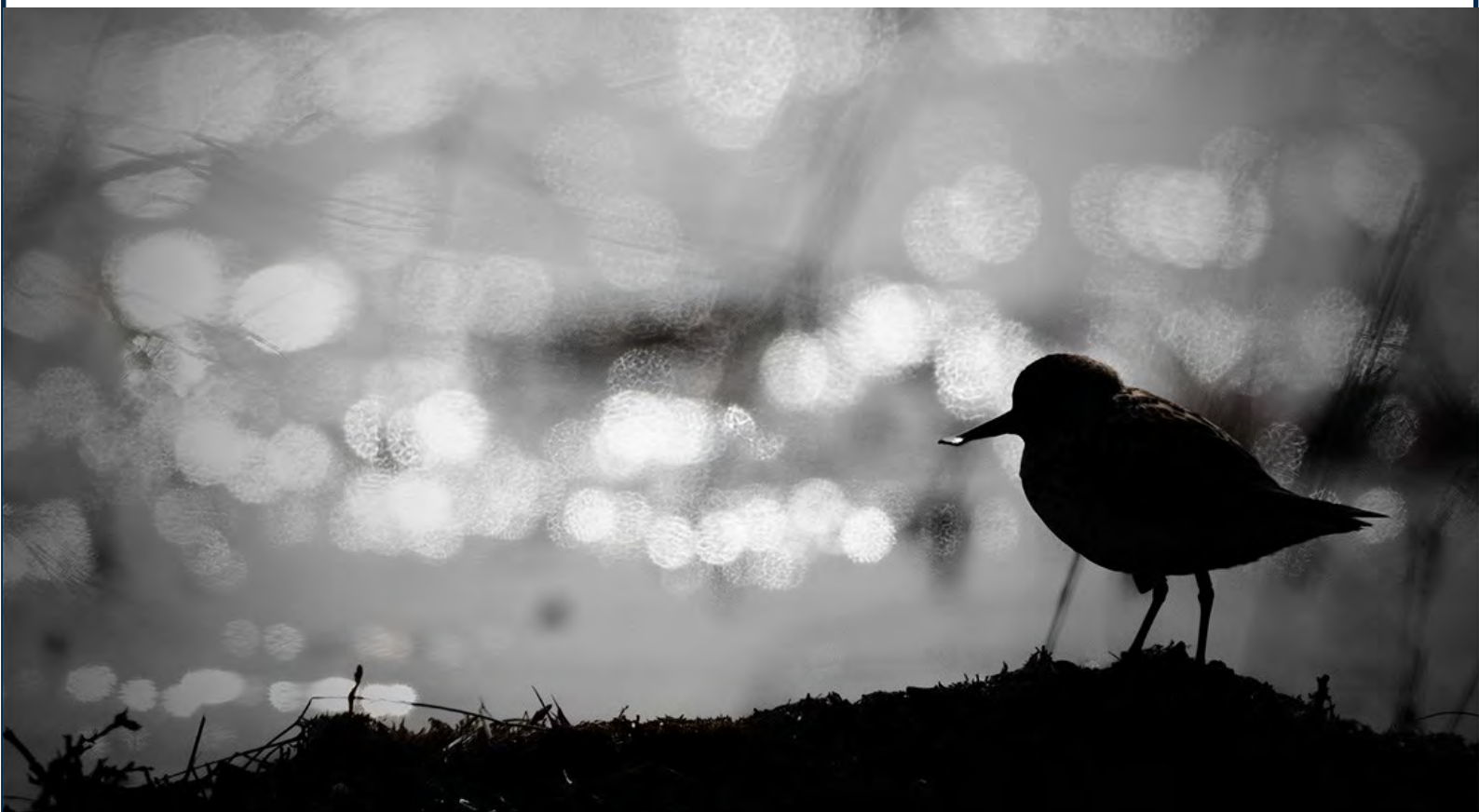




WADER QUEST

THE NEWSLETTER Volume 8; Issue 2: July 2021



Spoon-billed Sandpiper — Ilya Ukolov

Inside this issue

2: Wader Quest information.
3: Announcing Wader Quest's new patrons.
4: Wader Quest news.
5: Wader Quest events and talks.
6-7: Global Birding Weekend WQ team / Easygiving.
8: Appeal for help and volunteers.
9: Recent Wader Quest videos and blogs released.
10-11: Wader Quest Brasil news.
12: Wader Quest South Africa news.
13-14 : Wader Hotspot; Marievale Bird Sanctuary, South Africa .
15: Wader Hotspot; The Wirral, UK / Wader Olympics.
16: Russian Nordmann's Greenshank project update / News of Maltese wader trapping.
17: The name *Numenius* explained / Caribbean Wader

