



WADER QUEST

THE NEWSLETTER Volume 7; Issue 4: January 2021



Pied Lapwing *Vanellus cayanus* Marcelo Barbosa

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THE NATURAL HOME FOR WADER LOVERS

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Registered Charity England and Wales; 1183748

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Dylan Parry-Davies,
Elis Simpson,
Rick Simpson,
Ellie Wise
Vacancies

Grants Panel:

Ray Heaton (Chair)
Jannik Hansen
Andrew MacGarvey
Rick Simpson

Vacancies: Interested parties in any of the above, please email info@waderquest.net for further information.

Next meeting:

Trustees: 5th Feb 2021

Exec. Comm: 8th Mar 2021

AGM: November 2021 TBA

Friends of Wader Quest fees:

Individual £10.00
Family £15.00
Life £200.00

Sponsorship fees:

Club £20.00
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General enquiries:

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Wader Conservation World Watch enquiries:

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Grant applications and information:

applications@waderquest.net

Merchandise enquiries:

sales@waderquest.net

Membership enquiries:

membership@waderquest.net

Wader Quest's aims

To raise awareness about the challenges waders face in the modern world.

To raise funds to support wader conservation worldwide, especially those involving locally led community projects.

Our mission:

To promote, for the benefit of the public, the conservation and protection of waders or shorebirds and improvements of their physical and natural habitats; and

To advance the education of the public regarding the conservation and protection of waders or shorebirds and their natural habitats.

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Edited by Rick Simpson

Wader Quest News

Trustee updates and news

The Board of Trustees is delighted to announce that Nicky Fennessey has been co-opted onto the Board with immediate effect and will be ratified at the next AGM later this year. Nicky recently retired from the Hertfordshire Constabulary and is keen to use her new-found time to good effect. She is a Founder Friend of Wader Quest having been with us since 2014. Although not a birder Nicky has a keen interest in the environment and in making sure that there is a place for all wildlife as humanity encroaches on every corner of the natural world.

The 2019/20 report for the Charity Commission has now been completed and submitted on time. This was our first year of needing to produce this report so some initial teething problems had to be overcome, which, thanks to Trustee Chris Lamsdell they were. We have also now applied for the proposed conversion to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which was approved in a vote by the Friends and Sponsors last year. Wader Quest will still maintain its charitable status. This change will not affect our aims and mission, new rules will only affect the governance of the charity not its remit.

Ray Heaton agreed to join the Grants Panel and bring his wealth of grant making experience to the panel. He was later persuaded to take on the role of Grants panel Chair. See below.

Last meeting 13th November 2020: next meeting 5th February 2021.

Executive Committee updates and news

We are pleased to announce that Phil Hadley has agreed to take on the role of ExCo. Secretary with immediate effect since the post was vacant.

We still need help with various projects and there are exciting roles up for grabs on ExCo. including Communications, Fundraising and Wader Conservation World Watch Campaign Managers although we do still invite people to join ExCo. if none of these roles specifically appeal. So, if you are reading this and want to do something to help waders, get in touch and have a chat with us. Contact Rick Simpson rick.simpson@waderquest.net or Andrew MacGarvey andrew.macgarvey@waderquest.net
Last meeting: 18th January 2021 next meeting 8th March 2021.

Grants Panel updates and news

We welcome Ray Heaton to the panel to join Rick Simpson, Andrew MacGarvey and Jannik Hansen bringing our number to four. Ray has a wealth of experience as a Trustee of the Zoological Society of London and his knowledge and advice will be greatly appreciated by the team.

There have been few decisions due to a lack of applications since the last newsletter, however it has been agreed to pay for the translation of two videos into Spanish to help recruit, train, and support wader/shorebird enthusiasts for Manomet's International Shorebird Survey team in the Western Hemisphere.

In addition we received an application to supply a telescope to the team who are studying the Endangered Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* and the panel unanimously agreed. The equipment requested was manufactured by Vortex and they have been very helpful indeed with arranging the supply of the items needed, despite restrictions in supply, at a very generous discounted rate. All of the difficult logistical issues have been overcome and the payment made. The items should be shipped to the team any day now.

Another request was made for Wader Quest to help an NGO in Uganda to conserve the Shoebill *Balaeniceps rex*. Strictly speaking this species is not a wader, but the project is set to preserve important wetlands and so the Grants Panel is looking at the proposal to see if there is a way we can help as the work would certainly help waders in the region too.

In other news.

Gary Summerfield is a pin badge collector and producer. He has amassed a huge collection of bird pins over time and collects all of the Wader Quest pins. He also produces his own collection of badges which are excellent in quality and very popular with other collectors. Towards the end of last year Gary very generously donated part of his profits from the sale of his badges to Wader Quest and in the end sent an incredibly generous donation of £340.00. In a year when income has been hard to come by for the Charity, every penny counts, so a generous donation of this size is greatly appreciated, and it also magnifies the value of Gary's generosity knowing that everyone is affected by the economic downturn caused by Covid-19.

Piping Oystercatcher footage request.

Wader Quest is working with a composer to produce a short film involving Eurasian Oystercatchers. We are looking for photographers or film-makers who may have footage of these birds. We are particularly looking for clips of them displaying in their typical head-down pose, piping away for all they're worth and running around in circles. Having said that any footage of Eurasian Oystercatchers involved in any sort of frenetic activity could perhaps be suitable for inclusion as the music is upbeat and catchy. If you have some footage you would like to donate for consideration by the editing team, please initially contact Elis Simpson elis.simpson@waderquest.net.

Summary Of 2020 – Rick Simpson

Well, I'm glad that's over, and I suspect a great number of you reading this feel the same. It is as though we have simply lost what amounts to an entire year of our lives. Not that we are collectively out of the woods just yet, but there is a glimmer of hope that the tide will turn in our favour soon.

Up until mid March, 2020 looked as if it was going along in the same sweet way as life intended. Elis and I had given several talks, we had visited friends in Yorkshire, and embarked on a twitch, unsuccessfully. This was an attempt to see a long staying Little Curlew in the Netherlands. We missed it's last sighting by mere minutes, despite it being there all winter. In March we visited Norfolk with a view to spending some time simply watching and photographing waders, our favourite pastime at some of our best-loved sites. We were also there to celebrate my birthday, but when the Covid bombshell struck, we had to cut our trip short and flee for home before national lockdown trapped us.

On a very personal side, my 98 year old mother, for whom we had been carer since the summer of 2016, along with my late father before he died in 2019, had moved to a care home in November of that year. Her biggest fear was being abandoned, and that was now coming to pass due to no fault of our own, causing me much regret, stress and anxiety. Talks, events, meetings and much more besides were cancelled or postponed, it felt like our world was falling apart, and indeed in many ways it was.

Like many other organisations, businesses and individuals, the charity's income slowed to a mere trickle, with no large injections from events such as Bird Fair and the steady flow of sign-ups, sales and donations that result from the talks Elis and I give. This, coupled with our decision to change how the subs are paid, meaning many payments were delayed until the end of the year, meant an ever more worrying slow-down in revenue receipts. The upside of all this was of course that the expenses incurred in signing up, and preparing for events did not happen either. Fortunately, although we had reduced income to our Grants Fund, as a result of the worldwide slow down there we fewer applications as projects got closed or postponed everywhere.

As the summer wore on, we all started adapting to the 'new normal', with life becoming more and more virtual and online. To dinosaurs like me this was a challenge, but to others it was a whole new untapped source of opportunities for their imaginations to feast upon. The Trustees and Executive Committee members managed to get their heads around virtual meetings and the first ever Wader Quest online AGM was hailed as a great success by all. We were learning fast.

