



WADER QUEST

THE NEWSLETTER Volume 8; Issue 1: April 2021



Black Turnstone *Arenaria melanocephala* Becky Bowen

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THE NATURAL HOME FOR WADER LOVERS

Email: info@waderquest.net

Website: www.waderquest.net

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/waderquest>

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

Instagram: [@wader_quest](https://www.instagram.com/wader_quest)

Registered Charity England and Wales; 1193674

Board of Trustees:

Rick Simpson (Chair)
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Nicky Fennessey
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Ray Heaton
Elis Simpson
Vacancy 1
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Luke Marriner
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Aberdeen Powell
Elis Simpson
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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:

Exec. Comm: 5th May

AGM: November 2021

Trustees: July 2021

Friends of Wader Quest fees:

Individual £10.00
Family £15.00
Life £200.00

Sponsorship fees:

Club £20.00
Corporate £50.00

General enquiries:

info@waderquest.net

Wader Conservation World Watch enquiries:

wcww@waderquest.net

Grant applications and information:

applications@waderquest.net

Merchandising 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.

Wader Quest is an entirely voluntary organisation.

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Edited by Rick Simpson

Wader Quest News

Important notice - Wader Quest has a new Registered Charity number it is 1193674; see Trustee updates and news for details.

Trustee updates and news

As of the 25th of February the proposed conversion of Wader Quest to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which was approved in a vote by the Friends and Sponsors last year, has been approved by the Charity Commission. This change will not affect our aims nor our mission, and new rules will only affect the governance of the charity, not its remit.

Charity Commission Liaison is carried out for Wader Quest by long-standing Trustee Chris Lamsdell, who has much experience of dealing with the Charity Commission. He writes:

Wader Quest, with vision of the inception of the Executive Committee (Exco), needed to re-write its constitution to incorporate the proposed new operating structure, which gave us the opportunity to review whether to continue as an unincorporated association, with unlimited liability, or convert to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), with no liability of trustees or other members for its debts. CIOs are similar to companies, in that it has the same legal status as a person. This also means it can enter into contracts in its own name if there was ever an identified need to do this in the future.

Last year the trustees agreed in principle that it is in the charity's best interests to convert from being an unincorporated association, to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Trustees recommended this proposed change to our legal structure, and were grateful to receive members' approval at the last AGM.

The application through the Charity Commission was completed in February 2021 resulting in the acceptance of Wader Quest as a CIO with a new constitution and rules incorporating the setting up of Exco and setting out of the committee and trustees function together in the running Wader Quest. The resulting change means that we now have a new charity number; 1193674 (England and Wales).

Executive Committee updates and news

We are pleased to announce that Luke Marriner and Aberdeen Powell have agreed to join Exco. It is always exciting to see young people getting involved and gives us hope that Wader Quest will be alive and helping waders everywhere, well into the future.

However, 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 roles (see page 5) although we do still invite people to join Exco if none of these roles specifically appeal, there is always plenty that needs to be done. 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: 8th March 2021 next meeting 5th May 2021.

Grants Panel updates and news - Ray Heaton Chair Wader Quest Grants Panel

The grants panel have received several interesting applications for assistance, from a wide global spread. These have all been carefully considered to find the most effective ways we can help these studies and projects using our limited financial resources. We have also involved our sponsors in order to obtain good value for the equipment we supply and we are grateful for their involvement with Wader Quest.

- We have helped a project in Brazil to monitor wader species and to protect them from anthropogenic threats. This project has been very successful in eliciting support from local government to ban the use of vehicles on beaches and they have also been working with indigenous people whose land is adjacent to the beach.
- In Belarus we have supplied equipment and financing for nest protection cages to help a project in the Turov Meadow Biological Reserve which was featured in a previous Wader Quest newsletter [Vol 6 Issue 3](#). This project is a joint funding venture with Élvonal Shorebird Science (see page 12).
- We have also helped to equip the team studying Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* on their breeding grounds. Only seven nests of this species have ever been found.
- We have assisted the Shropshire Ornithological Society "Save our Curlews" Campaign in the purchase of predator proof fencing.
- In India we are planning to support a study of the Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* nesting behaviour and associated threats. This study is being carried out in collaboration with the Collared Pratincole satellite tagging team in Australia.
- We are working to find ways to help a project in Uganda, in the Murchison Marshes and other wetlands in the Rift Valleys. This project involves bird guides in the area, and the build up of a well regulated tourist industry. These wetlands form an important chain of stopover sites for Palearctic waders and other bird species.
- The breeding ecology of the Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola* in Nepal is a recently received study we are hoping to help with funding again, as we did previously.

Finally something exclusively for our loyal Friends of Wader Quest and Wader Quest Sponsors.

We recently launched four new pin badges to the delight of pin badge collectors everywhere. They have proved popular again with many collectors expressing their satisfaction with the consistent quality of the pins.

However, Exco were conscious of the fact that there was nothing we had to offer our FOWQ and Sponsors that would set them apart from the other wader lovers. After much deliberation it was decided that we should produce an exclusive FOWQ badge which could only be purchased by people signed up as subscribers for 2021 (see page 6 for details).



Summary Of Financial Year 2020/21

The 2020/21 financial year was like no other, with cancelled events potentially reducing our income but that same lack of events also saving us expenditure in terms of attending and preparation.

The final figure at the end of the year (5th April 2021) was a loss of £1,489. As a non profit this of course is not the end of the world, but obviously sustained losses will inevitably eat into our funds.

Income (£)

Donations	2,559
Gift Aid	302
Interest (bank)	4
Mobile Charity Shop	595
Other Income	170
Redbubble Sales	108
Refund of grant	1,200
Sales	5,064
Subscriptions	3,417
TOTAL INCOME	13,419

As with last year, the merchandising costs were high again this year and that is due to the printing of the book *A Quest for Waders* added to the usual expenditure of creating the very popular pin badges (The previous year was due to the reprinting of *An Inspiration of Waders*.) On the other hand it can be seen that sales of our merchandising and books are still strong, although lower than last year, despite having no physical outlets such as talks and events where sales could be made.

Some explanations of the categories;

Mobile Charity Shop - resale of donated items online and at car boot sales.

Refund of grant - An organisation to which we had forwarded a grant ceased to exist and they returned unused funds to us.

Public Liability Insurance - As we had no public events to attend the entire year we did not renew our policy.

Expenditure (£)

Merchandising purchase	8,506
Bank fees	20
Events	75
Grants	4,551
IT	649
Public Liability Ins.	n/a
PayPal fees	91
Postage	858
Stationary	158
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	14,908
Profit and Loss	-1489

Grants made in 2020/21

The making of grants and donations is of course central to our aims and despite there being a world slow down in projects we still were able to make grants totalling £4,551. The recipients of these grants were:

Turov Meadows Belarus	£1,790
Aves Limícolas do Peruíbe, Brazil	£1,320
Shropshire Curlews	<u>£1,500</u>
	£4,610

Wader Quest appeals for help and volunteers.

Do you have a few hours a week to spare?

If so we are looking for people to help us in the following ways;

Wader Conservation World Watch

The success of WCWW last year has meant that connecting with all the participants and potential new participants will require a co-ordinator who is dedicated solely to that role to make sure that existing and potential participants are all alerted to the event with follow-up communications to maintain the interest. In addition that role will involve trying to recruit regional or national representatives who can take some of the workload from the co-ordinator, with their local knowledge, to recruit within their country or region.

Communications

From time to time it is necessary to go beyond social media in order to get information out to the public. So we are looking for a communications person with some experience in writing press releases and knowledge of how the system operates to get Wader Quest into both wildlife media and mainstream media when required.

Fundraising

We are hoping to improve our fundraising. Currently all our income comes from membership of Friends of Wader Quest (FOWQ), Sponsors, sales and donations. We are aware that funds exist where money can be gleaned by charities and NGOs like ours. We hope to increase our income via these roots to increase our funding potential to wader conservation projects. We are therefore looking for someone who has experience and knowledge of such funds who can assist us in making applications in order to secure greater funding income.

Event planning

Since we are now beginning to come out of lockdown, hopes are high that we will be able to both take part in, and organise, events in the near future. We would like someone who has a flair for such things to help to design our stands and display material and also organise Wader Quest events such as the AGM.

Graphic Design

From time to time we need help in designing and creating eye-catching graphics for merchandising, projects we are undertaking or events we are holding. We don't have a constant need for such things, but very often there will be an urgency with tight deadlines. Assisting the events co-ordinator designing and producing display material would also be part of the remit.

Data inputting

We are currently collating information for our species pages. Much of the required information can be found in birding literature and on the internet. We are going to need a person, or people, who may have time to search out, copy and enter this information onto our database (guidance will be given).

Photographers and film makers

We are constantly on the look out for images and videos we can use on the website, in the newsletter and on social media. We are unable to keep pace with increasing the Wader Quest library so that output remains fresh and attractive. At present we have a particular need for

- photographs of nests, eggs and chicks of wader species that breed in the southern hemisphere (all must be legally acquired, under licence and within the wildlife laws of the country concerned, with the welfare of the birds taking priority).
- Video footage of Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* being active, particularly in their piping display to accompany a music video we are creating.
- Video footage of waders from around the world for a Wader Quest promotional video.

If any of this interests 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; Board of Trustees Chair - rick.simpson@waderquest.net

or

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

New Wader Quest Collectables pin badges for 2021

Earlier this year we canvassed opinion among pin badge enthusiasts which two species, from a list of four (Red Knot, Common Snipe, Terek Sandpiper and Collared Pratincole), they would most like to see in the Wader Quest collection. Adding together all the votes from Facebook, emails, Instagram and twitter, the following two species were clear favourites;

Terek Sandpiper and Collared Pratincole



We also decided on two more species, the identification of which was to be kept under wraps until the launch in March;

Banded Stilt and Sociable Lapwing



The new pin badges are £3 each.

