. Many now, especially outside Portuguese and Spanish speaking Latin America, pronounce the word 'jakarna' with the emphasis on the middle syllable.

With only eight extant species of jacana in the world, clearly nowhere is going to have a great variety of them. They chiefly belong to warmer climes. Sub Saharan Africa has the biggest variety with



African Jacana *Actophilornis africana* — Elis Simpson

Jacanas — cont'd

three species, Asia has two species, Australia just a single species, while Central and South America have a further two species. This choice of temperature zone means that in Europe we are sadly bereft of them. A fossil from Miocene rocks in the Czech Republic was once thought to be a jacana but later studies suggest that the fossil is not, in fact, the bone of a jacana but rather that of a roller Coraciidae. North America also has no permanent examples living there today although a Pliocene fossil of a long extinct species, *Jacana farrandi*, was unearthed in Florida. Nevertheless the States is teased in southern Texas with jacanas at the very extreme north of their range and some historical breeding records.

Most Jacanas exhibit role reversal between the sexes. Males will usually only breed once per season but aggressively take sole charge of the young and feeding territory. Females will mate with more than one male and will help to defend the males' territories whilst not helping at all with the rearing of the young. But, before you ladies all sign up for reincarnation as jacanas, and despite the good people of Assam using the poetic name of 'little white water princess' to describe the Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*, this particular system of apparent bacchanalia creates a brutal backdrop to the otherwise tranquil lily ponds of the world. All is well for as long as the dominant female is in charge with her chick-rearing, egg-incubating males all being kept in check. If however she is ousted from her territory by another female all hell breaks loose. The usurper will go around killing off the young chicks and destroying the eggs of her vanquished predecessor. This will bring the males back into mating mode and she'll then benefit from their attentions thus passing on her own genes to the next generation. In a situation where the territory is so small that there is but one



Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea* — Elis Simpson

pair of birds in a monogamous relationship, then it has been known for the female to brood one family releasing the male to raise a second clutch.

Young birds are strong swimmers like their parents and will dive to avoid danger sometimes remaining with just the tip of the bill and nostril above water clinging to underwater vegetation. Curiously the very young will apparently only feed when they are accompanied by a feeding male. If the male gets distracted for some reason, or worse still deserts, or dies, leaving the chicks alone, although they are more than capable of feeding themselves they will simply stop doing so. They will loaf around and have been known to starve

themselves to death if the male does not return.