Just recently Elis and I did our first Zoom presentation to an RSPB group in Shrewsbury. It was quite a different experience to facing an audience, which I greatly enjoy. I relish the personal interaction with them, seeing and hearing their reactions to what I am presenting them with, be it a cute wader chick or a disastrous conservation problem. With a zoom meeting there is no way of gauging the audience experience, unless people write afterwards to let you know, which thankfully they have and, to my immense relief, thus far, all has been favourable. The talk has lead to sales and sign-ups as we had hoped it would. I must say that not having a table full of wares for people to peruse made the uncomfortable task of hard selling more essential, a task I am not well equipped to perform (as my sales supervisors in any one of the places I have worked that involve this sort of business will attest). I think though that my biggest regret with the change is the inability to mingle and talk to the audience during the break and after the talk. There are so many interesting stories that people have about waders that we are not likely to now hear about. It is also in these personal moments where people who are unsure about joining or donating can be reassured and persuaded to do so. The personal touch, which is so typical of the Wader Quest approach, is somehow lost, and it may be that this will become less and less a feature of the charity as we become distanced, not by choice but from necessity, from our public.

Elis and I had long wished to visit Varanger in northern Norway and finally in 2020 this chance had been arranged for the first week in June. The idea, apart from having a much desired break, was to top up our selection of in-house photographs of waders and include some in breeding plumage, of which we have precious few. Needless to say the time approached and

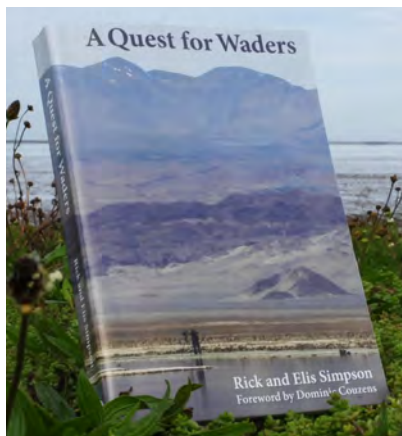


The Dutch field full of Eurasian Curlews *Numenius arquata*, European Golden Plovers *Pluvialis apricaria* and Northern Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus* where, 10 minutes earlier, there had also been a Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*.
Below; talks and events cancelled - Elis Simpson



the plans were all cancelled or rather postponed to this year, but even that is looking uncertain as I write.

On a much more positive note, our fears of a complete flop for Wader Conservation World Watch due to the restrictions placed on folk around the world, were unfounded. Indeed we had a tremendously successful event compared to all those that have gone before. We surpassed all our totals from even our best years previously. We had 489 observers (previous best 327), from 53 countries (38) who together recorded 167 (145) species. Elis and I were kept very busy indeed collating these reports and creating a bumper [WCWW newsletter special](#). If we are to increase our coverage in future, we will need to recruit a volunteer to help us with the planning and publicity before the event, and collation and acknowledgment of participation during and after the event in future... interested? (See page 8.)



2020 was also the year that the story of our adventures and of the charity itself finally got told in book form. *A Quest for Waders* was due to be launched at the Bird Fair but the Bird Fair didn't happen in its usual form, and the book wasn't quite ready when it did materialise in virtual form. As the book is entirely self-published by Wader Quest Publishing, and is designed to be a fundraiser, choosing a printer is a vital decision. In the end we switched from the company that printed *An Inspiration of Waders* and moved to Swallowtail Press in Norfolk. The good folk there were very kind, helpful and generous and in the end produced a book of which we are very proud.

When the marketing side of things was considered we knew it is hard to make money from writing a book. Many authors will agree if you ask them, unless you are chatting to J. K. Rowling or Lee Child of course, so, cutting out stages of the process where a cut of the profit was expected was vital. To that end Elis and I removed ourselves from the equation by refusing any royalties or payment whatsoever from the sale of the books. Therefore all proceeds are to be ploughed back into the Wader Quest coffers. We had sufficient funds to get 500 copies printed and went ahead. It was hoped that our main marketplace would have been at the talks we give, where people would be drawn in by the talk and want to know more, but sadly that possibility has not yet materialised. Instead, all we could do was to put it on the website and share the news all over social media and we also sent a few copies for review. The results have been better than we expected, as the reviews have been published they have all been very positive and encouraging and each has led to sales. Our friend David Lindo The Urban Birder also came to the fore offering to advertise our book alongside his own on his website. He asked for no cut or fee whatsoever, an incredibly generous gesture that too has resulted in sales. At this rate, when we do finally get to sell the book to live audiences, there will be none left. (See page 21.)

Our annual offering of enamelled wader pins was revealed at the Virtual Bird Fair, the latter being another new experience. Of course we hope it will be back to being live in 2021, but that is looking less likely with each passing day, however we are now more experienced with virtual events and hope to make a better fist of the opportunity this year if the live event is once again cancelled. The new pins were well received as always and have sold well with our usual mix of the familiar and the exotic (for European birders); Great Thick-knee *Esacus recurvirostris*; Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*; Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola*; Two-banded Plover *Charadrius falklandicus*. Four more pins are already in production, two of which were chosen by a social media poll; Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* and Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*. These will be ready by Bird Fair, if not before, the remaining two will be kept under our hats as usual until they are launched.



Also on the merchandising front, we have been lucky to receive the generous donations of two sets of cards, one lot of greetings cards and the other of postcards.

The greetings cards have been donated by Ian Dearing, one of our Trustees. He bought the originals of 13 Nik Borrow wader pen and ink artworks and with the blessing of the artist has had them printed as greetings cards and donated the whole lot to Wader Quest. We are selling these as packs of 12 at the moment with the 13th thrown in free. (see page 25). In addition we have also received a lovely set of 5 postcards, printed from vibrant paintings by artist Julia Page (see Waders In Art pp11-13 [newsletter Vol 7 issue 3](#) where she is the featured artist). Julia has organised the printing of these postcards, which feature British waders and also donated them at no cost to the charity for fundraising purposes. (See page 26).

But Julia is by no means the only artist who has stepped up to the plate to help us raise funds this year. On our [Wader Artwork For Sale](#) page on the website, a number of artists have been displaying their art for sale. Each sale will result in a donation to Wader Quest. Joining [Szabolcs Kokáy](#) in 2020 were [Jose Arcas](#), [Heidi Lots](#), [Holly Thompson](#) and [Tom Henderson](#).



So you can see we are still doing whatever we can to keep Wader Quest afloat and moving forward, we have recently completed a couple of Grant Fund donations, one to the International Shorebird Survey to help with their community shorebird projects in the Americas and the other to the team working to discover more about the Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* and the declining Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* in Schaste Bay in Russia. We are also slowly adding to and improving the website with changes for making payments and adding content, as and when we can. Above all else the forming of the Executive Committee, all of whom have been very supportive and proactive, to enhance the governance team has been a real boon for the Trustees and especially Elis and me.

Elis and I, plus the Trustees and Executive Committee wish most of all though, to thank all of you who have supported us during a very difficult year, especially as we know that the current circumstance have made life hard for everyone, not just us. We are humbled by your continued support and are very conscious of the fact that an organisation like Wader Quest is nothing without its Friends, Sponsors donors and other supporters. So thank you for your support in 2020 and we wish you all a healthy, safe and much improved 2021.

Meet The Team:

Chair of Executive Committee

Andrew MacGarvey

I joined Wader Quest a couple of years ago and met Rick and Elis at the 2019 AGM held at the Cley Marshes visitor centre. Attending the event gave me a new-found appreciation for the serious challenges faced by waders all around the world. I decided that I wanted to try and help and kept in touch with Rick. The Trustees had been discussing forming an Executive Committee and when the call went out for volunteers, I met Rick and Elis again as they outlined what the Exco. (as we now call it) would do at a briefing in Milton Keynes. It is a privilege to now serve as Chair for the Wader Quest Exco. and help this amazing charity to operate in a sustainable and scalable fashion.

While carrying out my "day job", I spend a lot of time travelling outside of the UK (2020 was a very different year of course). I have found over the years, one way I can switch off from work and to relax is to get out into the countryside and watch birds! I would say I am a keen amateur and am very much still learning, even after many years spent in the field. I enjoy helping casual walkers and non-birders to identify interesting species and I am especially keen to engage a younger audience. These are the people we will need to carry on with conservation in the future!