(All previous badges – Nos 0 – 23, will continue to be available at £2 each while stocks last. See page 31 for a full list.

Also new for 2021—Exclusive pin badge for Friends of Wader Quest and Wader Quest Sponsors

We also realised that our Friends of Wader Quest (FOWQ) and Wader Quest Sponsors have nothing that sets them apart from other wader lovers, so we designed the FOWQ pin badge. This badge is exclusively available to purchase (£2.50; sorry we can't afford to give them away, the money is required for wader conservation) by *bone fide*, paid-up FOWQ subscribers or Sponsors who have paid their 2021 subs (maximum purchase of one per individual membership, two for Family membership).



If you are not a subscriber to FOWQ but are keen to get your hands on one of these exclusive badges, don't despair, there is a simple way to do so. All you have to do is sign up as a Friend for 2021 for just £10.00 to be eligible to purchase the exclusive and limited FOWQ pin badge.

The 2021 design is of the Eurasian Whimbrel, in line with our logo, and each year there will be a different collectable badge with a different bird neatly represented in black and white at the centre of the badge.

**If you would like to purchase any of the above please email your order to;
sales@waderquest.net**



Wader Quest Brasil News

- Karina Ávila and Bruno Lima

Support for the Aves Limícolas Project;

The Aves Limícolas Project (Aves Limícolas = waders/shorebirds) arose from the need to protect the small migratory birds that pass along the coast of south-eastern Brazil and also those that reproduce in the locality. We saw that it was not enough just to do population censuses and research, as there was an urgent need to do conservation through environmental education, public policies and to work in conjunction with other institutions, governments and NGOs to maximise effectiveness.

It all started during our bike forays along the beach on the coast of the state of São Paulo, SE Brazil. Sometimes we'd be watching the flocks when they would suddenly all take off in panic. We too would have to take evasive action because we knew that in a moment a vehicle would pass through at high speed. No one expects to find a vehicle on the beach, and even less on a pristine beach surrounded by one of the last remnants of coastal Atlantic forest of the State of São Paulo! Many birds have had their lives cut short in this way, because the Tanigwá Beach serves as an unofficial road between two municipalities, Itanhaém and Peruíbe, especially for those who wish to escape the road police. In addition, the beach is also popular with paragliders, dog owners who allow their dogs to run freely and even horse racing!

Becoming aware of all these impacts, and in the face of the immense struggle that we would have ahead, the Aves Limícolas Project saw in Wader Quest's newsletter an opportunity to get financial help and act more intensely in three locations in south-eastern Brazil.



Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (front) and White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (back) with Red Knots *Calidris canutus* — Karina Ávila

Itanhaém and Peruíbe, coast of the State of São Paulo: in this locality we have been conducting weekly censuses to know the dynamics of populations of resident and migratory waders. Twenty-four species have already been recorded, some of which are threatened with extinction in Brazil and fall under the National Plan of Action for the Conservation of Waders, such as: Red Knot *Calidris canutus*, Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* and Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis*. Thanks to Wader Quest, we will be able to continue creating more material for environmental education such as information boards, folders, pocket guide of coastal birds etc.

Ilha Comprida, south coast of the State of São Paulo: this extensive sandy island is an important place for waders. It is surrounded to the east by 65km of beaches kissed by the Atlantic and to the west by an intricate channel of preserved mangroves that, during low tide, exposes extensive banks of mud, which are an attraction not only for the waders, but also huge flocks of Scarlet Ibises *Eudocimus ruber*, terns, Neotropic Cormorants *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* and herons etc.



American Oystercatchers on Ilha Comprida — Karina Ávila



Wader Quest Brazil News - cont'd



It is one of the few locations in south-eastern Brazil where there is a stable reproductive population of American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* and Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris*. However, Ilha Comprida has been suffering from the impacts of groups of off-road vehicles which, in their exploration of the dunes, do not hesitate to pass through the flocks of birds that rest and feed by the sea. In addition, the construction of a building (the first on the island!) threatens the birds whose migratory route passes through the area. A huge number of cars often park at the northern tip of the island, an important breeding site of American Oystercatcher. Wader Quest is helping us conduct monthly censuses and search for nests. In the second half of the year we will start a programme to monitor the nests of Collared Plover and American Oystercatcher, with the installation of trap cameras and the demarcation of the nesting area of these species.

Praia da Brisa, Sepetiba – Rio de Janeiro: Libi Rivero and Francisco Inciarte have been monitoring the populations of migratory and resident waders for many months. This is the place where thousands of migratory arctic-breeding birds congregate to find food both in the mangroves and on the beach called Praia da Brisa. The only problem is that this place is many kilometres from where the steadfast researchers live, and they need to travel there by public transport involving trains and buses. But thanks to the financial support Wader Quest has provided they are able to continue doing the monthly census for a further year. With this information we will learn about the status of the bird population in this location and based on these data work getting Brisa Beach recognised as an area of regional importance for waders.



Waders in flight over the Praia da Brisa beach, Sepetiba, Rio de Janeiro — Libi Rivero e Francisco Inciarte



Libi Rivero e Francisco Inciarte on Praia da Brisa beach, Sepetiba, Rio de Janeiro — Libi Rivero e Francisco Inciarte



Wader Quest South Africa News - Peter Sharland



Buttonquail Awareness – The Fynbos Buttonquail

ENDANGERED

THE FYNBOS BUTTONQUAIL HAS BEEN RECENTLY RE-NAMED, IN ORDER TO EMPHASISE IT'S STATUS AS ONE OF THE FLAGSHIP CONSERVATION BIRD SPECIES THAT HAS IT'S HOME IN THE FYNBOS BIOME OF SOUTH AFRICA. IT IS SOUTH AFRICA'S ONLY ENDEMIC WADER.



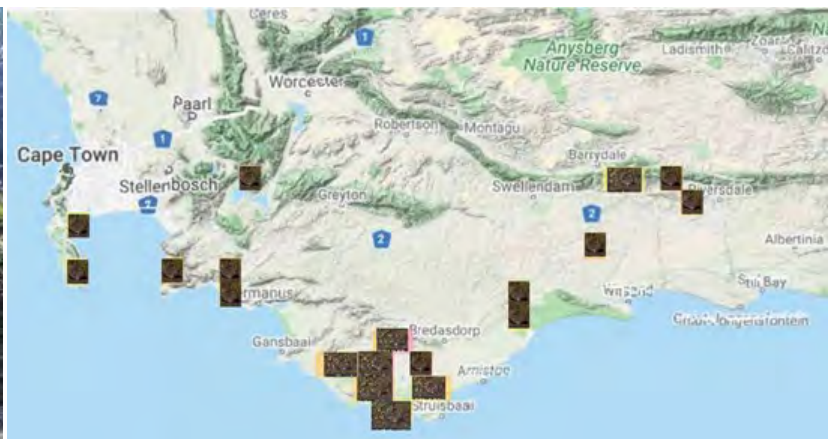
Fynbos Buttonquail *Turnix hottentotus* — Justin Rhys-Nicolau

Wader Quest South Africa has recently embarked on a campaign to raise awareness regarding the Fynbos Buttonquail, a red-listed wader whose biology is poorly known.

Wader Conservation World Watch7 (WCWW 2020) proved to be the springboard for this campaign, thanks to the efforts of Gerhard van Deventer. He made a specific effort to secure a first WCWW sighting of this enigmatic bird on his property, which is aptly named Sandberg Fynbos Reserve.

This sighting record was prompted by WQSA's Sue Oertli, as part of a sterling effort on her part for WCWW7. We then realised that the Buttonquail could become the central species in an awareness project that is focussed in the Overberg region of the Western Cape, in partnership with the Overberg Eco Rangers, pictured below on a recent visit to the African penguin and seabird sanctuary. This group of twelve high school learners is mentored by Gerhard and Ian Fortuin, who has himself become very enthusiastic about the partnership between Wader Quest and the #overbergecorangers. In the initial meeting held with them, Ian expressed an interest in seeing the Buttonquail for himself, 'otherwise how can I teach our youngsters about it?' And here is Ian's report of his first sighting a few days later.

'I am so excited. Had my first sighting today, 15 Feb 2021, at 12:58. At 10:00 I headed straight up to the Buttonquail Trail. After stopping and starting (along the track) until the border between Sandberg and Elim, I turned back, following the same strategy, stop-start. At 12:58 I decided to head home after a splendid and peaceful time in nature. As I started the bakkie [light truck] the bird flew diagonally across the road, for about 10 metres. I got out of the bakkie, phone in hand. When I got to the area where the bird landed, it was gone. As I turned around back to the bakkie, the bird flew up a few metres from me for about 20 metres plus, making a few calling sounds for the first time. As it was too far for me to follow, I made a Google pin'.



WCWW8 6th—7th Nov 2021

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

wcww@waderquest.net



British Summer-Visiting Breeding Waders - Rick Simpson

There are 78 species of waders on the British list (78 BOU categories ABC), the majority are rare vagrants (45), other passage migrants (6), a number are with us all year as residents (13), although some of those like Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa* involve two subspecies at different times of year. Some species only stay with us for the winter (8), although some non-breeding birds do remain for the summer.

However there is a small select band of species (6), the subject of this article, that breed here but then leave these shores completely during the winter.