Swamp shooting / What's in a name; Kentish Plover.
18-19: Good breeding year for Black-tailed Godwits in The Netherlands.
20-22: Sands of Change .
23-25: Rehabilitation of a Greater Sandplover.
26-31: Wader news from around the world in brief.
32: Curlew Recovery Project.
33-34: Waders in poetry / From the library.
35-36: Waders in art - Alicia Hayden.
37-38: Cover photo - Spoon-billed Sandpiper.
39-41: Wader Quest Books.
42: Wader Quest Collectables.
43-44: Other Merchandising.
45: Grants Application Guide / disbursements made.



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

Patrons:

Tim Appleton MBE
Penny Robinson

Executive Committee:

Andrew MacGarvey (Chair)
Louise Hathaway (Treasurer)
Phil Hadley, (Secretary)
Corinne MacGarvey (Membership)
Luke Marriner
Dylan Parry-Davies
Aberdeen Powell
Elis Simpson
Rick Simpson
Ellie Wise
Vacancies

Grants Panel:

Ray Heaton (Chair)
Jannik Hansen
Andrew MacGarvey
Rick Simpson

Board of Trustees:

Rick Simpson (Chair)
Ian Dearing (Secretary)
Nicky Fennessey
Chris Lamsdell
Ray Heaton
Elis Simpson

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

Next meeting:

Trustees: October 2021

Exec. Comm: 2nd August

AGM:

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.

CORPORATE AND CLUB SPONSORS



The copyright of all photographs and artwork in this newsletter belongs to the named photographer or artist unless otherwise stated.

Please seek permission from the copyright owner before using them.

All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Wader Quest.

Edited by Rick Simpson

We are very pleased to announce that Tim Appleton MBE and Penny Robinson, the dynamic duo behind Global Bird Weekend, have agreed to be joint Patrons of Wader Quest.



Tim and Penny in the garden of Fishpond Cottage at Rutland Water — Elis Simpson

Tim and Penny launched Global Birding in August 2020, within a short few months it had captured the attention of literally tens of thousands of people. The aim was, through birds, to unite people across the world, bringing communities together, introducing family and friends new and old, to an appreciation of the environment around us. With two global events behind them the outcomes have been extraordinary and rewarding for both birds and humans!

‘Firstly, I must thank the Trustees of Wader Quest for inviting both Penny and me to become Joint Patrons. This is a huge honour and we look forward to playing our role helping to inspire people across the globe to watch, enjoy and conserve this amazing family of birds.

The diversity of habitats used by waders make them some of the most iconic species in the world. Their incredible migrations are truly breath-taking and their global role as indicators of healthy wetlands are critical to safeguarding these vital habitats for so many species of wildlife.’

Tim has had a lifelong career in conservation and management, his ethos is to bring people together, inspire them and help global conservation. Prior to creating and managing Rutland Water Nature Reserve, he worked for Sir Peter Scott at the world famous Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and introduced Ospreys as a breeding bird to England to Rutland Water in 1996. He was co-founder of the internationally renowned British Bird Fair at which he ran for 31 years. Tim has been awarded an MBE as well as the Cadbury medal for services to conservation.

Penny has had a lifelong interest in all forms of wildlife, travelling to record and write about her experiences. Her role in Global Birding is vital and has ensured its success by her personal approach to hundreds of contacts, using her skills on all platforms of social media. Her dedication to detail has inspired folks to take part and help raise funds for conservation, but above all, helping to build our global community.

Wader Quest news

Trustee updates and news

Meeting held 14.00 Friday 23 July. This meeting with all Trustees present was also attended by Andrew MacGarvey the Chair of the Executive Committee. It is hoped that Andrew will attend future Trustee meetings. It is hoped that this will create a better flow of information between the two governing bodies of the charity.

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the election of Tim Appleton MBE and Penny Robinson as joint Patrons of Wader Quest in an ad hoc electronic mail vote. They will be installed with immediate effect.

Executive Committee updates and news

Meeting held 19.30 5th May. Breaking the traditional mould of meetings, once the formalities were dealt with a round table discussion was had between all Exco members who were present. It was the inaugural meeting for Aberdeen and Luke Marriner, who were welcomed and able to make active contributions in the proceedings.

We do 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.

