



SUPPORTING SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION

Registered Charity (England and Wales)
1183748

Wader Quest Objectives:

To raise public awareness about, and to promote an understanding and appreciation of, waders or shorebirds (birds of the sub order Charadrii and to include the family Turnicidae, as defined by the Handbook of Birds of the World Volume 3 del Hoyo, Elliott and Sargatal eds 1996).

To raise funds, which, at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, is to be used to make small grants or carry out appeals for wader conservation projects worldwide.

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

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

To join as a Friend or Sponsor write to:

membership@waderquest.net

For sales (pin badges, earrings, books etc.) write to:

sales@waderquest.net

For more information write to:

info@waderquest.net



Wader Quest Articles

What's in a name: The Dotterel - By Rick and Elis Simpson

The following is an excerpt from *An Inspiration of Waders* where we discuss the naming of the Eurasian Dotterel and why it came about.



Eurasian Dotterel- Elis Simpson

'The name dotterel in itself seems quite quaint and innocuous, until you delve into what it actually means. It is derived from the old English word dote, which means simpleton or fool, indeed in Scotland the dotterel is also known as the moss fool. In Gaelic it is called *Amadan-Mòintich* ('peat-bog fool') reflecting both its perceived stupidity and its chosen environment. John Skelton (1460-1529) in his *The Book of Phillip Sparrow* (before 1508) referred to the bird thus;

'the Dotterell, that foolish peck'



Eurasian Dotterels- Elis Simpson

The scientists perpetuated this idea, nominating the bird *morinellus* meaning little fool, from the Latin *morus* meaning foolish.

These birds were regularly netted on their migration north through England. Trapping was carried out at night using a light to dazzle the birds and stones bashed together to chivvy the birds towards the waiting net. An unusual myth arose from these netting days that the birds would imitate their hunter's movements;

'Being a kind of bird as it were of an apish kind, ready to imitate what they see done, are caught according to foulers gesture: if he put forth an arme, they also stretch out a wing: sets he forward his legge, or holdeth up his head, they likewise doe theirs ; in briefe, whatever the fouler doth, the same also doth this foolish bird untill it be hidden within the net.'

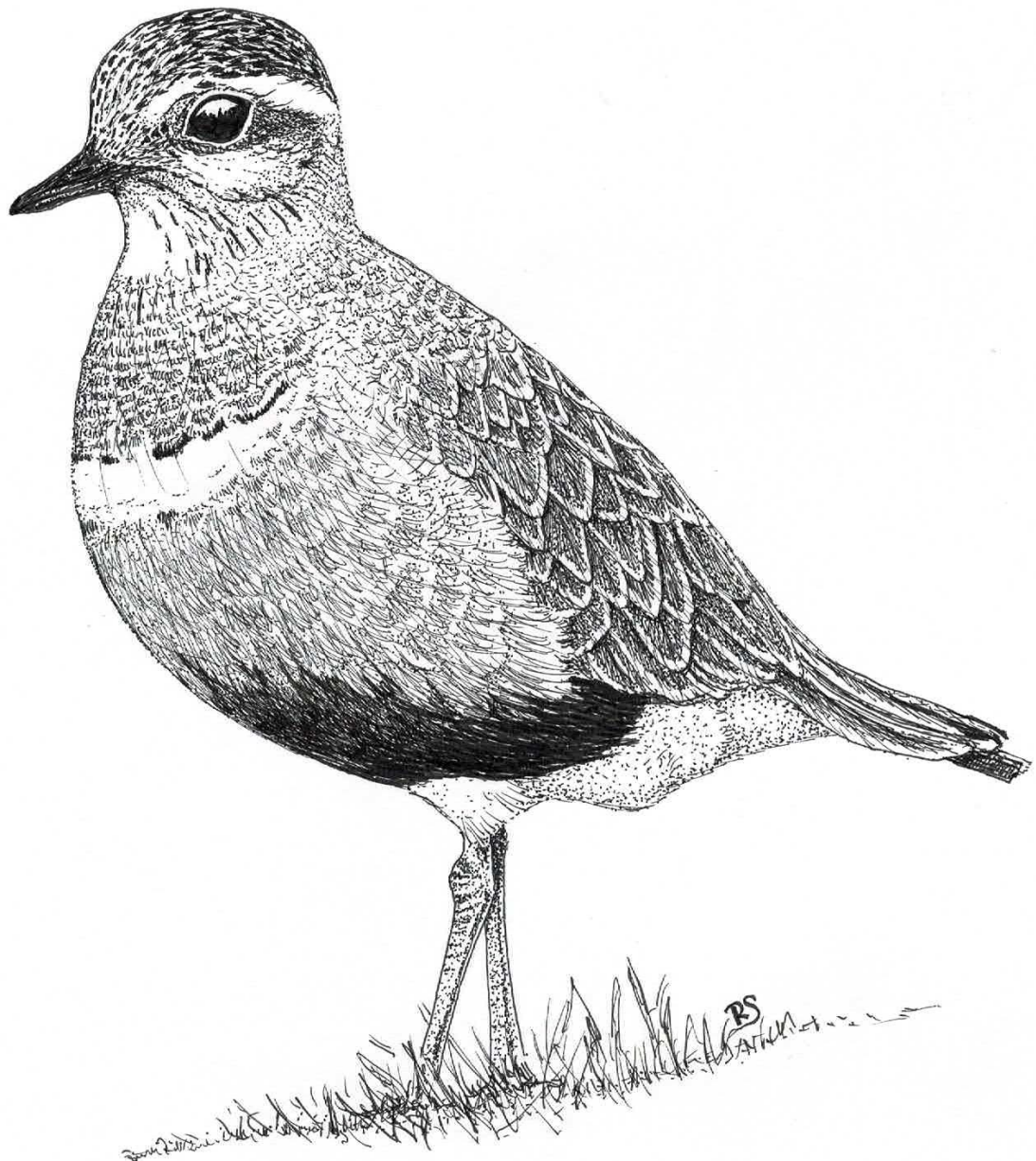
(William Camden 1551 – 1623)