These species are;

Eurasian Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedecnemus* UK conservation status **AMBER**

Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* UK conservation status **RED**

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* UK conservation status **GREEN**

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* UK conservation status **RED**

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* UK conservation status **AMBER**

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* UK conservation status **RED**



Eurasian Stone Curlew with chick © Ian Grier under licence

[Read full article](#)



Wader Hotspot; Sunderland Point, Lancashire, UK - Alan Smith

Sunderland Point is a small village on the north west coast of Lancashire that lies six miles south of Morecambe. We are situated to the southerly extremes of the huge Morecambe Bay complex on the Lune river estuary, the village is accessed via a tidal causeway, much the same as Lindisfarne or Holy Island in Northumberland.

The river Lune starts its life way up in the Cumbrian fells, indeed, as many of you who have travelled the M6 motorway will have noted, a bridge that you cross in the Tebay Gorge is signed The Lune and you also cross over the Lune as the M6 passes through Lancaster, our nearest city through which the river winds its way towards the estuary.

We are a SSSI, RAMSAR and SPA designated site and a recognised conservation area, greatly troubled with unruly dog walkers/owners.

The Lune being tidal twice a day with its vast mudflats, sandbanks and inter tidal marsh areas attracts vast numbers of waders especially during the winter months to feed on the riches on offer within these areas. One of the main winter spectacles is a wader roost that gathers on the inter tidal marsh area to the west of Sunderland Point. Its official name is the Middleton wader roost and it is one of the BTO WeBS count areas... [Read full article.](#)



Bar-tailed Godwits *Limosa Ipponica* - Alan Smith

Wader Hotspot; Dambwa South Township Sewage Ponds, Livingstone, Zambia - Wouter van Spijker

For a birder, there is nothing more rewarding than having a very productive birding area right on your doorstep. It allows you to bird this area whenever you have a bit of time, and to bird this area over and over again. This way, you will become a real expert of your 'local patch' and you have a good chance of finding something really rare. You start knowing the area like the back of your hand. You will know all the bird species that occur, the best spots for them, where and when to find them, their behavioural patterns, etcetera. The more time you spend in your local patch, the more surprising species you will find!

I could have been less lucky with the place I live. My home town is Livingstone in the south of Zambia, and on my doorstep and on the outskirts of town are the famous Victoria Falls, surrounded by a national park, the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park. It is only a few



Livingstone Sewage Ponds - Wouter van Spijker

minutes drive away from my house, and most of my birding missions are in this area. Without a doubt, the most interesting and productive spot, more especially in terms of waders, water birds are rare vagrants, are the sewage ponds that lie just outside the National Park, and literally right next to Dambwa South Township, a very busy part of Livingstone. [Read full article.](#)

Wader Quest Funded Optics Arrive In Belarus

- Rick Simpson

We are pleased to announce that the optical equipment and financing for est protection cages has arrived in Belarus.

The optics will be used by the team to study and monitor the breeding wader species at Turov Meadows. This year the site has been blessed with high water levels cutting off the breeding islands from the surrounding area preventing foxes from ravaging the nests as they have in previous drier years.

We have also provided funding for nest [rotection cages like the one below. The gaps are large enough for a wader to fit through, but not a fox and the top is netted to prevent avian predators from accessing the net. This netting may seem a little hazardous but waders seldom, if ever take off from the nest. They will vacate the nest at the first sign of danger on foot.



Nest protection cage above / The Belarus team (kneeling left to right) Zsofia Toth, Vyacheslav Khursanov, (standing left to right) Natalia Karlionova, Anton Shrub with Professor Tamás Szekely of Élvtal Shorebird Science with which Wader Quest collaborated in this project.



First Chicago Piping Plover Nesting Since 1948

- Bob Dolgan

In May of 2019, a pair of Piping Plovers *Charadrius melodus* began showing nesting behaviour at Chicago's Montrose Beach. To say this was a surprise would be an understatement. Even one migrant Piping Plover stopping at Montrose is a big deal — there are only 70 or so pairs of the birds remaining on the Great Lakes and none have nested in Chicago since 1948. But when two were hanging around the beach into late May, area birders and other observers knew something might be up.

Montrose is the largest beach in Chicago and an internationally known stopover point for migrating shorebirds. Until the late 1990s, it was mostly open sand. But when lakeshore rush *Juncus balticus* var. *littoralis* started to take hold

on the beach's eastern end, it caught the attention of naturalist Leslie Borns, who informed the Chicago Park District and advocated for protection of the area. More and more flora started colonizing the open beach, including several state-listed species, and a globally rare interdunal wetland type called a 'panne' began to form between the low sand dunes. Borns eventually became site steward for the area and she and a corps of steadfast volunteers ensured the protection of native grasses, rushes, sedges and forbs. The dunes comprise 12 acres of a high-quality Great Lakes dune/swale ecosystem right in the middle of a metropolis. [Read full article.](#)



Piping Plover nest protected by a cage on Montrose Beach, Chicago - Gordon Garcia

Waders In Poetry - Lapwing; Alicia Hayden

Lapwing

She gleams,
Purple, green, black –
An iridescent angel against a golden sky.

A haunting call
As she searches for her young.
She dives.

And as night wraps its cold hands
around the huddled birds,
the Lapwing lets out one last cry

and it swirls up, up, up,
into the Autumn sky.

[Alicia Hayden](#) 2019



Northern Lapwing— Alicia Hayden

Wader Quest Brasil

- Karina Ávila and Bruno Lima

Every summer, more than 200,000 vehicles leave São Paulo, the most populous city in Latin America, and head for the coast. There they will spend their holidays so it is easy then to imagine that every inch of sand will be occupied by bathers, cars, paragliders and dogs, with no room or peace for the waders.

However there is a small oasis, a strip of sand of 7 kilometres sandwiched between Atlantic forest on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other, where flocks of hundreds of terns and waders gather to rest, feed and to bathe in the streams that flow into the sea. During migration, several species from

North America coexist with the resident American Oystercatchers *Haematopus palliatus*, Collared Plovers *Charadrius collaris* and Southern Lapwings *Vanellus chilensis*. In the mornings, deer and peccaries feed in the undergrowth that covers the dunes. At night, Crab-eating Raccoon *Procyon cancrivorus* and Crab-eating Fox *Cerdocyon thous* search for food, always on the look out for Cougars *Puma concolor* and Ocelots *Leopardus pardalis*.

This almost unlikely oasis is called Tanigwá Beach, and contains one of the largest expanses of continuous plain forest, in addition some indigenous communities.

Certainly, because it is squeezed between two municipalities that receive a large number of tourists (Peruíbe and Itanhaém) this beach and its waders are under enormous pressure: several cars use it as a road between the two municipalities, killing the birds that rest there and feed. In addition, because it is an almost pristine beach, people take their dogs for a walk without a leash and paraglider pilots make low flights over the wader and tern flocks.

So, what have we done to protect this paradise? [Read more.](#)



Tanigwá Beach — Marcio Motta do Projeto Trinta-réis

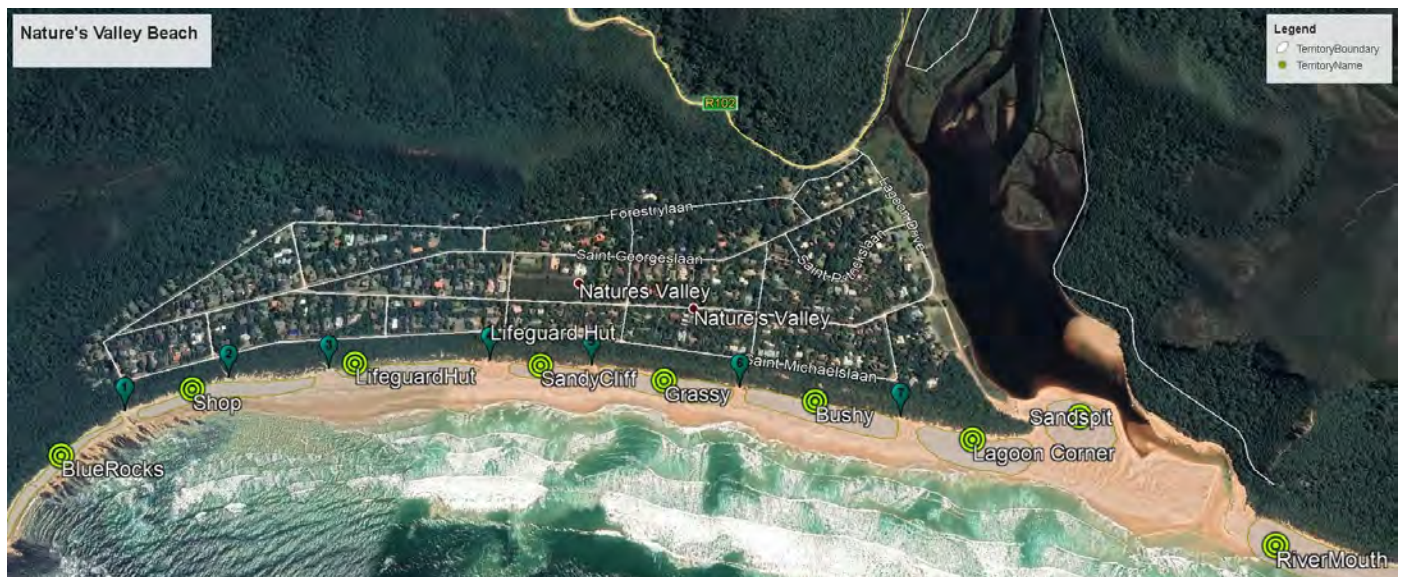
The Sands Of Change: Series 2 Episode 6

- 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.