Unfortunately the Quiz night planned for the 26th of June was cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

Contact Rick Simpson rick.simpson@waderquest.net or Andrew MacGarvey andrew.macgarvey@waderquest.net

Last meeting: 5th May 2021 next meeting 2nd August 2021.

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

There have been no new requests for funding over recent weeks. We continue to work with two exciting projects, one in India and the other in Uganda.

In India we have agreed to supply optics and funding to a study of Pratincole nesting and chick survival. Unfortunately due to a worsening situation of Covid infection in the study site area and elsewhere, it has not been possible to start this year and we now intend to hold funding in the hope of a start next year at the request of the recipient.

In Uganda we continue to assist Save the Shoebill project with the development of sustainable wildlife tourism in the Murchison Marshes important wader migration area. Wader Quest will for example provide equipment and sponsor signage at jetties, interpretation and guidance on best practice for bird guides and involve local schools in nature study and conservation awareness.

Should any of you know of worthwhile projects or studies involving waders/shorebirds, and more especially if such projects include elements of community involvement, education and practical conservation, the grants panel would be happy to hear about these and to consider possible funding.

Ray Heaton Chair Wader Quest Grants Panel.

Talks and Events

Rick and Elis Simpson have carried out Zoom talks at the following clubs or societies; Southport RSPB local group—*Seapies, Smudgies and Tobies - The World is my Oystercatcher*; Avistar (Brazilian Bird Fair)—*Aves Limícolas e Migração* (in Portuguese); East Surrey RSPB local group—*New Moon on the Wane - The Curse of the Curlews*; Medway RSPB local group—*Wader Quest*; Sheffield RSPB local group—*Confessions of a Bird Guide*.

No events were attended due to Covid restrictions.

Projects

In a previous newsletter Andrew MacGarvey wrote an article '[How a leak led to a waderfest](#)' about a faulty sluice creating a wader bonanza in Milton Keynes when Willen Lake began to dry up. This event led to calls for the water level to be lowered, as it had been during the 1980s, so that it would attract waders, at that time of year, on a regular basis.

Anglian Water were approached and to everyone's delight were taken with the idea. Now a joint initiative between Anglian Water, the Bucks Bird Club, Wader Quest and The Milton Keynes Parks Trust hope to make this a regular event.

One of the items of the to-do list is for information boards to be erected at the site informing people about why the levels have been dropped and what to look for on the exposed mud. It will also exhort people not to venture out onto the mud and to leave it for the birds.

Miscellaneous

One of our Trustees, Ray Heaton, is also a Trustee of the Zoological Society of London and is standing for re-election in the forthcoming round of elections. It is important for Wader Quest to maintain links and connections with other bodies such as the ZSL and so, if you are eligible to vote in those elections, perhaps you'd consider Ray when making your decision.

Forthcoming events and talks

Talks:

- 16/9/21 19.30hrs — **Wader Quest: Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society**, Great Witchingham Village Hall, Lenwade, Norfolk. NR9 5QN.
- 27/10/21 19.30hrs — **Wader Quest: Guildford and District Local RSPB local group**, Onslow Village Hall, 4 Wilderness Road, Guildford. GU2 7QR
- 02/11/21 19.30 — **Confessions of a Bird Guide: Kintbury Wildlife Group / Newbury District Ornithological Society**, Coronation Hall, Inkpen Road, Kintbury, Berkshire. RG17 9TX .
- 05/01/22 19.00 — **Wader Quest: Shropshire Ornithological Society**, Bayston Hill Memorial Hall, Lyth Hill Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. SY3 0EW
- 14/01/22 19.45 — **Wader Quest: Bexley RSPB local group**, St John Fisher Church Hall, 48 Thanet Road, Bexley, Kent. DA5 1AP.
- 08/02/22 19.45 — **New Moon on the Wane—The Curse of the Curlews, Wigan RSPB local group**, St Anne's Church Hall, Church Lane, Shevington, Nr. Standish, Wigan. WN6 8BD.
- 05/03/22 19.30 — **Wader Quest: North-east Hampshire RSPB local group**, St Phillip and St James' Church Hall, Kings Road, Fleet, Hampshire. GU51 3AR.
- 08/03/22 19.30 — **A Quest for Waders: Lichfield RSPB local group**, The Guildhall, Bore Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire. WS13 6LU.
- 05/04/22 19.30 — **New Moon on the Wane—The Curse of the Curlews: East Lancashire Ornithological Society**, Village Hall, Fence, Pendle. Full details to follow on website
- 12/04/22 19.30 — **Wader Quest: Shoreham District Ornithological Society**, St Peter's Church Hall, West Street, Shoreham, West Sussex. BN43 5WG.
- 22/04/22 19.30 — **Title to be decided: Southport RSPB local group**, Lord St West United Reform Church Hall, Lord Street, Southport, Merseyside. PR8 2BH.
- 27/04/22 19.30 — **Wader Quest: Huntingdon RSPB local group**, Free Church, St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 5AL.
- 19/05/22 20.00 — **Seapies, Smudgies and Tobies—The World is my Oystercatcher: Chorleywood RSPB local group**, Florence Brown Hall, Hillside Road, Chorleywood. WD3 5AP.
- 26/05/22 19.30 — **Seapies, Smudgies and Tobies—The World is my Oystercatcher: North-west Surrey RSPB local group**, St Charles Borrowes School Hall, Portmore Way, Weybridge, Surrey. KT13 8JD
- 27/09/22 14.00 — **Title to be decided: Gravesend RSPB local group**, Address TBC.