I have learned, we can all help when it comes to conservation. You don't need to go as far as chairing an Exco. of course; you can make small differences in how you engage with wildlife and habitat that can build into bigger positive changes. I am passionate about allowing migrating waders the space they need to rest and feed, particularly during their migration seasons. So, this is an area I will focus on in my bid to make a difference. We are currently looking at a project which will create habitat for migrating waders as they pass over the UK and we hope to provide educational information boards at the site. It is a small project, but it will help visiting waders if we succeed.



A massive **THANK YOU** to all our
Friends, Sponsors, donors and
supporters who have stuck with us
through these difficult times.

ÉLVONAL Shorebird Science; Connecting Research And Conservation Globally

Vojtěch Kubelka



“Sex role evolution: testing the impacts of ecology, demography and genes”, in short ÉLVONAL Shorebird Science (www.elvonالشorebirds.com) is an international project focused on shorebirds. The project is run from the University of Debrecen, Hungary, led by Prof. Tamás Székely, and is funded by the Hungarian government stream called “ÉLVONAL”. The main objective of the project is to understand mating system evolution using shorebirds as model organisms and execute behavioural, genomic and demographic investigations. The ÉLVONAL project has 30 interconnected research teams across the world and cooperates with several organizations including the International Wader Study Group, BirdLife International and Wader Quest.

The ÉLVONAL project represents friendly, open and inclusive community of scientists, conservationists and students, not only pursuing together ambitious scientific objectives, but also simultaneously supporting and raising a new generation of researchers, especially in developing countries, and implementing conservation measures protecting shorebirds and their habitats. Our conservation actions range from direct nest protection and negotiation with farmers, across promotion of agri-environmental schemes for shorebirds in the agricultural landscapes to establishing large scale agreements for shorebird habitat restoration in protected areas or running a conservation targeted NGO in Cabo Verde: Maio Biodiversity Foundation (<https://fmb-maio.org/>). We hold regular meetings and interact with our collaborators via conferences, regular online meetings and targeted webinars or fieldwork training camps.

ÉLVONAL also works as an effective platform, enhancing cooperation and stimulating research activities beyond the frontier of our current knowledge. We are open to new collaborators to join us from anywhere in the world, at any career stage and no matter whether they are in academia or in conservation bodies and NGO's. This may include for example scientists, conservationists, post-doctoral researchers, PhD students, MSc students, interns and volunteers. Next to the focus on cutting-edge science, ÉLVONAL project has a significant training and capacity building components as well as it is impacting on biodiversity conservation for the benefits of shorebirds and people worldwide.

WCWW8 6th—7th Nov 2021

If you would like to help organise and develop this event on an International, national, regional or local scale, then please email for more details;

info@waderquest.net



What Has Bonaparte Got To Do With Waders? Rick Simpson

Well, not a lot if you are talking about Emperor Napoleon 1 Bonaparte of Waterloo fame. I suspect though, given the era in which he lived he may have eaten the odd one or two individuals, or their eggs, but beyond that there is, as far as I know, no other connection between him and waders. Or is there?

It may be tenuous, but there is in fact a link, and that is because Napoleon was the uncle of one Charles Lucien Jules Laurent Bonaparte, 2nd Prince of Canino and Musignano (24 May 1803 – 29 July 1857) who, after being born in Paris was raised in Italy.

Charles married his cousin Zénaïde and together they left for Philadelphia in the United States to live with Zénaïde's father, Joseph Bonaparte. On the journey across the Atlantic Charles collected a storm-petrel, which he later wrote up and gave the name *Procellaria Wilsonii* [sic] Wilson's Storm-Petrel in a paper in 1824, although its description is now attributed to Heinrich Kuhl in 1820 and now called *Oceanites oceanicus*.

In 1838 he coined the genus *Zenaidra*, after his wife, for the Mourning Dove *Zenaidra macroura* and its relatives, and is responsible for giving scientific names to many birds including a number of wader species.

Of the four wader genera he named, only one is still in use today, *Prosobonia* (1850), which refers to the Polynesian sandpipers. Of the five species in the genus only one is extant, Tuamotu Sandpiper *P. parvirostris*, the others; Kiritimati Sandpiper *P. cancellata*, Moorea Sandpiper *P. ellisi*, Tahiti Sandpiper *P. leucoptera* (known only from a single specimen consisting of only a single wing, which gave rise to an alternative English name of White-winged Sandpiper) and *P. sauli*, recently discovered from Henderson Island from fossil remains, are all extinct. [Read more.](#)



Charles Lucien Jules Laurent Bonaparte.

Lithograph by T. H. Maguire, 1849 — [wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Lucien_Jules_Laurent_Bonaparte)

Surveying Beach-nesting Birds On Barrier Islands In Australia — Dr Amy Adams, Beach-nesting Birds Project Officer, BirdLife Australia.

Nooramunga Marine & Coastal Park is located within the Corner Inlet RAMSAR Site and it covers approximately 30,000 ha. The complex coastal habitats of the Park include islands, intertidal flats and subtidal marine environments. In particular, the Corner Inlet barrier islands have lower human visitation rates than most of the mainland beaches and contain important breeding areas for Hooded Plovers *Thinornis cucullatus*, and for other beach-nesting shorebirds species, such as Red-capped Plovers *Charadrius ruficapillus*, and Pied Oystercatchers *Haematopus longirostris*, and for seabirds like Crested Terns *Thalasseus bergii*, Caspian Terns *Hydroprogne caspia* and occasionally Fairy Terns.

The BirdLife Australia's Beach-nesting Birds team has been fortunate to have the opportunity to repeatedly survey four of Corner Inlet's barrier islands (Snake, Boxbank, Clonmel, Dream) during a full breeding season (2019/20), continuing on from our initial summer 2018 pilot study. This project is funded by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and is part of the Australian Government National Landcare Program investment in controlling foxes and other key threats to shorebirds within Corner Inlet.

Our key aims are... [Read more.](#)



Fox preying on a Pied Oystercatcher nest (remote camera image) - BirdLife Australia.

Extirpation Of A Sparrow Colony — Rick Simpson.

This may seem unrelated to the plight of waders or shorebirds, but bear with me, there is a point to bringing this up as it is symptomatic of the root cause of many of the waders' problems, ranging from a disconnect from the world around us (at best) to a wilful lack of consideration for the negative impact our actions, designed to better our own lives, have on the lives of other creatures.

Elis and I live in an oasis, sadly not one surrounded by remote natural desert, but rather a man-made desert. Neighbouring gardens are, for the most part, laid to lawn as a best case scenario, or worst case, completely denuded of anything living with decking, patios and plastic lawns. Almost every tree that used to be in the neighbourhood has been removed, which means our meagre plot, with its flowering plants for the insects, a rowan tree, a silver birch, several small blackthorns, hawthorns, buddleias, yew and an ivy-clad washing line post are some of the few hiding and roosting spots on the estate.

Fairly recently a lone fir tree was felled in a garden across the road, thus removing the last Coal Tits *Periparus ater* and Goldcrests *Regulus regulus* from the estate, we lost our daily sight and sound of these charming little birds. This meant that up to the beginning of November we only had the following as regular guests to the garden; European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* (up to 20); Eurasian Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* (up to 50); Feral Pigeons *Columba livia* (a flock of around a dozen); Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* (one that comes sporadically); Collared Doves *Streptopelia decaocto* (occasional visitor) Black-billed Magpies *Pica pica* (passing through); Common Blue Tits *Cyanistes caeruleus* (a pair); a Dunnock *Prunella modularis*; a European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*; a Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula* and, up to recently, House Sparrows *Passer domesticus* (up to 50).