Time. A concept which is sometimes hard to understand. A concept signalling change. A concept ever-present in our lives. Yes, often the passing of time is the one constant we feel throughout our short existence. This transition of time is certainly most felt at the beginning of each New Year. When we reflect on what has passed and dream of what may come. We start to imagine that the wind will whisper sweet encouragement as we try to begin afresh. We realise that as the sands trickle from one dune to the next, not only will the landscapes on our shores shift forever, but so too will time move steadily forward. Most of all, we hope that as the sands collude with the wind to carry them in new directions, our gallant shorebird community will be favoured and that good fortune will befall them.



F113 White-fronted Plover chick Ketchup' - NVT

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

Unfortunately, we are well aware that for some, the time on this earth can sometimes be cut far too short. This week our researchers were forced to realise this in the worst way possible. The wind was whispering, the sands were shifting and the sun was shining brightly, happily keeping a watchful eye from above. With every minute progressing to the next, all seemed well on Lookout Beach over the holiday season. New dog regulations had been posted, barring these bouncing beauties to accidentally tread on a plover nest or scare an unsuspecting adult. Yes, indeed, all seemed to be going well for the plovers calling Lookout Beach home.

Certainly, none were prepared for the brutal and abrupt butchery that would occur at this tranquil setting. The day was like any other. It was the morning of Christmas Eve. A time of celebration. The earth had shifted around its axis as usual and the sun was peering happily across the vast ocean. The wind was revealing nothing about the carnage that would tear through our unsuspecting plover community.

Nonetheless, there he was. With his fluffy, adult-like plumage. His beautiful black bill. His dainty twig-like legs, adorned with a clear colour ring. It read F113. Ketchup. Our researchers knew him well, they had been there the day of his birth, they had been there throughout his whole life and they were beaming with pride befitting proud parents at the prospect of seeing him fledge. Born on Monday the 6th of November, he and his twin brother, Chutney, had had a happy and fulfilled childhood on the shoreline of Lookout Beach. Time had seemed to fly by as these little plovers grew up quickly and were about to leave their parents to set out on their own.

Now it seemed time had come to a standstill. There between the sands lay little Ketchup. Or rather, what remained of him. It was clear that he had not met an easy end. His head mercilessly severed from his body. His little carcass tossed aside with seemingly little care about this beautiful creature, the life he had lived and the ones he had left behind. Who or what could have done such a thing? Could the Kelp Gull mobsters have struck again? Their presence on Lookout Beach is definitely getting stronger with the coming of each day. This seems unlikely, however, as these ravenous gangsters are rarely ones to leave the bodies of their victims in plain sight. Perhaps it was another hungry hunter like a little mongoose who took Ketchup's life? Again, why would it leave the body untouched and uneaten? Maybe it was disturbed just as it was about to tuck into the tender flesh of our beloved little Ketchup? Could it have been some other playful predator who accidentally made its way onto the beach and who got hold of our precious little baby? As is so often the case, there will be many unanswered questions surrounding this horrific event. However, this is by far one of the biggest and most heart-wrenching mysteries to befall our shorebird population in a while.

Regardless of what exact events unfolded on that fearful moment when Ketchup's time came to an end, our researchers are left with great sadness and pain. Nevertheless, as the wind is wafting the sands away to new locations, time is steadily moving forward, and so too, must we. This, however, does not mean that little Ketchup will be forgotten. The sun may have set on this vibrant and youthful little plover, but he will not fade into history, his life will never be but a distant memory. Our brave little fledgling will remain alive in our hearts.

Time. Ah, this ever-present concept in our lives. A curious thing. The past, present and future will always be inextricably linked to one another. When tragedies strike we will do well to remember this fact. Yes the wind changes the landscape, perhaps the sands will forever refuse to stagnate in one place, but time is destined to remain relative. Therefore, little Ketchup will remain alive whenever we reminisce about his presence, when seeing Chutney about the dunes or when we see two new baby plovers at their parent's heels. So goodbye little Ketchup, you are gone too soon, but you will always be remembered!



F114 White-fronted plover chick 'Chutney' - NVT



F114 'Chutney' the fledgling - NVT



F114 'Chutney' the surviving fledgling - NVT



15th Anniversary of Piping Plovers Returning To Breed In Ontario, Canada - Andrea Gress



A parent continues incubating a nest with a predator enclosure over it, while a freshly hatched chick explores its new home — Neal Mutiger.

We often think of endangered species as grand creatures existing elsewhere; polar bears in the arctic or elephants in Africa. We'll never encounter them in our daily lives, or so we think. The reality is, endangered and threatened species share their homes with us more than we realize.

One such species is the Piping Plover. We holiday on same beaches where they are raising their young. While we're looking for a sandy patch to lay our towels, Piping Plovers are looking for a place to lay their eggs. While we're munching on fries purchased from a nearby food truck, plovers are trying to prevent their chicks from becoming a bite-sized snack for a gull or crow.

In Ontario, Piping Plovers breed along the shores of the Great Lakes. Nestled in the most densely populated part of Canada, these beaches attract tens of thousands of weekend warriors. With the crowds, often comes poor beach management practices and general human disturbances, which can be detrimental to any breeding species, especially to a shorebird not that much larger than an apple.



Signage created by local school groups, marks the nesting site at Wasaga Beach — Birds Canada

These birds weren't always in southern Ontario. In the 1980s the Great Lakes Piping Plover population dipped below 15 breeding pairs; none in Canada. Thankfully, conservation efforts helped to increase their numbers, eventually prompting plovers to venture further north. The 2021 season will mark the 15th year since plovers returned to breed in southern Ontario. With such an anniversary coming up, we can't help but to reflect on the past 14 breeding seasons. Piping Plovers first nested at Sauble Beach in 2007. The pair fledged 3 of 4 chicks, a massive success garnering much optimism for the years to come.

15th Anniversary of Piping Plovers Returning To Breed In Ontario, Canada - cont'd

The birds have nested at Sauble Beach every year since. They've also made 11 other beaches their home since 2007. Some beaches have become strongholds, like Wasaga Beach and Darlington Park. While, others have welcomed the birds for a single season.

Overall, we've shared our beaches with 102 breeding pairs, who have produced a total of 147 fledglings. The peak season was 2016, when low water levels provided ample space on the beaches, enough room for 15 pairs and their young. In 2020, we had only 7 breeding pairs at 5 locations. We can attribute the lower breeding population in part, to the high water levels and less available habitat.

The success varies each year. Nests are susceptible to predation by avian or mammalian predators, or flooding when water levels are high. Chicks face a number of threats; natural predators, dogs off leash, illness, human disturbance, and even heat waves. The adults become better parents with age, but if anything happens to one adult, the other will often abandon an unhatched nest, or struggle to provide for their chicks as a solo parent.

With so many challenges, Ontario's Piping Plovers have been fortunate to receive support from hundreds of volunteers and many dedicated biologists over the years. Nests are fenced off so that pairs can enjoy a small slice of beach to themselves. Volunteers monitor these areas. They collect important



Ontario Parks and Friends of Nancy Island often host 'Ploverpalooza' at Wasaga Beach; a celebration of the plovers. This is one of their many outreach tools — Ontario Parks



Much like humans, Piping Plovers may be seen squabbling over the best parts of the beach — Neal Mutiger.

scientific data, and act as the voice for the plovers by helping beach goers see the birds, learn about them, and fall in love with them.

Piping Plovers are just now returning for another breeding season, a handful of birds have been observed at their usual breeding sites. This 15th anniversary will be marked by yet another atypical breeding season. Like last year, pandemic related restrictions will have an impact on the plovers. Likely, beaches will be busier than ever, as people strive for normality in an outdoor setting. On the upside, this is something we can plan and prepare for. Additionally, water levels are lower than last year, providing more habitat and a decreased risk of flooding.

Despite the many challenges the plovers face, and the added challenges we humans are facing this season, it's safe to say that we're optimistic. This season will be a good one.

Andrea will be sending us a summary of this anniversary season for the next issue. Ed.



Piping Plover tattoos are super popular amongst the young and old! — Andrés Jiménez

Wader News From Around The World In Brief

Correction to information given in January's newsletter.

We stated that Helen Larson first reported the news about the Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa nordmanni* in Cairns, Queensland, Australia, but she tell us that in fact it was Adrian Boyle who first alerted birders to the news. STOP PRESS: The bird disappeared from Cairns on the 13th of April but Helen now reports that it has returned on 25th April.

Chile - Results of the 2021 Aerial Census at Bahía Lomas, Chile.

Bahía Lomas on Tierra del Fuego is a site of Hemispheric Importance in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) and is a major site forwintering (Boreal winter) Red Knots *Calidris canutus rufa*.

In January 2021 an aerial census of the shorebirds was conducted in the bay. As well as the Red Knots, attention was given to the numbers of Hudsonian Godwits *Limosa haemastica* passing the non-breeding season in the area.

The totals when adding up all the large and small flocks seen came to; Red Knot 12,243 individuals and Hudsonian Godwit 13,621 individuals.

The number of Red Knots was up on the 2020 totals of 11,545 individuals but this is consistent with the range of counts reported since 2005.

[Results of the 2021 Aerial Census at Bahía Lomas, Chile\(whsrn.org\)](https://whsrn.org/)



Red Knots *C. c. rufa* and Sanderling *Calidris alba* — Elis Simpson

Egypt - Most northerly occurrence ever of Three-banded Plover recorded in Egypt.