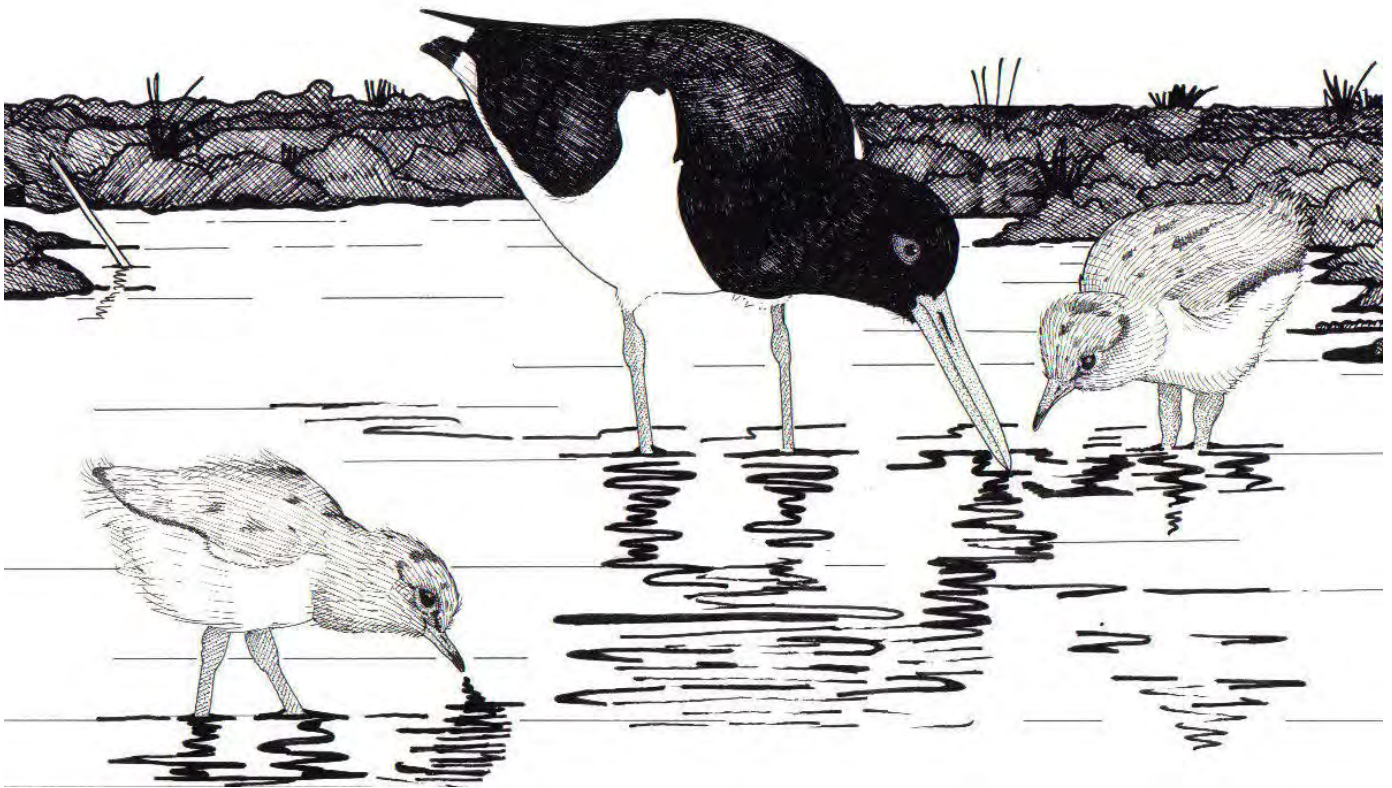
Several species within the group have enlarged flattened radii (bones in the wings) which are thought to allow the males a unique method of incubating eggs and brooding young where they sit on their wings, wrapping them under themselves and nestling the eggs and young between the wings and breast. They will also use this method to carry the young with two on each side producing the amusing sight of a bird with large feet sticking out from beneath its wings. Having said this, not all jacanas have this adaptation the Lesser Jacana *Microparra capensis* in Africa being one that doesn't, although it still carries its young in this manner.

Sexual size dimorphism is encountered mainly where one sex, be it male or female, is the main protagonist and strident defender of territory while the other is kept busy tending to the growing family. There is probably an advantage to being smaller for this latter role as it becomes easier to hide the smaller you are. Among the jacanas exists the most extreme difference in size between male and female to be found in any mammal or bird, with some female Pheasant-tailed Jacanas being twice as heavy as the males. Imagine if bull elephants were twice as large as the females. Having said that I'm twice as heavy as Elis so I think we'll leave it there.



Lesser Jacana *Microparra capensis* — Elis Simpson

Featured artist; Ronald Messemaker — Rick Simpson



Eurasian Oystercatcher and chicks — Ronald Messemaker

We first met Ronald Messemaker when we went to The Netherlands to assist Astrid Kant in her locating and ringing of young Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa*, in the silage fields of her region. In truth Astrid didn't really need our help, she manages the task very well between herself and Ronald, but it was certainly an enjoyable and eye-opening experience for us. Black-tailed Godwits and other meadow nesting waders suffer huge losses of young when the silage is cut before they have fledged. Astrid, and Ronald, have been finding the nests, marking them and persuading the farmers to avoid them when they cut the grass. Together they have saved many eggs and chicks from violent death and destruction.

While we were with the couple we saw some of Ronald's stunning pen and ink artwork and asked to see which species of wader he had illustrated, some of which you can see here .

We questioned Ronald about what it was about waders that inspired him so much, he replied;

'Waders are normally not really shy so they give me good opportunities to draw them.'

Sometimes I use my own photographs to inspire myself and look more in detail at home.

Waders are stunning birds in all plumages and behaviour. We have to take care of them because their environment will disappear rapidly.'