An Inspiration of Waders - By Rick and Elis Simpson

They were thus persecuted for sport, for the pot and for their plumage – their feathers were prized by fishermen for making trout flies – and were also sought after by egg collectors and taxidermists. Hunters would look for them at their traditional stopping-off places on the Yorkshire coast. The Dotterel Inn, where hunters would stay, still exists near Filey, while other traditional stopping places led to the naming of two Dotterel Halls in Cambridgeshire and a Dotterel Farm in North Yorkshire. It is claimed that a hunter could expect to shoot fifty pairs in a season.

There is also an old adage passed down from the shepherds referring, presumably, to the southern movements of the dotterels portending the coming of winter, much as the disappearance of the common swifts from our town fills me with a feeling that winter is not far away. However one can only assume that the birds must have been more numerous and lingered much more on their southward journey than they do now;

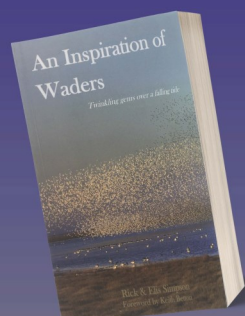
*'When dotterel do first appear, it shows that frost is very near;
But when the dotterel do go, then you may look for heavy snow.'*



Eurasian Dotterel- Rick Simpson (An illustration from *A Quest for Waders* also by Rick and Elis Simpson.

An Inspiration of Waders - By Rick and Elis Simpson

An Inspiration of Waders



Twinkling gems over a falling tide

The foreword is by Keith Betton



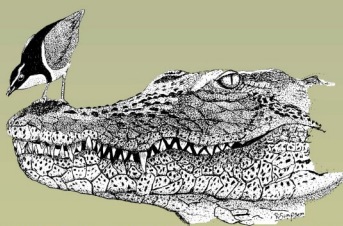
Discover our cultural connection to waders and how they have inspired us.



BY RICK AND ELIS SIMPSON



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



WADER QUEST PUBLISHING
All profits will go to Wader Quest

contact - sales@waderquest.net

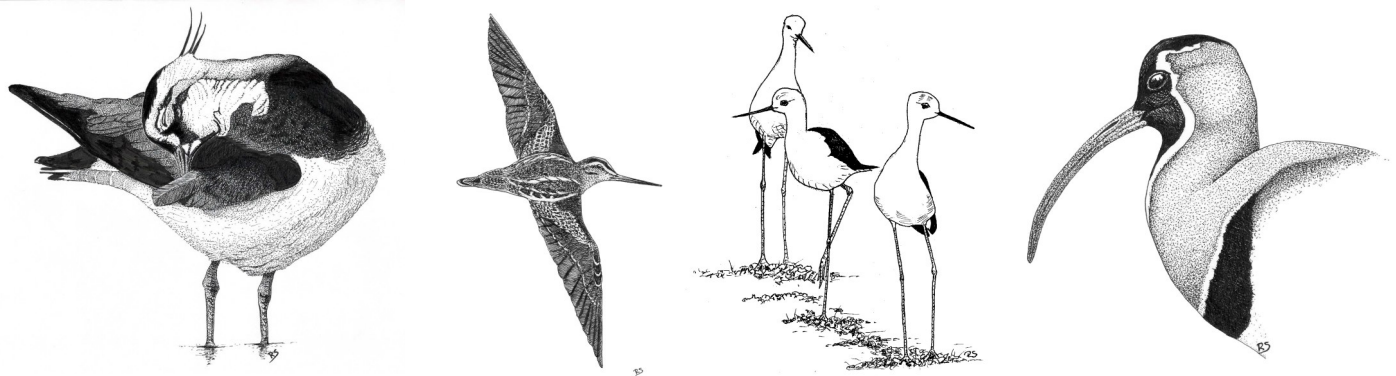
© Wader Quest 2020. All rights reserved.



New Wader 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.



Original artworks throughout by Rick Simpson

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 ripples 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.

contact - sales@waderquest.net