Those sparrows are now gone. [Read more.](#)



House Sparrows - Elis Simpson

Wader Photography; Insights And Experiences

Dylan Parry-Davies

I have to admit to being slightly taken aback when Rick first proposed the idea of me writing about wader photography. Not through any feelings about not wanting to do it, but more about whether I could do the subject justice. One of the most rewarding aspects of being part of Wader Quest and the Wader Quest Executive Committee is witnessing and being part of the drive, passion and incredible talents of its collective members. My abilities as a photographer are modest by comparison, but I count myself lucky to be able to contribute in any way I can. What follows then is not by any means the definitive guide on wader photography, but more so a collection of experiences, thoughts and things I've learned along the way.



Black-tailed Godwits, having been flushed by a Marsh Harrier, Brightlingsea — Dylan Parry-Davies

Bird photography in general is very challenging, wader photography even more so. Something I can attest to, now living in the comparatively sparse birding region of the Oxfordshire/Warwickshire border. Wader photography for me and I suspect a lot of people who don't have the great fortune of living along a migration corridor, breeding ground or other birding hotspot isn't easy. This doesn't mean it's impossible, however, you just have to work harder for it. [Read more.](#)

Space For Shorebirds In Northumberland

Richard Willis

Northumberland, in the North-east of England has a coastline of stunning beauty, with open sandy beaches, hard rocky platforms and islands, interspersed with discrete areas of mud and backed by some impressive sand dunes, supporting important plant communities. All of these natural bounties make it a host to internationally important populations of a number of wader species. Almost all of Northumberland's coastline is important for wading birds, being part of the Northumberland Shore SSSI.

Space for Shorebirds was set up by Northumberland County Council with the aim of addressing the impacts of recreational disturbance to shorebirds associated with the Northumberland Shore SSSI, primarily through education and engagement.

Research shows that at most coastal sites at least 50% of bird disturbance involves a dog, so dog owners are the single most important group of people that we must reach. So we are recruiting Dog Rangers to act as champions; dog owners that appreciate the nature around them and are pleased to sign the Dog Ranger pledge, to look out for shorebirds, to give them space and promise not to chase the birds. This initiative is going really well, and a community of dog owning shorebird lovers is developing!

Space for Shorebird rangers have enforcement powers to instruct dog owners to put their pet on a lead, where off lead dogs are causing serious disturbance to wildlife. This is a useful deterrent and could be important during the breeding season, however we are well aware that gaining friends and supporters for the birds and our project is the best way to make progress.

[Read more.](#)



Sam the Dog Ranger making sure he is familiar with the Space for Shorebirds guidance © Mark Eaton

A ‘Stint’ At Pak Thale - Peter Ericsson

Not having visited Pak Thale since March 2020 was great motivation for me to do so a short stint this morning.

I made sure it was fine with authorities and there were no check points whatsoever, though I had to drive through some red zoned areas. It was kind of weird though, as these so-called red zones primarily have tested some foreign factory workers with a positive result and basically all are asymptomatic and now have to spend their 2 weeks in field camps).

I got to Pak Thale by 7 am. It was already

hot and there was absolutely no wind. The haze that lingers over Bangkok was also here, but reduced.

I had checked the tidal schedule earlier, so I knew it should be high tide, which is the best for wader watching.

[Read more.](#)



Waders at Pak Thale, Thailand — Peter Ericsson

What’s In A Name? Dotterel - Rick Simpson

The Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*; when I first heard the name as a youngster it was one of those, almost mythical, species which, as far as I could see, I had little or no chance of ever seeing. In those days even an outing to Norfolk from our house in the home counties, let alone a holiday to the Cairngorms, was still only a dream; my family could not afford a car.

It was an inaccessible bird and the fact that I was unlikely to see one any time soon, added to the aura of mysticism surrounding the bird, and the wonderful name highlighted the specialness of this bird to me.

I had no appreciation of why the bird was called by this unusual name, I thought it was rather quaint, cute even, but in fact, nothing could be further from the truth.

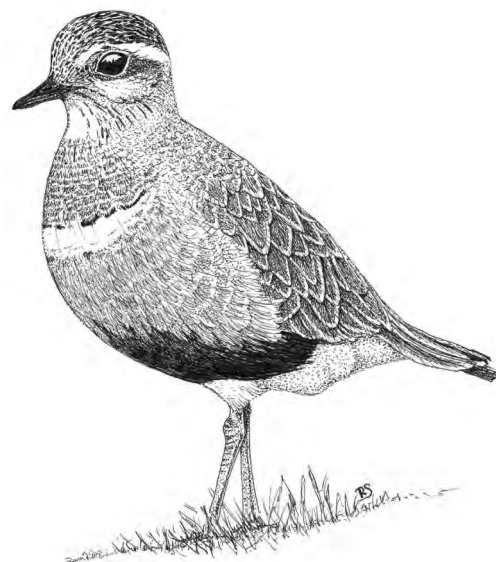
Human beings have a habit of disappointing me and bursting my bubbles of naivety, especially when it comes to birds and their conservation, and when I discovered why the Dotterel was thus named a thought occurred to me; what is it about we humans that makes us feel so damn superior to every other living thing on this planet? If an animal or bird doesn’t behave in a manner in which we can find admiration; courage, speed, agility, we end up belittling the creature; witness such expressions as dumb animals, bird brained, silly cow, filthy pig and so on.

What was it that offended me so, bringing these thoughts to the fore of my troubled young mind?

The name is derived from the old English word *dote*, which means simpleton or fool, and in Scotland the Dotterel has also been known as the moss fool. In Gaelic it is called *Amadan-Mòintich* (‘peat-bog fool’) reflecting both its perceived stupidity and its chosen environment. [Read more.](#)



Eurasian Dotterel— Vojtěch Kubelka



Eurasian Dotterel— Rick Simpson

Nordmann's Greenshanks In Australia

Rick Simpson

Originally passed over as Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* the Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer*. pictured on the right is the first to be seen in Australia away from Broome in Western Australia and if accepted will be the 5/6/ or 7th record for the country.

Helen Larson was counting waders at Cairns Esplanade in Queensland and, seeing what she took to be a Terek Sandpiper, she asked her husband Jeff to take a photograph of it. This turned out to be a good move as it wasn't until they got home and were looking



Nordmann's Greenshank on Cairns esplanade - Jeff Larson

at the photos Jeff had taken that Helen realised what it actually was. It later turned out someone else had done exactly the same thing the day before on Christmas Day. Realising their oversight the Larsons put out the news and many birders were able to connect with the bird as it was still present right up to the time of writing on the 31st of January.

The first official Nordmann's Greenshank recorded for Australia - BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee - BARC 519) was back in 2006. Two previous claims in 1974 (BARC 32 Not Accepted) and 1981 (unsubmitted) have not been substantiated. On the 2nd of December Adrian Boyle and Tony Kirkby were part of a team surveying 80 Mile Beach near Broome. They located the bird among 500 Common Greenshanks *Tringa nebularia*. Unfortunately the rest of the team did not arrive in time to see the bird. But it turns out that if you want to see a Nordmann's Greenshank in Broome, the person to stick to is Adrian Boyle anytime from the 30th of November on into December.

The next sighting was three years later on the 29th of December 2009. Adrian, this time with Maurice O'Connor & Kimberly Onton, found a single Nordmann's Greenshank while doing a wader survey at almost the exact spot that the previous bird was seen. This led to some speculation that this was the same individual.

Further sightings were made on 10th December 2011 by Adrian with Maurice O'Connor (again), Kerry Hadley, & Glen Ewers (BARC 751) and on the 30th November 2013. With Adrian this time were George Swann, Rowan Mott & Maarten Hulzebosch. The possibility that this was the same individual in all cases would mean the bird was at least 8 years old at that stage.

The next sighting on the 3rd December 2014 (BARC 911) involved another friend of Wader Quest, Amanda Lilleyman, who, with Arthur Keates and Kerry Hadley (who had been with Adrian in 2011), found a bird associating with Common Greenshanks, also whilst doing a wader count at 80 Mile Beach.

Those then are all the records prior to 2020 when there was a positive avalanche of sightings, two in Broome and both involving Adrian again and the other in Cairns as mentioned above.