We were also fascinated by the Dutch names for the birds attached to Ronald's artwork. The Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* is called *Scholekster* in Dutch. The etymology



Brooding Little Ringed Plover — Ronald Messemaker

Featured artist; Ronald Messemaker — cont'd



Black-tailed Godwit — Ronald Messemaker



Northern Lapwing chick — Ronald Messemaker



Black-tailed Godwit chick — Ronald Messemaker



Common Redshank chick — Ronald Messemaker



Diademed Sandpiper-Plover
— Ronald Messemaker

of this is that *schol* is an old Dutch word meaning 'to split a shell'. *Ekster* is a description of the bird's colouration, the equivalent of pied, *i.e.* black and white. So this bird is a 'pied shell splitter'.



Egyptian Plover — Ronald Messemaker

Ronald is very adept at catching the complicated plumage of chicks and young birds. The Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* and those of the Black-tailed Godwit, Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* Eurasian and Curlew *Numenius arquata* on this page testify to his attention to detail.

The Dutch names of these last three species are all onomatopaeic. The Black-tailed Godwit is called *Grutto*, the Northern Lapwing is called *Kievit*, reminiscent of our own vernacular name of Peewit, and the Eurasian Curlew is called *Wulp* which greatly resembles the Scottish name for Curlew which is Whaup.

But it is not just young birds that Ronald depicts so well.

Previous newsletter pages have been adorned by some of Ronalds work , one of the most attractive being the Black-tailed Godwits with chicks above.

A brooding Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*, on the previous page, is captured beautifully. The Dutch name for this species is similar to our own without the Ringed part; *Kleine* (small or little) *Plevier* Plover.

It is not however just European birds that Ronald turns his hand to. The picture of the Diademed Sandpiper-Plover *Plegadis mitchellii*, above left, *Diademplevier* in Dutch, we used as a thumbnail on the website on the new featured Wader page, and here the Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegypticus* which



Eurasian Curlew chick — Ronald Messemaker

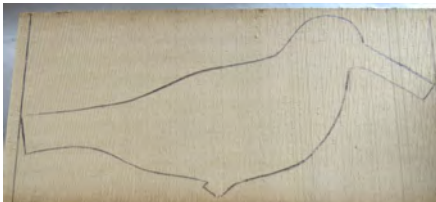
is known in Dutch as *Krokodilwachter* which means Crocodile Guard, somewhat similar to the English vernacular name of Crocodile Bird. given to this species due to the myth that they clean crocodiles' teeth.

Carving a Spoon-billed Sandpiper — Roger Francis

As a Birder and Woodcarver I especially like carving Waders, Do not ask why, waders, with their complex plumage and colouration, represent a challenge both in the carving and in the field. Initially carved birds were used as decoys for shooting (they still are in some countries) but now they may be highly detailed works of art, or they can still be heavier decoy style used to attract birds to re-establish areas, for ringing and for photography.

The carving process starts with researching the bird, collecting photos of the chosen subject (unfortunately most people only take profile photos whilst carvers want photos from all angles), gathering data from field guides and more often than not Birds of the Western Palearctic. Occasionally I am able to take measurements from study skins or taxidermy mounts although care has to be taken with the latter (poor jizz, stretched or badly shaped very worn plumages etc.)

Then onto creating a pattern, drawing the bird as you want to carve it, the drawing will need to be a side profile and a top profile and both have to match up together. Once you have created your plan you create two templates one of each profile ready to apply to your block of wood. At this stage you could make a model in plasticine or clay to see how it works out.



Side profile — Roger Francis



Top profile — Roger Francis

The wood can be any wood of your choice, generally hard woods. The most commonly used are Lime or Bass wood, Jelutong (Malaysian gum tree) some pines and the best is Tupelo which we cannot get here in the UK unless you pay extremely high prices. My choice is Jelutong readily available in the UK.

The two profiles are placed onto the rectangular block, one on the side the other on the top ensuring you have them



Breeding plumage Spoon-billed Sandpiper carving — Roger Francis

both facing the same way! Trace around the shape with a dark pen/pencil. Check again that the profiles match then you are ready to use the band saw to cut out the blank, first cut around the shape that you have traced on the side profile, once this is done tape the block back together into a rectangle and proceed to cut the other profile. This should give you a square shaped bird called a blank.