Three-banded Plovers *Charadrius tricollaris* are distributed widely across southern and eastern Africa from Eritrea to Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon, and south to South Africa with subspecies *bifrontatus* found in Madagascar.

In 1993 the first record for the Western Palearctic occurred near Cairo and they were recorded breeding for the first time in Egypt in 2009 at Aswan.

More recently in April this year there was an individual at Ma'ayan Tzvi in Israel, which relocated 25 km to the southeast at HaMa'apil fishponds on the 6th June and remained there until the 21st of August.

The Israeli record overlapped with the most northerly record ever for this species when one was found at Borg El Arab airport Alexandria, near the Mediterranean coast, on the 16th June.



Three-banded Plover — Elis Simpson

Saudi Arabia - 1st successful breeding of Red-wattled Lapwing in Saudi Arabia.

Red-wattled Lapwing is divided into four subspecies. The most westerly being *Vanellus indicus aigneri*, which is distributed from southeast Turkey, Iraq, Iran, E Arabia, to eastern Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

In Saudi Arabia however it is not at all common with the first breeding confirmed in May 2020. On the 31st of May 2020 at Sabkhat al Fasl an adult was seen with four chicks. Later, in July, an adult with three fledglings was observed.

The first record in Saudi Arabia occurred in 1977 in the Riyadh area. More recently it has been recorded more frequently and even possibly bred in 2010 and 2015 when adults displaying breeding behaviour, becoming very agitated when approached, were observed.



Fledgling Red-wattled Lapwing *V. i. aigneri* — Elis Simpson

Wader News From Around The World - cont'd

Canary Islands - First record of Hudsonian Whimbrel for the Canary Islands

Since the Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus* was split from Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* records of them have become rather more significant to listers.

On February 16th this year a Hudsonian Whimbrel was discovered on a private golf course in southern Tenerife, Canary Islands. It remained until the 19th of March and surprisingly perhaps constitutes the first record for the Canary Islands if accepted.



Hudsonian Whimbrel — Elis Simpson

UK - British Trust for Ornithology conducting a Breeding Waders on Wet Meadows survey.

The purpose of this survey is to assess the importance of both existing and new lowland wet grassland and also other breeding wader habitats in England (as provided by agri-environment schemes) for declining breeding birds such as Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* and Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

The survey will re-visit sites from the 1982 and 2002 surveys, including sites from the 2009-10 RSPB targeted areas, as well as other new sites. Surveys conducted in Wales will focus on sites from the 2002.

The survey will require three daytime visits, with at least one week separating each, and a single dusk visit for Snipe during May - only if present at the site. An April visit should be made to detect Lapwing, and morning survey visits are preferable. Surveyors will need to be able to identify common wader species and be familiar with display and territorial behaviour.

To find out more, or to volunteer click the link below;

[Breeding Waders of Wet Meadows | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology](#)



Northern Lapwing chick — Elis Simpson

Thailand - River damming threatens breeding wader nests along the Mekong River.

Unseasonal releases of water from dams in China (11) and Laos (1) endanger nesting waders a report from Thailand concludes.

Small pratincoles *Glareola lactea* and lay their eggs in the sand along the Mekong River from October to May, during what is naturally the dry season. In recent years however, hydropower dams have caused unpredictable and unseasonably high water levels. The natural rhythms of wet and dry that have been in existence for thousands of years are crucial to the successful fledging of species such as the Small Pratincole, Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*, River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii* and, to some extent, Red-wattled Lapwings *Vanellus indicus*.

If water is released suddenly from one of these dams during the dry season, the surge of water can change the river drastically and many eggs and chicks along its length are swept away in the unexpected flood.



River Lapwing — Elis Simpson

Asia - New estimate of Spoon-billed Sandpiper numbers

Three independent statistical models were used to estimate the world population and trend of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper. The weighted mean world population size at the end of the breeding season, based on 10 surveys in 3 countries, was 490 mature individuals and 773 individuals of all ages. There is still a 9% per year decline so although the rapid population decline prior to 2009 (mean 26% decline per year) seems to have slowed as a result of conservation efforts, this continued decline demonstrates that the species should continue to be listed as Critically Endangered and is still heading for extinction, albeit a little slower than previously.



Spoon-billed Sandpiper — Elis Simpson

Wader News From Around The World - cont'd

England - Wash Wader Ringing Group Oystercatcher tagging.

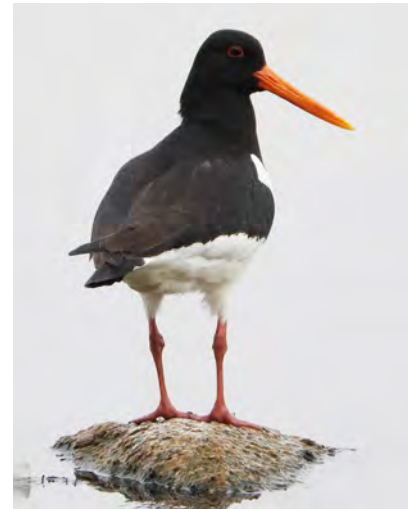
The Wash Wader Ringing Group has been involved with the BTO in a small project looking at the movements of Eurasian Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus* on the Wash. The purpose of the survey was to establish where the oystercatchers forage and feed. The management of the shell fisheries has been based on the assumption that they range widely across the wash, but this survey has shown that in they remain, for the most part, faithful to one area. The results will be used to fine-tune the management rules around the shellfish harvesting to make them more sustainable

Of 10 birds tagged on the Norfolk side, 7 remained in that area, two made forays onto the Lincolnshire side and one disappeared north to spend some time on a mud flat near Grimsby, where it stayed for a month before returning to Norfolk.

[More information here.](#)

Many of the Norfolk Oystercatchers come from Norway and northern Europe and those that were tagged are showing us where they go when they leave the Wash. One has stayed to breed in Norfolk, and six have gone to Norway, most stopping off in Denmark along the way. Two tags have been lost, one in Norfolk and the other in Norway, suspiciously close to a White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* nest.

[You can follow their journeys here](#)



Eurasian Oystercatchers — Elis Simpson

USA - Long lived Piping Plover, the oldest alive today in the Great Lakes population.

The Piping Plovers *Charadrius melodus* are returning to their breeding grounds. Among them is a male bird with the leg ring combination, Of,BR:X,R. This signifies a unique combination of rings that have been attached to his legs so that he can be identified as an individual. Colour rings are not universally popular among observers but here is a situation where we can see their worth as Brr, as he is affectionately known, can confidently be identified as the oldest known living Piping Plover in the Great Lakes population at 15 years old.

This age means he has equalled the age of two other Piping Plovers from the past and is just one year short of equalling the longevity record for this population. That record is currently held by BO:X,g who at 16 years was the oldest ever recorded in the Great Lake population. As a result BO:X, g was given the name 'Old Man Plover'. Let's hope Of,BR:X,R has a successful breeding season and survives another winter to equal the record and then go on the break it.

Of,BR:X,R = Upper left leg Orange flag, lower left leg dark blue over red colour rings, upper right leg metal ring, lower right leg red ring... not that you can see them in the photo.



Of,BR:X,R now 15 years old — Vince Cavalieri

Australia - Watching a tagged Bar-tailed Godwit head off on a 5,560km flight.

There can be few sights that carry heavy emotion for wader lovers equalling that of witnessing a flock of birds heading off for a long and hazardous migration. It is particularly so when one or more of them are known as individuals. Every cell in your irrational self is screaming 'Don't go, stay here where you are safe' but you know the bird must go. All you can do is watch and hope that he or she will be successful and return safely next year.

Chris Hassel of Global Flyway Network experienced just this as he watched a tagged bird leave Roebuck Bay in Australia setting out on a five to six day flight to China. He wrote an informative article around the experience, which even includes a short video of the bird leaving with its companions. Who says scientists don't get attached to their subjects?

[Read full article here](#)



SYRRB on a Roebuck Bay beach 13-12-2020 — K. Hadley

Wader News From Around The World - cont'd

Northern Ireland - Headstarted Eurasian Curlews return to Lough Neagh

In Northern Ireland the estimated population of Eurasian Curlews *Numenius arquata* is down to around 200 pairs, and the most recent estimate for the Republic of Ireland is that only 138 pairs remain. There has been a drastic 97% decline in the number of Curlews in Ireland in the last 30 years, due in the main, to a loss of suitable habitat in which to breed.

Last year five young birds were hatched and fledged using [headstarting](#) when their nests were threatened by fires that were burning out of control. Rather than lose the eggs, special permission was sought, and granted, to take them into a headstarting scheme to save them. The resulting fledglings were then released back into the wild near the shores of the lake.

This spring, project staff were amazed and delighted to find two of those five birds had returned to their natal breeding grounds. One of those birds, a male, possessed a yellow coloured ring with the legend P-9 (see photo).

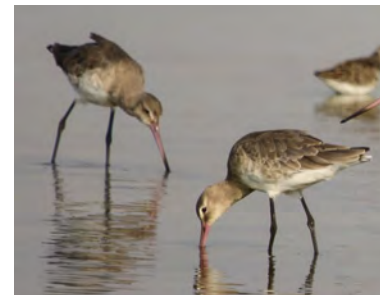
Adult survival in Curlews is good and so it is hoped that these birds will be able to help boost the Curlew population, if not this year, then in years to come.