The two sightings in Broome were on the 28th of November, when Adrian was with Jane Taylor, Nyil Kwaja and Connie Grohmann and again on the 2nd of December when he was with Nigel Jackett. In the last case they thought that this individual was different to the previously mentioned as it didn't have a limp like the previous bird. Curiously there were no Common Greenshanks around and the bird was seen with a flock of godwits *Limosa limosa* and *L. lapponica* and Knots *Calidris canutus* and *C. tenuirostris*. (The 2020 records have not yet been submitted to the BARC.)



Nordmann's Greenshank Broome 2006 (centre) - Adrian Boyle



Nordmann's Greenshank Broome 2009 - Adrian Boyle



Nordmann's Greenshank Broome 2011 - Adrian Boyle



Nordmann's Greenshank Broome 2013 - Adrian Boyle

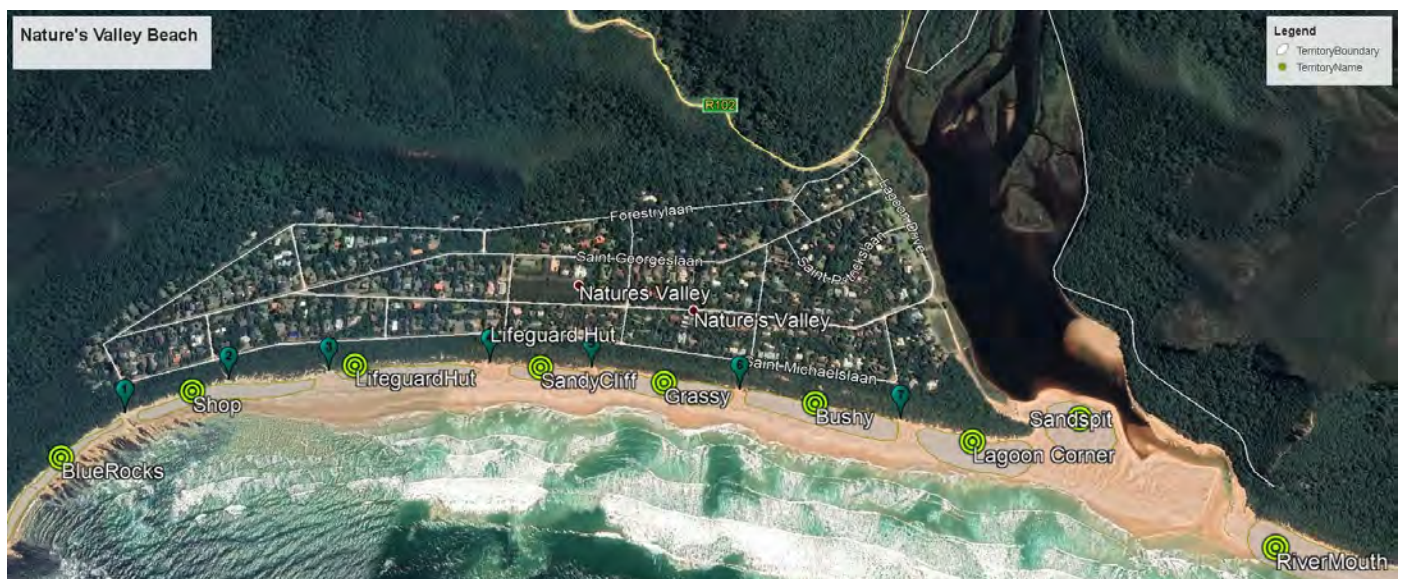
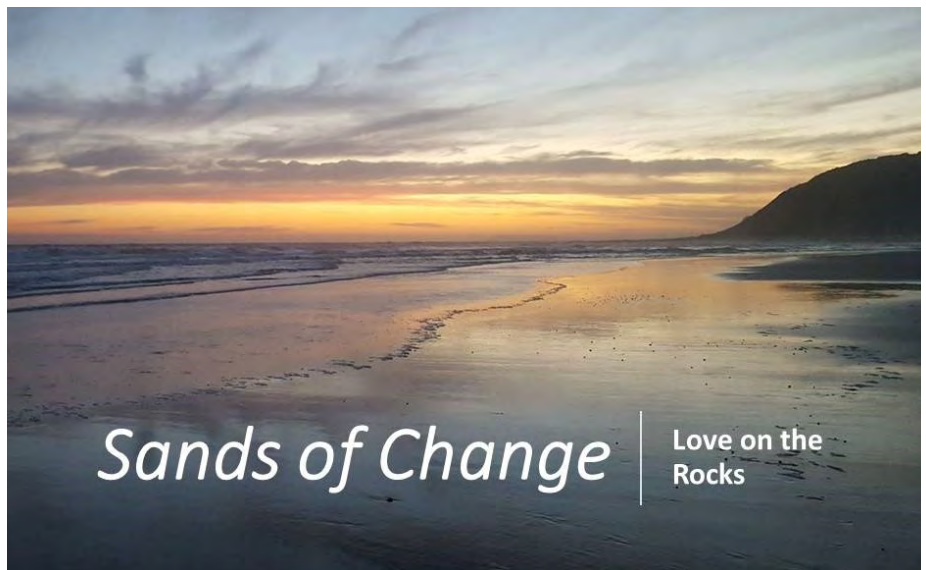
The Sands Of Change: Series 2 Episode 6

Nature's Valley Trust

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

- Brittany Arendse NVT.



Love. A term much more complex than the four letters suggest. Sometimes love can be sweet, like the first romance between two teenagers. Sometimes it is kind, like the doting commitment seen between those who have grown old together. In our case, however, love has been scandalous!

It all started in the conventional way. Their eyes met across a sandy beach and soon a romance ensued. Fred thought he had met his match in Wilma. Yes, she was wilful, but her confidence and beauty mesmerised all around. There was nothing Fred would not do for his beloved and soon this adoring male was never to be seen far away from his gorgeous new mate. To all appearances Wilma too seemed smitten. At the drop of a feather she left her previous life in the dust and quickly established herself in the Blue Rock's territory with Fred.



Fred's prized territory? - NVT

The Sands of Change: Series 2 Episode 6 - cont'd

This beachfront property had long belonged to Fred. With its beautiful beaches and curious shells, many envied Fred and his striking stomping ground. He was a hard worker and had a kind heart. Though life had not always been all too caring to dear Fred. His previous mate was the beautiful and mysterious little Pearl. All had seemed well between the two at first. However, to Fred's horror, pretty Pearl was soon to move on with another, her feet swept away (perhaps quite literally?) by the dashing Ed. Fred was distraught. Left to fend for himself all on his own at Blue Rocks. However, it appeared that the sands were changing in his favour with the arrival of the lovely Wilma. Yes, so it seemed, but we know all too well that as the wind flurries the sands into all crevices of the beach, the inhabitants collude, keeping secrets from both us, and their own companions. Without us knowing, it happened.

One day Fred was nowhere to be found. He slipped away unseen, disappearing like a footprint in the sand after a big storm. Where had he gone? Perhaps an important business trip had come up forcing him to leave poor Wilma on her own? Could there again be a more sinister plot afoot? Surely not, our researchers thought! We know that doting Fred would not just leave without good reason and the researchers were confident that Wilma would be waiting faithfully until his return. In his absence it became clear that Wilma's kind-heartedness knew no bounds. She had clearly taken a young little plover under her wing. Researchers were sure that the mature Wilma would be a good mentor to young Eduardo, who was little more than a fledgling.

Then, to the shock of our researchers, the sands shifted once more, revealing the secrets held on the beach. It soon became apparent that Wilma had ulterior motives. Yes, Wilma certainly had quite a few tricks to teach the inexperienced, yet vigorous Eduardo, but not the kind that Fred would feel too comfortable with.