Blank — Roger Francis

The first step once you have your blank is to draw a central line from bill tip to tail tip on the upperside and the underside, this line remains throughout the carving process to help balance the carving process. You are now ready to start carving.

The first process is to start rounding out the square blank, for this you can use a knife, chisels, files or whatever you prefer, during the whole process keep referring back to your original plan.

When you are happy with shape then you start to draw in the feather groups,



Rounded out profile — Roger Francis

taking care to work from the central line and keep the balance of the bird.

Once you have established the feather groups and are happy with them you can start carving them in, when you are happy with the groups it's time to start drawing in all the individual feathers, obviously you cannot possibly do every feather, carvers tend to think of there being two feather types 1, the hard feathers i.e. tail and wings, and soft feathers i.e. the body feathers, but special care must be



Feather groups — Roger Francis

taken to have appropriate numbers of tail and wing feathers and if the bird has a

Carving a Spoon-billed Sandpiper — cont'd

feather group which are specialist feathers *i.e.* a crest.

When you are happy with the feather lay out you proceed to carve the individual feathers, depending on how brave you are taking the wings and tail down as fine as possible.



Feather tracts — Roger Francis

With the hard feather groups carved I generally move onto the head and bill, carefully using the plan to get the bill shape and length correct, as soon as I am happy with the finish on the bill I soak it with very thin super glue to strengthen the structure.

With the bill finished the next step is to work out the eye position to drill the hole and check that the eyes fit (I use taxidermy glass eyes). Initially I set the eyes in using blu-tak which allows you to check position from all angles, when I am happy with position I set the eyes in place using an epoxy resin creating eyelids with the resin, once again check alignment and positioning before leaving them to set overnight.

Now back to the feather detail, in general the soft feathers are created by



Eye sockets drilled — Roger Francis

determining the flow of the body feathers drawing in the feathers and then cutting in each barb using a grinding stone or diamond burr. The hard feathers are burnt in using a very fine pyrograph pen, every barb is burnt in on each feather this can take many hours.

With the body work almost finished its back to your original data to make the legs, using measurements from Birds of the Western Palearctic you use the tarsus measurement to create the leg, remembering to allow extra for insertion



Feather details — Roger Francis

into the body and into the base. I normally use brass rod for the leg, with the leg created it's on to the feet, taking care to get precise toe measurements and structure. Waders toes vary so much. Do they have webbing? Do they have a hind toe? Is it elevated *etc*? With the toes made you solder them all together and build up the toes with material of your choice resin, glues *etc*.

Once you are happy with the legs theses are then attached to the bird, the bird is cleaned down and prepared for sealing and painting. I use sand and sealer applying two coats and sanding down gently

with very fine sandpaper between each coat. The bird is then painted over with thin gesso if you use it straight from the can the thickness will obliterate the detail you have created.

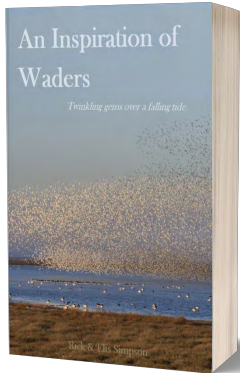
The final stage is painting. This is a very long and drawn out process applying very thin washes of acrylic paint to create the detail of whatever plumage you have decided upon. This will require constant referral to your reference material. When you are happy (if ever) the bird has to be attached to a base or to its habitat. I like to keep bases as simple as possible so as not to distract from the bird.



Non breeding plumage Spoon-billed Sandpiper carving — Roger Francis

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***An Inspiration of Waders***

by Rick and Elis Simpson

RRP £9.99

Special offer just £8.50 for Friends and Sponsors
all proceeds go to Wader Quest

Discover our cultural connection to waders and find out how waders have inspired the authors, other people's careers, art, literature, poetry, music, myths and legends, and how inspiring some of these birds really are.

Find out too about collective nouns for waders and why 'An Inspiration of Waders' is the right collective noun for these inspiring birds.