Young Eurasian Curlew chick — Elis Simpson

China—New subspecies of Black-tailed Godwit described

Until now there were three subspecies of Black-tailed Godwit recognised. The largest subspecies being *Limosa limosa limosa* followed by *L. l. islandica* and the smallest, the Asian population, *L. l. melanuroides*. It was then noticed that some distinctly larger Black-tailed Godwits were being seen along the Chinese coast alongside the small *melanuroides* birds. An investigation into the body measurements and DNA of these birds showed that they constituted a new subspecies. The Bohai Bay Godwits are significantly larger than *melanuroides*, as mentioned, being closer to *limosa* than *islandica*, with bills that were relatively longer bills than those of *islandica*. The difference between the large Asian birds and each of the other three subspecies was such that the research team suggested that they should constitute a fourth subspecies of Black-tailed Godwit. *L. l. bohai*.



L. l. melanuroides — Elis Simpson

Scotland - Ad hoc conservation effort may pay dividends for Eurasian Oystercatchers elsewhere.

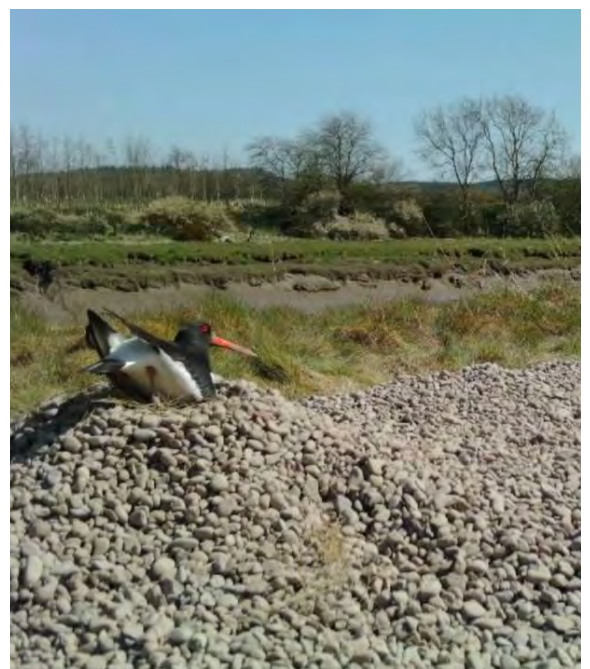
Eurasian Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus* have declined by nearly forty percent in Scotland since the mid-1990s, one of the most influential factors of this decline has been poor breeding success.

Wader enthusiast Patrick Laurie farms in Galloway, Scotland, and is always looking for ways to improve the number of waders breeding on his land. 18 months ago he took over a hay meadow and was rewarded with a pair of Oystercatchers nesting last year. Sadly the nest was robbed by a European Badger *Meles meles*.

Borrowing an idea from a fellow wader enthusiast Patrick placed gravel in a safe area to see if it would draw the oystercatchers out of the field, to breed where they would be safer. He dumped a ton of 20mm washed gravel on the saltings and creating a raised heap with a little dip in the middle like a nest scrape. Within 72 hours, the oystercatchers arrived and one of them sat for twenty minutes on the top of the experimental mound and even made improvements improved making a neat little cup. The pair seem to like what they had found, and they've already returned to it several times.

It's too early to tell what will come of this experiment, but the initial signs have been very encouraging and Patrick wonders if this could be a useful tool to integrate wader conservation into more intensively managed farmland.

[Patrick's blog about this story](#)



Experimental nest site attracts attention — Patrick Laurie

Wader News From Around The World - cont'd

Appeal for sightings!

Have you seen a colour ringed curlew?



If you see a colour ringed curlew whilst out on your daily exercise please report it to Tony Cross: avcross@btinternet.com

Rings are located just above the knee of the bird



Waders In Art - Tom Henderson



Jet; a Bar-ailed Godwit in flight — Tom Henderson

I paint my images in Photoshop but try not to overuse the flexibility that working digitally allows for. I don't zoom into the canvas, I don't use too many layers to paint on and I try to use brushes that mimic traditional media. One might ask why I don't just paint traditionally, to which I'd say I have limited time and space; working digitally gives me much more time to enjoy being creative without the pressures of making big mistakes that might mean I have to start a whole painting again.

When I want to understand a bird better, I'll do a digital painting to really study it. The Bar-tailed Godwit painting above was specifically an illustration to communicate the 'jet-like' form of the bird as it migrates, enabling it to travel such long distances effectively. This was inspired by a headline that I saw in the The Guardian...

'Jet fighter' godwit breaks world record for non-stop bird flight

Bar-tailed godwit flies more than 12,000km from Alaska to New Zealand in 11 days

Bar-tailed Godwits, like so many migrant waders, are particularly challenged by climate change as well as habitat degradation and loss. These birds are so dependent on specific habitats that I hoped that by creating some artwork around them, their problems might become just a little better known. (Not so much of an issue within the Wader Quest community, fortunately!) I have been selling prints of this artwork and donating the proceeds from sales to Wader Quest.



A Bar-tailed Godwit, its wings drooping with fatigue having just arrived on a new Zealand beach — Elis Simpson

Waders In Art - cont'd



Spoon-billed Sandpiper and chicks — Tom Henderson

The Spoony picture above was a personal exploration of the species as I had recently learned of them and their plight through WWT's conservation work and was intrigued to find that Wader Quest set out originally to raise money for the captive breeding programme at Slimbridge.

This small wader from distant lands deserves international recognition and the more it features in any artwork, the more likely it'll be known and appreciated when the artwork is shared. In turn, this might drive up some charitable funding to support it. I hope that by doing studies of birds like the Godwit and Spoony, I'll develop a stronger understanding of their characters and their stories which I can use to make more effective illustrations to support them.

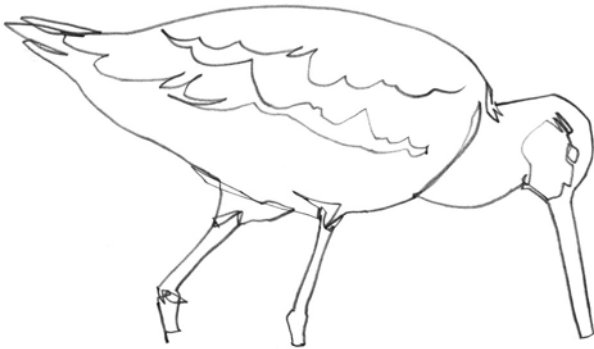
Single Line Drawings

I find drawing in a single line encourages me to work with the swiftness that birds move. I'm also looking at the most important markings and forms, and spending less time on the details. It is tempting to pick out every feather and colour but ultimately, with limited opportunity to study a bird (and often only from a distance), I'd rather prioritise it being identifiable. The simpler I can do this, the better, as a lot of wading birds look quite similar to each other and often it's the subtleties that

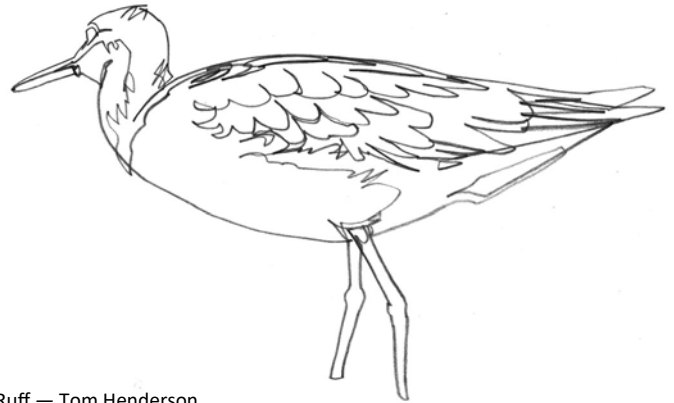


Common Snipe — Tom Henderson

Waders In Art - cont'd



Black-tailed Godwit — Tom Henderson



Ruff — Tom Henderson



Northern Lapwing — Tom Henderson

About my work: [House of the Wild](#)

House of the Wild is a place for seeing, sharing, conserving and educating about the natural world and all its diversity. I hope to illustrate nature and the environment honestly including how humans interact with our world, for better or worse. I want to identify threats to nature as well as celebrate its heroes. I aspire to be as ethical and environmentally friendly as possible in doing all this.



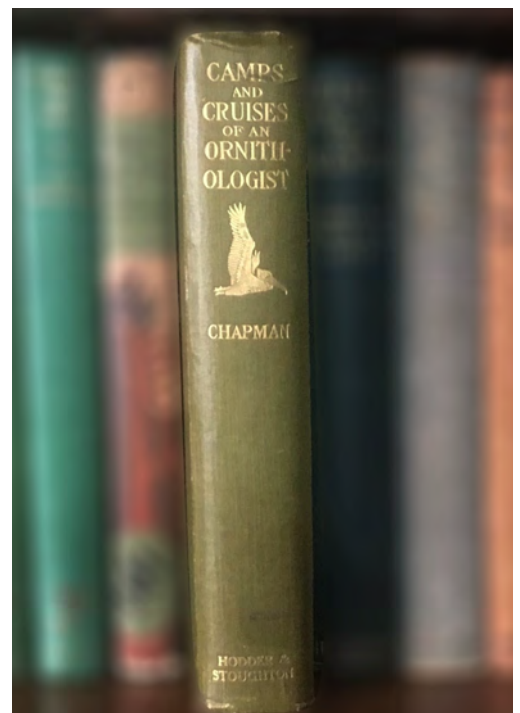
Dunlin — Tom Henderson

From the library - Camps and Cruises of an Ornithologist; Frank M. Chapman (1908)

'We were especially interested in the Northern and Red Phalaropes which chanced to be abnormally abundant at this time. When we reached Pacific Grove, on May 20, a record-breaking northwest wind had been blowing for more than two weeks. It evidently had rendered navigation impossible for the Phalaropes, and these seafarers among the Snipe, while voyaging to their Arctic summer homes, had encountered the gale and been stranded in vast numbers. A week later, we found many wrecks of this feathered fleet ashore on the Farallones, where their poor, emaciated little bodies were floating in the rock-enclosed pools left by the tide.