Swept away with the whirlwind romance that was ensuing, Wilma, who in the past had always calculated her next step with great caution, now seemed to be diving into the pool of young love with little care of the consequences. Was it Eduardo's youthful gaze making Wilma weak at the knees? Perhaps she was too smitten to forget all reason? Whatever the case the evidence was not long hidden by the sands. As the wind was softly blowing, it uncovered what Wilma and Eduardo would have preferred to remain hidden. There, close to the dunes lay evidence of their scandalous relationship. A beautiful little egg!

Maybe, with the current lack of contraceptives available in Plett after the matric rage* parties, the pair decided to throw all caution to the wind? Perhaps Wilma had planned this all along? Either way, we are waiting with bated breath to see what happens in the coming weeks!

Will Wilma abandon Fred for good? Will Eduardo prove to be as good a father as he is a lover? What will happen if Fred returns? Will young Eduardo be ousted? Perhaps Wilma will try to pass off the little ones as Fred's own progeny? The tides and wind continually alter the position of the sand, the warm weather and blue skies hide the sinister side of the shore's inhabitants and we can, as always, but speculate as to the events which will unfold in the coming weeks.

*Matric Rage is borrowed from the US. It's a Spring Break for students who have just finished their exams.



Wilful Wilma - NVT



Wilma and Eduardo's secret - NVT



Young Eduardo - NVT



World Wader News In Brief

Pacific Ocean Islands - New Polynesian Sandpiper species.

A new species of Polynesian sandpiper has been described from Henderson Island in the Pitcairn group, and has been officially named *Prosobonia sauli* sp. nov.. Sadly though it is already extinct and was described from a number of Holocene fossils collected during the Sir Peter Scott Commemorative Expedition (1991-1992).

Until now there were just three, or possibly four, species in the Polynesian sandpiper group, all placed in the genus *Prosobonia* (first described by Charles Bonaparte. (See page 8).

This new species joins three/four others which are also already extinct; Tahiti Sandpiper *P. leucoptera* also widely known as White-winged Sandpiper and Kiritimati Sandpiper *P. cancellata*. The rather less widely accepted species is the Moorea Sandpiper *P. ellisi*. The last species in the group is still extant and is the Tuamotu Sandpiper *P. parvirostris*.

Since the other species are named after the islands on which they dwelt, this sandpiper is destined to be Henderson Sandpiper.



Tuamotu Sandpiper — Steve Smith
BirdingPooleHarbourandBeyond.blogspot.co.uk

South America - Argentinian plan for the conservation of shorebirds is published.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 409/2020

RESOL-2020-409-APN-MAD

Buenos Aires City, 12/11/2020

Aims:

- That shorebirds and their environments remain healthy by 2030.
- That shorebirds are valued by a society involved in their conservation and that they are recognised as emblematic species that transcend frontiers and link communities.
- That their critical habitats and corridors are effectively preserved, according to national, regional and international agreements and strategies, in a sustainable coexistence with productive activities [Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Industry, Mining and Energy, Transport and Communications, Tourism Industry, and Foreign Trade.]



Magellanic Plover — Elis Simpson

North America - Piping Plover Nesting Results in New Jersey:2020

The number of breeding pairs of Piping Plovers in New Jersey, USA fell this year to 103 pairs, from last year's total of 114. The state's peak numbers were reached as long ago as 2003 when there were 144 pairs.

The average fledging results were 1.29 fledglings per pair, which is above the long term average (1.05 fledglings/pair) but still below the federal recovery goal of 1.50 fledglings/pair.

The total number of adults recorded for the entire nesting season was 228, but there were 23, an unusually high number, of unpaired adults this season. This is one of the highest recorded since federal listing began in 1986. Several of these adults displayed breeding behaviour, sometimes with other adults, but no nests were ever located. It is unlikely that these nests were simply missed due to the intense monitoring that took place.



Piping Plover — Elis Simpson

World Wader News In Brief - cont'd

The Americas - The Epic Voyage of the Hudsonian Godwit (arccgis.com)

In celebration of World Wetlands Day and the 10th anniversary of the Eastern Wetlands of Chiloé as a site of Hemispheric Importance, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network WHSRN presents *The Epic Voyage of the Hudsonian Godwit, from Chiloé to Alaska*.

This is a wonderful and visually stimulating story told using a story map which highlights how science, conservation, and local economic development are being integrated to protect non-breeding habitat for the Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* in Chiloé Island, Chile.

The story map tells the story of four Hudsonian godwits that travelled from Chiloé to Alaska, stopping at different sites throughout the network. At each step on the way, the viewer is able to learn about the places they visited, the impressive distances they flew without rest, and about some of the conservation efforts that ensure that each year these long-distance travellers have a place to go.

The story map can be viewed by clicking on the link below:

[The Epic Voyage of the Hudsonian Godwit](http://arccgis.com)



Hudsonian Godwit — Elis Simpson

Africa - Red Knot *Calidris canutus* ringed In Norfolk recaptured In Guinea Bissau

On the 15th of November 2001, a juvenile Red Knot was captured in a mist net, with 14 other Red Knots, at Terrington Marsh on the Norfolk/Lincolnshire border. The bird was captured and ringed by the Wash Wader Ringing Group (WWRG) who found that all but one of the birds were unringed, so they set about ringing them. The one bird that was ringed had been given its ring at Holme-next-the-sea in Norfolk on the 4th of November in 1990.

That bird was given the ring number SX20418 and nothing had been seen or heard of the bird since then. That is until it was recaptured, 19 years later, on Orango, and island in the Bijagós Archipelago in Guinea-Bissau on the 26th of January 2020. The island lies 4,872 km south of Terrington where it had been ringed.

It is likely this is of the subspecies *C. c. canutus*, which mainly winter in the West African region, but rarely appear at the wash where the majority of Red Knots that winter, or pass through, are of the subspecies *islandica*. To show how unusual the occurrence is, the WWRG revealed that a search of historical recoveries of WWRG-ringed Red Knots identified only 10 recoveries relating to western and southern Africa.

There have only been two recoveries of Wash-ringed *canutus* this century: SR46075, caught as a juvenile at Terrington Marsh on 10 October 2006 and recovered on the Banc d'Arguin on 10 December 2007, and G20845, ringed in Portugal on 31 August 2012 and recovered at Leverton on the Wash on 26 July 2013.



Red Knot — Elis Simpson

Africa - Broad-billed Sandpiper at the Livingstone sewage ponds in Zambia!

This is only the 4th record for Zambia, and the last record was from before 1990!

The bird was found by Wouter van Spijker a photographer and bird guide who said: 'Initially it was quite far away and resembled a Curlew Sandpiper, but crawling through some tall, dense and wet grass I managed to get to within 10 metres of the bird, from where I could observe it for a good 15 minutes. I could never have dreamed to see this bird so well in Zambia and I am over the moon with these pictures!'

The ponds have produced some other good waders including a couple of Grey Plovers *Pluvialis squatarola*, a rare bird away from the coast and also recently a Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus*, which, although common elsewhere, is a good find at the sewage ponds.



Broad-billed Sandpiper — Wouter van Spijker

Waders In Art – Jason Tighe



Eurasian Oystercatchers in winter plumage; watercolour — Jason Tighe

I've always had an interest in, and a love of birds, which stems from being brought up in Holyhead, Anglesey an island off the coast of North Wales, three quarters of which comprises natural beauty, countryside and coast.

My interest in painting was initiated by my father who was also an artist, and I started in earnest when I was seventeen years old. I am self taught and like to refer to myself as a country artist.

My first ever commission was to paint waders for a gentleman and ever since then waders have been a particular love of mine. It seems to me that waders have been neglected in bird art. I aim to convey the size of the birds within their surroundings with the addition of assorted seaweed and shells, giving a sense of place.

I also have a passion for cycling on the coastal roads and while doing so I often stop and observe the waders, admiring their streamlined form and beautiful markings.

In my paintings I strive to have a lot of colour, which perhaps, is sometimes even exaggerated. I am, after all, a painter and not a photographer.

Waders in their natural habitat provide me with an endless source of inspiration, be they on an estuary, a beach or in moorland and recently I have started painting local beauty spots with the waders as a focal point.