***Eury the Spoon-billed Sandpiper***

by Rick and Elis Simpson. Illustrated by Megan Tadden

RRP £7.99

Now just £7.50
all proceeds go to Wader Quest

Follow the adventures of Eury the Spoon-billed Sandpiper from when he was just an egg to being a proud father himself. Join him on his amazing journey from north-eastern Russia to south-east Asia and back again on his first migration south to escape the cold Siberian winter. See what hazards these little birds have to face just to survive each day. There are many natural dangers like foxes and gulls, but many more problems are caused by human beings, what the little birds call 'the creatures that walk upright'.

Wader Quest Shop — cont'd

Wader Quest 2019 Calendar (A5)



£5 each
or
2 for £8
or
3 for £10



New pin badges launched at Bird Fair 2018

£2.00



plus;
recently launched
Redesigned Ruddy Turnstone badge

old badges are no longer available to purchase through Wader Quest



All available from Wader Quest: email waderquest@gmail.com
Post and packing charges will be applied to all items in the Wader Quest shop

Colour-ringed Purple Sandpiper — David Henderson



Purple Sandpiper in Svalbard - David Henderson

Recently we received the above photograph from David Henderson with the accompanying message via email:

'Barbara and I have recently returned from an expedition cruise to Svalbard and eastern Greenland. Waders were thin on the ground, as would be

expected, with only Red Phalarope [*Phalaropus lobatus*], Purple Sandpiper [*Calidris maritima*], [Common] Ringed Plover [*Charadrius hiaticula*] and Ruddy Turnstone [*Arenaria interpres*] being seen.

However, we did see a colour-banded Purple Sandpiper in Svalbard and I

have been informed that this bird was banded in Sweden'.

Subsequently David sent us the report he received from Bird Ringing Centre, The Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm, *Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet*. the details of which are below.

We gratefully acknowledge your report of our bird ring with ring number 4651170.

Ringed:

Species: Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Age: Second year wing: 131 mm weight: 58.9 g

Date: 2014-04-09 (10h)

Place: SWEDEN, HALLAND, NIDINGEN

Coordinates: 57° 18' N 11° 54' E

Other marks: Colour rings LI/SV/ME [LILAC//BLACK/METAL] / Colour rings VI/SV [WHITE/BLACK]

This recovery:

Date: 2018-08-08

Place: NORWAY, SVALBARD, OSSIAN SARSFJELLET Coordinates: 78° 56' N 12° 28' E

Finding details: Controlled in the field. Bird identified from coloured or numbered leg ring(s). 'One of four feeding ..' Photo sent.

Colour rings LILAC//BLACK/METAL / Colour rings WHITE/BLACK

Time passed: 4 years 121 days, Distance / direction (orthodrome): 2406 km / 0° N

All reports about this bird:

2015-04-29 57° 18' N 11° 54' E SWEDEN, HALLAND, NIDINGEN [0 km] Retrapped by the ringer. wing: 128 mm weight: 63,7 g

2018-04-29 57° 18' N 11° 54' E SWEDEN, HALLAND, NIDINGEN [0 km] Retrapped by the ringer. wing: 132 mm weight: 73,6 g

*2018-08-08 78° 56' N 12° 28' E NORWAY, SVALBARD, OSSIAN SARSFJELLET [2406 km / 0°] [2018 / 2591 .01]

Controlled in the field. Bird identified from coloured or numbered leg ring(s). 'One of four feeding ..'

Send us your colour-ring photos and information — Ed.

We are always pleased to hear from anyone with photos of colour-ringed waders with reports (if available) that we can publish in this newsletter.

We encourage observers to look for colour-ringed waders, to note them (photograph them if possible) and report them to the appropriate authority (if in doubt please contact us and we may be able to help). Then, when feedback is received on the ringing and recovery information, send that to us together with

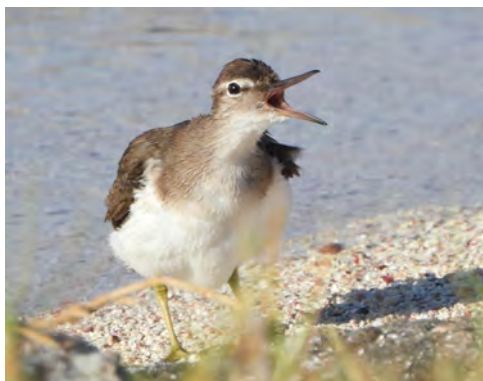
the photo and some information about how you came to see the bird and we'll publish it in the newsletter.