I had previously seen this bird only on the Atlantic, resting in great beds on the waters or rising in silvery, curling waves before the approach of our steamer. While I regretted the disaster which had befallen the half-starved little waifs, I realised that their ill luck was my good fortune. And lost no time in availing myself of this unusual opportunity to make the acquaintance of a bird which but few naturalists have met intimately.

All the quiet bodies of water contained Phalaropes, a large pond in the city of Monterey being fairly speckled with them. As, with several members of our American Ornithologist's Union party, I approached its margin, I was not a little astonished to observe that apparently one-half of the Phalaropes in it were spinning about in the most remarkable manner. They might have been automatic teetotums.' [A teetotum is a form of gambling spinning top.]



Cover Photo; Black Turnstone - Becky Bowen



All photos this page — Becky Bowen

Black Turnstone *Arenaria melanocephala* (Vigors 1829)

IUCN Least Concern

Alternative names;

None found in English but the Spanish name is *Vuelvepiedras negro* or *Vuelvepiedras oscuro* and in Russia, where it is a vagrant *Чёрная камнешарка*.

Taxonomy;

- Originally named *Streptilas melanocephalus* by Nicholas Aylward Vigors in 1829.
- In 1882 Elliot Ladd Coues made it a subspecies of Ruddy Turnstone *A. interpres melanocephalus*.
- Although in the Scolopacidae family today it was not always thus. Turnstones, due to their appearance, have also been considered to be plovers; Henry Seebohm *Charadrius melanocephalus* 1885.
- Finally *Arenaria*, was resurrected from Mathurin Jacques Brisson's name for the genus first given in 1760.



Cover Photo; Black Turnstone - cont'd



Details:

Breeds only in suitable habitat on the western coast of Alaska, spreading south as far as Mexico outside the breeding season. Many remain throughout that range all year but do not breed.

Generally a sociable bird, mixing with other species, in particular, Surfbirds *Calidris virgata* and Rock Sandpipers *Calidris ptilocnemus* on rocky shores and Grey Plovers *Pluvialis squatarola* and other species on muddy/sandy shores. Despite this apparent friendly demeanour, squabbles do break out and, on the breeding grounds the bird will noisily and relentlessly attack predators and intruders even getting physical with the object of their ire. This sentinel type habit wins them friends among their congeners, but has incurred the wrath of hunters who have been known to shoot them so they are unable to warn other species of their presence.

Photos above and below — Becky Bowen

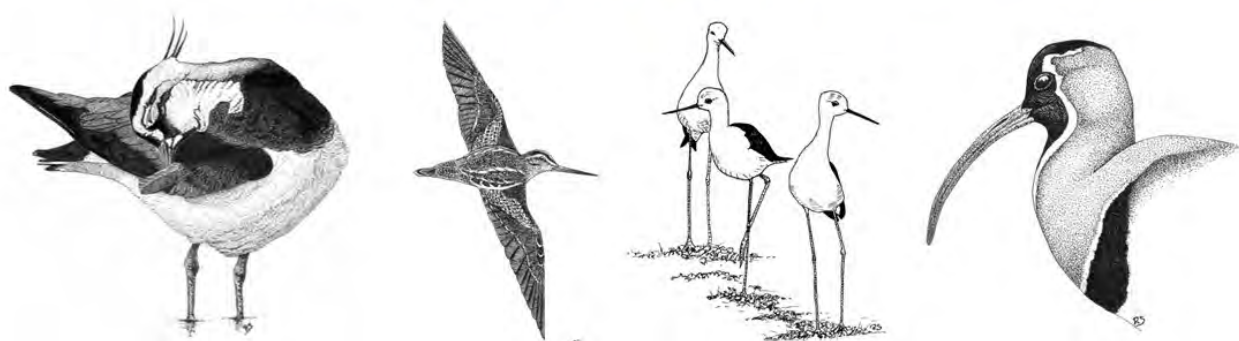


At roost with a surfbird — Elis Simpson

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

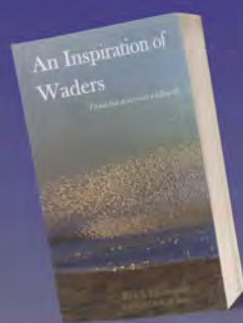


'Breathtakingly excellent - like a birding Michael Palin. The photographs and drawings are fantastic, and the text is fast-moving and endlessly entertaining and amusing.' Jim Wright.

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

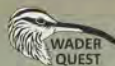
The foreword is by Keith Betton



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



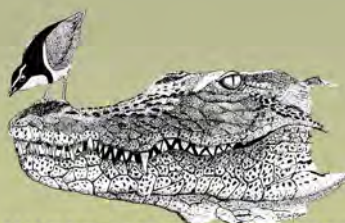
BY RICK AND ELIS SIMPSON



Find out how waders have inspired careers, myths, legends, art, music, poetry, theatre, books, discovery and much more besides.

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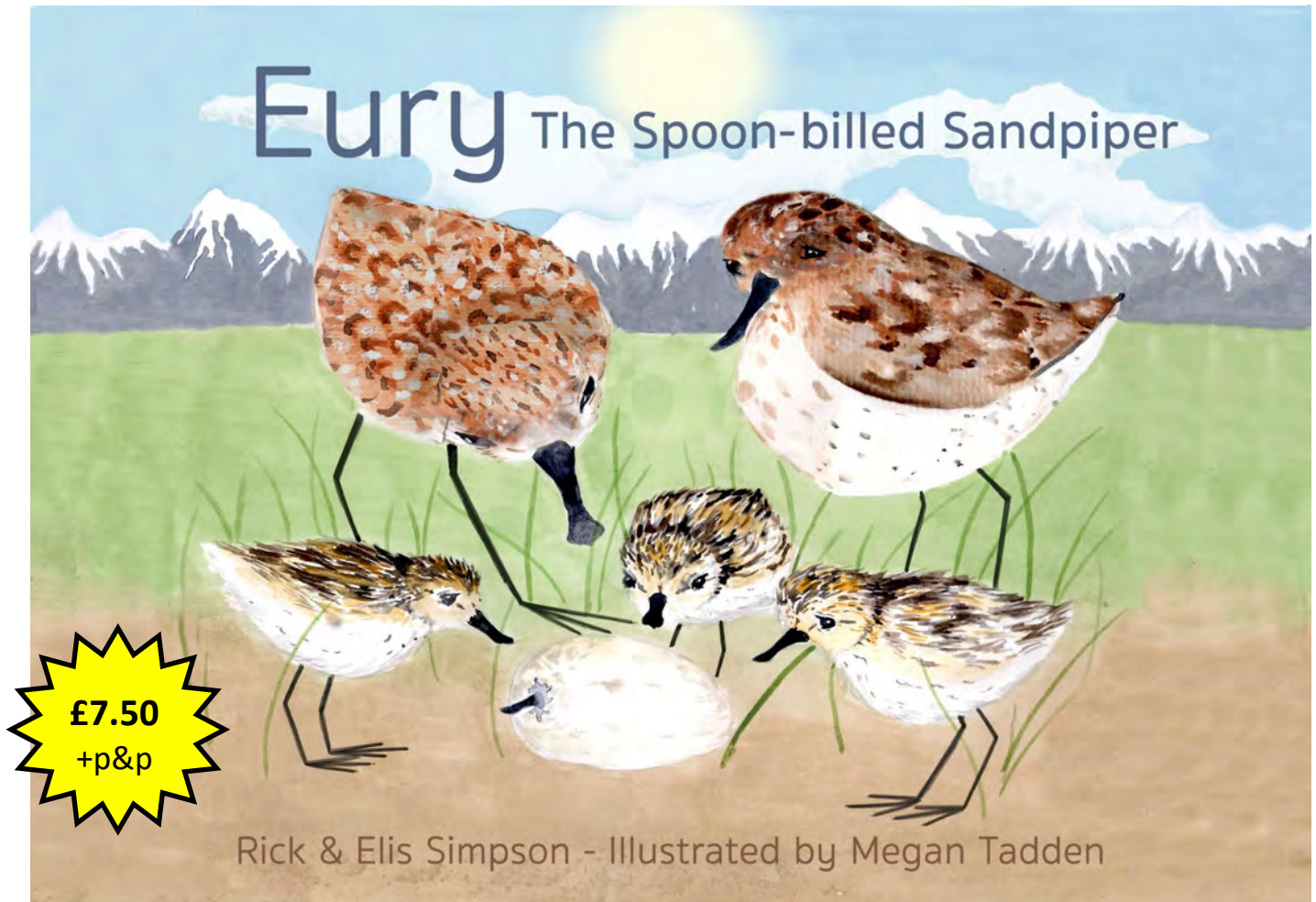
WADER QUEST PUBLISHING
All profits will go to Wader Quest

Wader Quest Merchandising

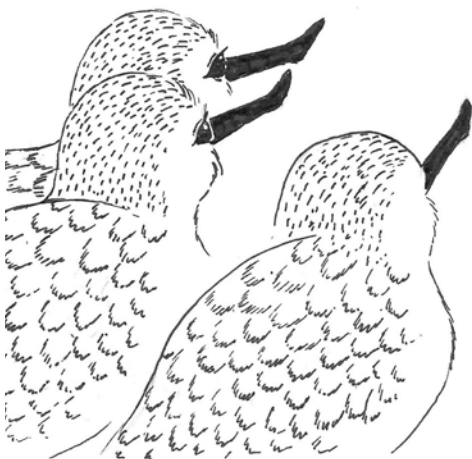
Eury The Spoon-billed Sandpiper

A Wader Quest Publishing book By Rick and Elis Simpson

Children 6 -11 years



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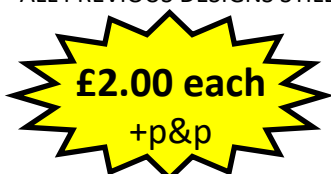
Wader Quest Merchandising

Wader Quest Collectables - Pin Badges

0. Wader Quest logo
1. Diademed Sandpiper-Plover
2. Ruddy Turnstone
3. Hooded Plover
4. Sanderling
5. Egyptian Plover
7. Dunlin
8. Black Stilt
9. Ibisbill
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
20. Great Thick-knee
21. Common Sandpiper
22. Crab Plover
23. Two-banded Plover



ALL PREVIOUS DESIGNS STILL



NEW 2021 DESIGNS

24. Terek Sandpiper
25. Banded Stilt
26. Sociable lapwing
27. Collared Pratincole



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Wader Quest Collectables - Enamelled



Earrings

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(price includes p&p in UK. Outside UK please ask.)