Dunlins, Cymran beach, Anglesey; watercolour — Jason Tighe

Waders In Art - cont'd



Common Ringed Plovers and Dunlins, with Dwarf Eel Grass; watercolour — Jason Tighe



Red Knots in winter; watercolour — Jason Tighe



Sketches of Common Redshank — Jason Tighe



Studies of Common Redshank — Jason Tighe



Sketch study of Eurasian Oystercatchers; watercolour — Jason Tighe



Northern Lapwings in summer plumage with Yellow Iris; watercolour — Jason Tighe

Waders In Art - cont'd



Study of Common Redhanks and Common Greenshanks — Jason Tighe



Sanderlings resting from the surf, winter plumage; watercolour — Jason Tighe



The old bridge, Aberffraw; watercolour — Jason Tighe



Porthdafarch beach, Holyhead — Jason Tighe

From the library - Seventy Years of Birdwatching; H. G. Alexander (1974)

The only regular colony of Kentish Plovers in England had for a good many years nested on this beach, north of Dungeness. On the middle of the nineteenth century, the species nested plentifully on the beach both north and west of Dungeness. A Lydd doctor, Plomley by name, discovered them and spent many happy hours watching them. Unfortunately, he gave the information to Yarrell, the author of what was to be for many years the standard book on British Birds, and Yarrell published the locality in his first edition (1837-43).

Later in life, Dr Plomley wrote some notes, which were made available to Dr Norman Ticehurst when he published his *Birds of Kent*. 'I believe,' wrote Plomley, 'I was the first to make known of this bird being a regular visitant to this country, and much more numerous than was formerly thought; so rare was it supposed to be before the publication of the first edition of Yarrell's *Birds* that, with one or two exceptions, no British-killed specimens could be found in public or private collections. Since then the demand for them has been so great that persons from London and the north of England have been regular annual visitants to Dungeness shingle for the express purpose of obtaining specimens, and to my great regret hundreds have thus been destroyed.'



Cover Photo; Pied Lapwing - Marcelo Barbosa



All photos this page — Marcelo Barbosa

Pied Lapwing *Vanellus cayanus* (Latham 1790)

Alternative names;

Pied Plover, Little White-winged Lapwing, Cayenne Plover, Three-toed Cayenne Lapwing.

Taxonomy;

Described originally as *Charadrius cayanus* by John Latham in 1790 and later placed in the genus *Vanellus* by Hermann Schlegel in 1865. However it was later changed to *Hoploxypterus*, a genus that had been given by Charles Bonaparte in 1856, but later still this reverted to *Vanellus* where it now remains.

Other invalid scientific names include;

Charadrius stolatus Wagler 1827

Philomachus cayanus Gould 1841

Hoplopterus cayanus Gray 1847.

This is a monotypic species with no subspecies recognised.

Details:

This is a species that is confined to northern South America, although Seebohm states in his *Geographical Distribution of the Family Charadriidae or, Plovers, Sandpipers, Snipes, and Their Allies* (1888) that specimens had been collected from Honduras (Moore), the Straits of Magellan (Cunningham) and the Falkland Islands (Abbott).

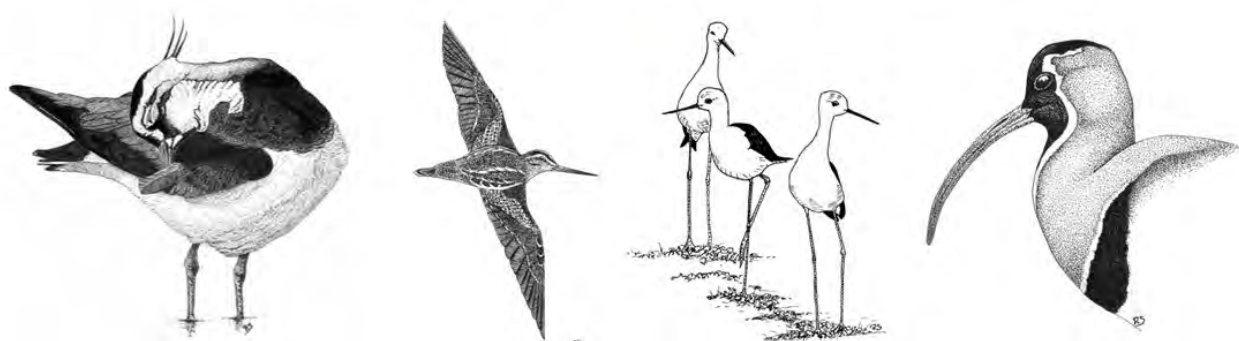
It is not a common bird, usually found in pairs along rivers or on inland wetlands although occasionally encountered along the sea coast.



Wader Quest Merchandising

New Wader Quest book - *A Quest for Waders* by Rick and Elis Simpson

A new book from Wader Quest Publishing by Rick and Elis Simpson.
This book chronicles the journeys they made to see waders around the world,
and the parallel journey of Wader Quest from fundraiser to Registered
Charity - all proceeds go to Wader Quest.



Foreword by Dominic Couzens

'This is a cracking read whether you're a waderphile or not. Ticking, dipping, ducking, diving, it's all here as Rick and Elis go through their version of a mid-life crisis to set up Wader Quest. A must-read for all birders.'

- Iolo Williams: Naturalist and T. V. presenter.

'Rick and Elis' enthusiasm nipples through this book, what they have achieved, bringing waders to the forefront of peoples minds alongside their conservation is second to none. A brilliant read which, like their beloved waders, will have you probing deeper into this amazing family.'

- Tim Appleton MBE: Founder of Birdfair Rutland Water
and Creator of Rutland Water Nature Reserve.

'I was hooked by the prologue. The tragedy of extinction was brought home to me on seeing, in Morocco in 1990, three of the last few slender-billed curlews to exist. Thanks to the commitment of conservation organisations from around the world and support of people like Rick and Elis the spoon-billed sandpiper has a fighting chance of making it.'

- Debbie Pain: Conservationist and scientist.

'Waders are one of the most threatened groups of birds, with several species on the brink of extinction and many more suffering serious declines. This makes Rick and Elis Simpson's Wader Quest - a charity dedicated to protecting waders and highlighting their plight - important and necessary. This fascinating book tells the story of how the organisation grew from their quest to see all the world's waders, before it was too late.'

- Rebecca Armstrong: Editor of Birdwatch magazine.

orders - sales@waderquest.net

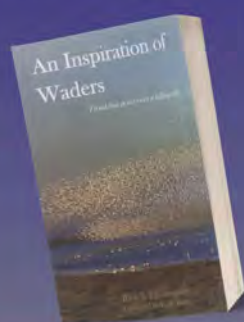


'Breathtakingly excellent - like a birding Michael Palin. The photographs and drawings are fantastic, and the text is fast-moving and endlessly entertaining and amusing.' Jim Wright.

Wader Quest Merchandising

An Inspiration of Waders - A Wader Quest Publishing book By Rick and Elis Simpson

An Inspiration of Waders



Twinkling gems over a falling tide

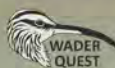
The foreword is by Keith Betton



Discover our cultural connection to waders and how they have inspired us.