The more observers that report sightings, the better the science behind the ringing programme will be and, in the end, the better the information and data that will be available for those involved in wader conservation. This information can be used with a view to improving the survival chances of our beleaguered wader populations across the world.

Remember. When reading colour leg rings you start at the top of the bird's left leg noting colour and position above or below the joint (and size of the ring if varying). This then is followed by the right leg in the same manner.

Note details of location and any other relevant information that may be useful about what the bird was doing, whether it was alone *etc.* All of this adds to our knowledge of wader migration, behaviour and, therefore, conservation.

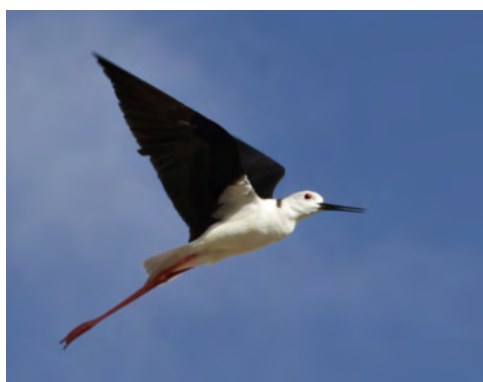
Wader photo gallery — send us your favourite wader photos



Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*
- Knut Hansen, Barbados



Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*
- Ronald Summers; Iceland



Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
- Elis Simpson; Fuerteventura



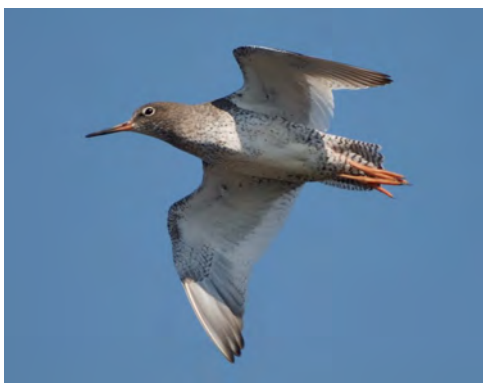
Double-banded Plover *Chardrius bicinctus*
- Dave Jackson; New Zealand



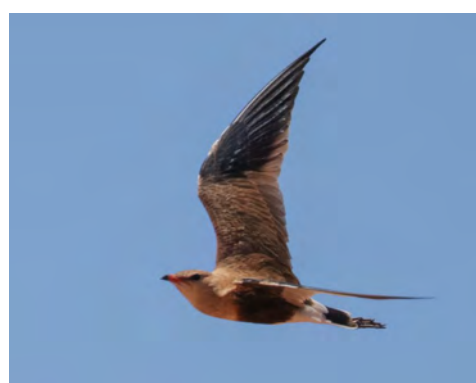
Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*
- Martin Eayrs; Peru



Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*
- Andrew Whitelee; Isle of Skye, Scotland



Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
- Julian Bhalerao; UK



Australian Pratincole *Calidris maritima*
- Tommy Pedersen; Australia



WADER QUEST; THE NATURAL HOME FOR WADER LOVERS

Waders need love too!

FRIENDS OF WADER QUEST AND SPONSORSHIP RATES

Friends of Wader Quest:

Individual	£5.00
Family	£7.50
Life	£200.00

Sponsors:

Club	£10.00
Corporate	£50.00

FOWQ and Sponsorship rates will be changing 06/04/2019 — see page 3

Wader Quest Trustee news.

Chair: Rick Simpson

Secretary: Rachel Walls

Treasurer/Publicity: Elis Simpson

Membership Secretary: Ian Dearing

Board members: Lee Dingain, Chris Lamsdell and Andrew Whitelee (Scotland).

Last meeting: 27th January: London Wetland Centre, Queen Elizabeth's Walk, London SW13 9WT

Next Meeting : 10:30 28th January: Linford Lakes NR, Wolverton Rd, Milton Keynes MK14 5AH

Email: waderquest@gmail.com
Website: www.waderquest.net

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/waderquest>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WaderQuest?fref=ts>

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Edited by Rick Simpson.

