



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.

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# Wader Quest Articles

## New Breeding behaviour discovered for Nordmann's Greenshank - Rick Simpson

Nordmann's Greenshank, also known as Spotted Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* is still very much an enigma when it comes to its breeding behaviour. Although they are seen in certain locations in their wintering grounds and on migration their breeding habits are little known due to their choice (a very wise one) to breed in very remote areas of Russia where a combination of larch forest, inland bog, coastal meadow, and tidal flat exist. This unique combination may be a contributory factor in restricting the population size of this rare and fascinating species among the many hazards they face.



Nordmann's Greenshank in breeding plumage - Konstantin Maslovsky

There have previously only been six Nordmann's Greenshank nests ever found, and the unusual thing about these nests is that all have been found in trees. This is not unprecedented among waders as Green *Tringa ochropus* and Solitary Sandpipers *Tringa solitaria* for example are known to nest in tree but using the old nests of other species. In the case of the Nordmann's Greenshank it constructs its own nest.



Nordmann's Greenshank on its nest - Konstantin Maslovsky



## New Breeding behaviour discovered for Nordmann's Greenshank - cont'd

During a survey in Schaste Bay, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia, between mid-May and mid-August this year, carried out despite the difficulties that Covid-19 has presented this year, albeit with a depleted team, researchers made an interesting discovery. They found a pair of Nordmann's Greenshanks nesting on the ground of an inland bog approximately 1.5 km from the Schaste Bay mudflats.

The few nests so far found in trees have been constructed using twigs and lined with lichens that helped camouflage the eggs.

The nest on the ground was in a thicket of crowberry *Empetrum nigrum* beneath a few sapling larches. The nest cup was lined with small larch twigs, dry leaves, and several lichen species.



Nordmann's Greenshank chick - Konstantin Maslovsky



Nordmann's Greenshank nest on the ground with four eggs (L) and showing nest position under a larch sapling (R) - Konstantin Maslovsky

During the 2019 survey, the research team found the first mainland breeding for this species and ringed 7 adults and 8 chicks. This year the team found 76 adults, representing 60 migratory individuals and 12 breeding pairs. This emphasizes that Schaste Bay warrants being designated as a Ramsar site, and further underscores the need to establish it as a protected area. They ringed two adults and one chick. Birds ringed by the team have been sighted in China and in Korea in both years.

The team comprising Dr Konstantin Maslovsky (Federal Scientific Centre of the East Asia Terrestrial Biodiversity FEB RAS, Laboratory of Ornithology, Vladivostok, Russia), Dr Vladimir Pronkevich (Institute of Aquatic and Ecological Problems, FEB RAS, Khabarovsk, Russia, vp\_tringa@mail.ru) and Philip Maleko (M.S. Student, School of Natural Resources and Environment University of Florida). Unfortunately, Philip he could not be on the expedition in 2020 due to the pandemic, but he took part remotely. The field team would like to thank the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), EAAFP, and WWF Russia, which played big roles in making the field season happen.

### End note on the population size of Nordmann's greenshank:

On the 16th of September 2020, 967 Nordmann's Greenshanks were observed in a high tide roost at Tiaozini, Dongtai. When a follow up survey was carried out by the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) on 18th it recorded an astounding 1,150 individuals in the same area – estimated to be 96% of the global population of approximately 1,200 mature individuals.

The population size was revised in 2013 due to high numbers of birds being observed together at this single site at that time the population was deemed to be in the region of 4-600 individuals. In total 1,117 individuals were recorded between Dongtai and Rudong, 940 of which were recorded at Tiaozini, showing a massive underestimate around 86% of the population.

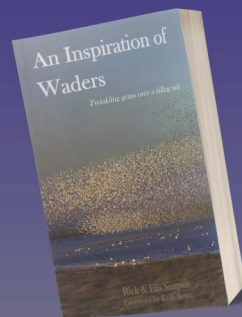


Nordmann's Greenshank in non-breeding plumage - Elis Simpson



## 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



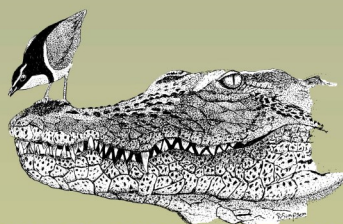
Discover our cultural connection to waders and how they have inspired us.



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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