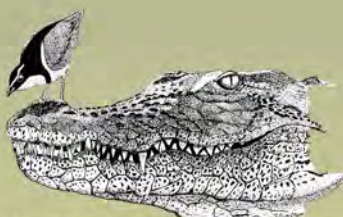
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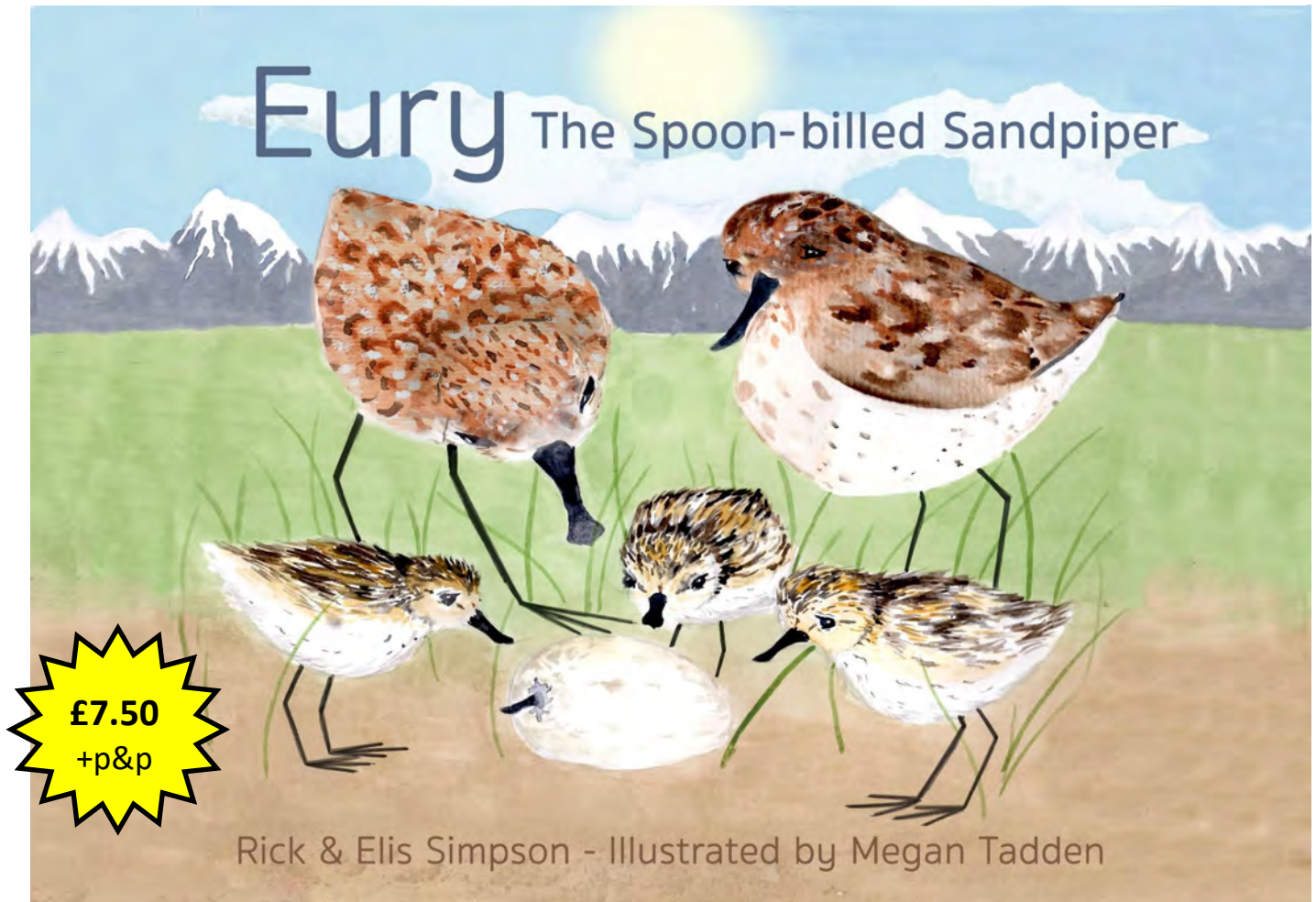
WADER QUEST PUBLISHING
All profits will go to Wader Quest

Wader Quest Merchandising

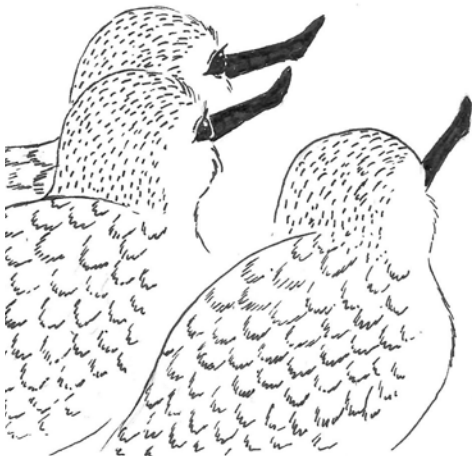
Eury The Spoon-billed Sandpiper

A Wader Quest Publishing book By Rick and Elis Simpson

Children 6 -11 years



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Wader Quest Merchandising

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10. Northern Lapwing
11. River Lapwing
12. Common Ringed plover
13. Black-fronted Dotterel
14. Eurasian Curlew
15. Spoon-billed Sandpiper
16. Common Greenshank
17. Cream-coloured Courser
18. Grey Plover
19. Eurasian Dotterel



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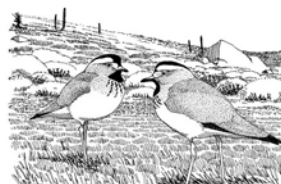
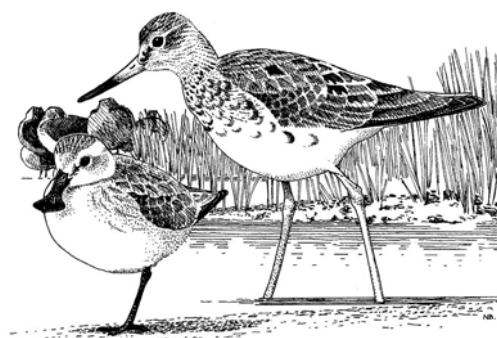
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Wader Quest Merchandising



Pied Avocets over Titchwell RSPB reserve © Julia Page

See newsletter [Vol 7 issue 3](#) pp11-13 where Julia is the featured artist in Waders In Art.



Eurasian Oystercatchers © Julia Page



Common Snipe © Julia Page



Northern Lapwing, Eurasian Spoonbills, Pied Avocets and Canada Geese at Titchwell RSPB reserve © Julia Page



Eurasian Oystercatchers, Black-tailed Godwit, Common Ringed Plovers and Little Egret © Julia Page

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Wader Quest ExCo. Is recruiting

We still need help with various projects and there are exciting roles up for grabs on Exco. Initially we are looking to secure a volunteer to become our **Communications Officer**. If this sounds like something that may interest you, or you have other skills you would like to bring to the Charity, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either;

Rick Simpson; Chair Board of Trustees - rick.simpson@waderquest.net

or

Andrew MacGarvey; Chair Executive Committee - andrew.macgarvey@waderquest.net

Guidelines for applications for Wader Quest Grants

Projects should ideally be directed to one or more of the following funding priorities:

- Investigating the status of Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near-threatened wader species
- Attempting to further the knowledge of current Important Bird Areas (IBAs) of significant importance to waders, through breeding surveys and conducting systematic counts
- Investigating potential new IBAs or ornithologically little known areas for waders
- Conducting ecological studies of little-known wader species
- Educational programmes, especially aimed at school children and youth to conserve and protect waders and their habitat

Priority will be given to projects:

- Conducted by Nationals of the country where the activity will take place
- Containing an educational element, that engage with local communities and/or have an element of long-term sustainability of the project, such as training of local counterparts or raising awareness of wader conservation within the wider community

- Providing an improvement in the understand of the conservation needs of a under studied wader species through research

The Wader Quest Grants Committee decision will be final and, unless initiated by Wader Quest, no further correspondence will be entered into regarding the decision.

Download Application form [here](#) and send to applications@waderquest.net

Wader Quest's Subscription Policy has Changed

Previously subscriptions became due on the anniversary of joining Wader Quest. To streamline administration of the membership of both Friends and Sponsors the due date will now be on the 1st of January each year.

You will have received an email from the Membership Secretary explaining how this affects your personal subscription.

Your co-operation in making this necessary change is greatly appreciated.

Here is a reminder of the current rates.

FRIENDS OF WADER QUEST

Individual £10.00

Family £15.00

Life £200

WADER QUEST SPONSORS

Club Sponsor subscriptions £20.00

Corporate Sponsors £50.00