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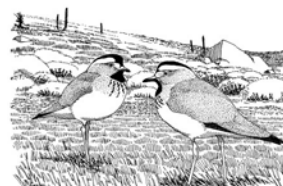
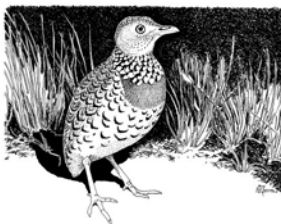
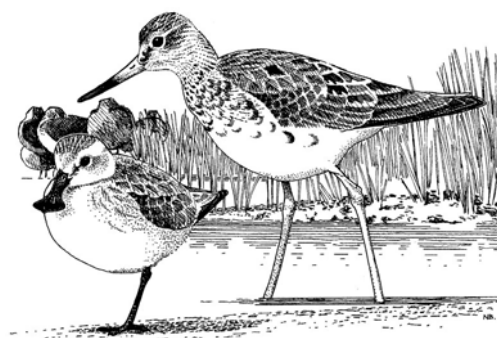
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Wader Quest Merchandising



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.



Common Snipe © Julia Page



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

POSTCARDS
100 X 150 MM
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OR 5 FOR £4.00
+P&P



Eurasian Oystercatchers © Julia Page



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

Designs by
Julia Page

sales@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

Total funds raised and donated since 12/09/2012 (Includes reserve funds in hand)

£37,356.49

Previous Appeals

Total Raised for Spoon-billed Sandpipers: £3,526.06
Total Raised for Hooded Plovers: £1,316.33
Total raised for Magellanic Plover Fund: £3,000.00
Total raised for Pak Thale Fund: £1,000.00
Total raised for Humber Ringing Group: £1,782.02

Appeals total: £10,624.41

Donations

05/03/2014: £20.94 (US\$35.00) - Donated to Western Snowy Plover appeal. Audubon California.
20/03/2014: £20.94 (US\$35.00) - Donated to Galveston oil spill appeal. Audubon, Texas.
24/03/2015: £34.41 (US\$50.00) - Donated to Waders in Working Wetlands - Shorebird Extravaganza.
26/03/2015: £53.02 (AUD100.00) - Donated to STOP Shorebirds from Dying BirdLife Australia.
20/07/2015: £10.00 - Donated to Saint Helena National Trust 'Adopt a Wirebird' (St Helena Plover).
18/12/2015: £95.73 (AUD200.00) - Donated to BirdLife Australia for the Silent Shorebird Crisis Appeal.
29/12/2015: £141.27 (US\$ 200.00) - Donated to South Island Wildlife Hospital.
07/01/2016: £199.85 (R\$1,125.00) - Donated to Conectando os Pontos donated via Kickante site.
06/04/2016: £100.72 (NZ\$200.00) - Donated to Pukorokoro Miranda Trust for purchase of Robert Findlay Reserve.
20/04/2016: £100.00 - Donated to Mary Colwell for The Curlew Walk.
22/01/2017: £100.00 - Donated to Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Hazel Barrow Appeal.
05/03/2017: £336.24 (AU\$520.71) - Donated to Wing Threads.
14/03/2017: £94.18 (US\$115.00) - Donated to Protect our Plovers; San Francisco Bird Observatory.
13/04/2017: £50.00 - Donated to the Azerbaijan research project.
05/05/2017: £153.33 (AU\$265.61) - Donated to Tassie Shorebird Rescue.
13/08/2017: £50.00 - Donated to Ben's big Curlew Ride (BTO)
15/08/2017: £15.00 - Donated to Snettisham Hide Appeal (RSPB)
01/05/2018: £1,000.00 - Donated to the world's largest bird table - emergency food aid for the Endangered Great Knot.
04/05/2018: £100.00 - Donated to Whaups Up! Scottish Curlew Conference.
25/05/2018: £438.67 (ZAR1,750.00) - Donated to Nature's Valley Trust, Western Cape South Africa for educational booklets, brochures and equipment.
20/06/2018: £100.00 - Donated binoculars to Southend School for Girls nature club.
07/07/2018: £119.00 - Donated to Curlew Country South Cumbria for fundraising and publicity banners.
06/03/2019: £1,000.00 - Donated to Curlew Country Shropshire the Lowland Curlew Recovery Project - Eurasian Curlew recovery outside reserves and upland areas.
31/05/2019: £1,000 - Bird Conservation Society Thailand donation towards new hide at reserve to protect the Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper.
10/07/2019: £500.00 - Donated to Theatre Kimberley for their Shorebird Quest project in Roebuck Bay, Western Australia.
21/11/2019: £500.00 - Donated to Community Workshop for Far Eastern Curlew Conservation Action in Pantai Desa Sungai Cemara, Jambi, Indonesia.
13/12/2019: £500.00 - Donated to Curlew Action for Curlew Packs for volunteers.
13/12/2019: £775.00 - Donated to Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust to purchase an incubator for Eurasian Curlew head-starting.
01/02/2020: £300.00 - Donated to Wader Quest Brasil to purchase signs prohibiting dogs and cars from the beach in Peruipe, São Paulo, Brazil.
09/03/2020 £781.23 - Donated to Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network for Brazilian beaches project.
Total Donations made: £8,689.53

Grants Fund:

26/09/2014: £70.81 Celluloid colour rings and measuring equipment purchased for use on Javan Plover and White-headed Stilt and sent to Anak Burung Birdbanding Club, Indonesia.
29/10/2014: £133.14 Five mist nets purchased to capture and monitor wintering waders and sent to CORBIDI (Centro de Ornitología y Biodiversidad) in Paracas National Reserve, Peru.
30/10/2015: £350.00 Opticron IS70 (18-54 eyepiece) telescope and Opticron 10x50 Discovery binoculars for monitoring human disturbance on South African beaches sent to Nature's Valley Trust, Western Cape, South Africa.
17/12/2015: £55.39 Celluloid colour rings purchased for use on Javan Plover and sent to Anak Burung Birdbanding Club, Indonesia.
09/02/2016: £650.00 Colour engraved leg flags purchased for use with Nearctic waders sent to Conectando os Pontos, Paraíba, Brazil.
31/10/2016: £217.33 Ringing pliers and weighing scales for use to study migrant wader habitat selection, sent to Migratory ecology of Charadriiforms project along the Brazilian coast.
05/12/2016: £178.12 Celluloid colour leg rings, various sizes. Migratory ecology of Charadriiforms project along the Brazilian coast.
01/05/2018: £1,000.00 (£1111.80) 5th Anniversary Grant; Conservation of Waders in the Ciénaga de San Juan de los Cayos, Venezuela (additional donation from Opticron of £500 optics).
26/04/2019: £1,296.00 Geolocators (Light level recorders); Icelandic breeding Purple Sandpipers, Highland Ringing Group/Research Centre for Environmental Science, Raufarhöfn, Melrakkasléttur, Iceland.
16/07/2019: £1,000.00 to the Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation, Nepal for studying of Wood Snipe in the Himalayas.
15/09/2019: £132.00 to Wirral Wader Festival for leaflets.
25/11/2019: £1,000.00 6th Anniversary Grant; Shorebirds Peninsular Malaysia Project, Nature Camp Programme, Teluk Air Tawar - Kuala Muda, Malaysia.
15/01/2020: £158.40 Opticron car window mount and Velbon Tripod, to study WHSRN sites for Snowy and Wilson's Plovers - Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research
28/02/2020: £703.74 - Kowa Scope and Velbon tripod sent to Elvonal Shorebird Science for use by field operatives in Eastern Europe - Debrecen University, Hungary.
26/01/2021: £513.17 - Vortex telescope and binoculars, High Country tripod - Breeding ecology research of Endangered Nordmann's Greenshank (Tringa guttifer), Russia.
19/03/2021: £1,320 - Poster and signs plus monitoring of beaches in São Paul and Rio de Janeiro - Aves Limícolas Peruipe, São Paulo, Brazil.
19/03/2021: £1,500 - Electric fencing to protect Eurasian Curlew nests - Shropshire Ornithological Society 'Save our Curlews'.
19/03/2021: £1,790 - Opticron telescope and binoculars, Velbon tripod and cages to protect ground nesting species - Elvonal Shorebird Science Turov Meadow project, Belarus.
Total disbursements from Grants Fund: £12,068.10