Events:

Global Bird Weekend 8th - 10th October 2021. Wader Quest will be forming a team of Friends from around the world to take part and raise money for wetland protection through BirdLife International. **Why not join us and be part of Team Wader Quest.**

WWT Martin Mere have confirmed that they will be holding their annual **Birdwatching Festival on 16th and 17th of October 2021.** Wader Quest will be there with a stand and a talk will be given by Rick Simpson.

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.

wcww@waderquest.net



2021 AGM:

Following last year's successful virtual AGM we will be holding the 2021 AGM in the same way. It will take place on Sunday 7th of November during the WCWW weekend. There will be speakers and presentations from grants recipients as well as the formality of the charity AGM. All friends and Sponsors will be sent a link nearer the time.




GLOBAL BIRD WEEKEND 2021 - OCTOBER 8th - 10th

Why not join **TEAM WADER QUEST** wherever you happen to be on the planet.

Help us to raise money for BirdLife International to protect wetlands around the world.

Help us raise more funds through easyfundraising — it's free and easy to do.

So far, we have raised £337.92 for Wader Quest just by using #easyfundraising. Every time you shop online retailers such as John Lewis & Partners, Argos, eBay and M&S & 4,500 more will make a donation to Wader Quest. You can also help us by doing all your online shopping through easyfundraising – it's free to use and it really will really make a big difference to us! [Sign up here](#): For details of how to sign up see next page.

 easyfundraising
feel good shopping | £34M
Raised

**We've raised
£337.92**

Help us raise **EVEN MORE** for
FREE when you shop online



• You **Shop** • 4,500 Retailers **Donate** • For **Free**

How to raise FREE donations

3 simple steps to help Wader Quest raise funds when shopping online



1. Sign up to easyfundraising

Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk and search for Wader Quest then click 'Support this cause'. Create your easyfundraising account, it only takes 2 minutes.



Or scan me



2. Start shopping via easyfundraising

When you want to shop online, start at the easyfundraising website or app and search for the retailer you want to shop with. There are **over 4,500** well known retailers to choose from.

3. Get free donations

Click '**Shop now**' to visit the retailer's website and shop as normal. Because you started at easyfundraising, the retailer will give a free donation to Wader Quest.



Wader Quest appeal 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 routes 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

Latest Wader Quest blog and video releases.

We have released the following short videos:

[Rick Simpson in the Wader Quest Library part 1](#) - 31st May; *The Natural Historian* by Mrs Vasey

[Rick Simpson in the Wader Quest Library part 2](#) - 12th June; *North American Shore Birds* by Daniel Giraud Elliot.

[Rick Simpson in the Wader Quest Library part 3](#) - 24th June; *The Dotterel* by Desmond Nethersole-Thompson.

[Rick Simpson in the Wader Quest Library part 4](#) - 15th July; *Greek/English Dictionary* and the meaning of *Numenius*.

[Wader stories part 1](#) - 27th June; *The Oystercatcher and St Bride* .

Blogs released:

['Banded Dotts' at Kaikoura film, Nest 38, winner at International Wildlife Film Festival](#) - 6th May

[World Migratory Bird Day](#) - 7th May

[Wader migration for World Migratory Bird Day](#) - 8th May

[Kentish Plover; What's In A Name?](#) - 18th May

[Red Knot disaster](#) - 3rd June

[Wader Swamp Shooting In The Caribbean](#) - 12th July

A photograph of a wader bird, possibly a sandpiper, standing in shallow, rippling water. The bird has a long, straight bill and is facing right. Its body is brown and white, with a white underbelly. The water is a light blue-grey color.

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



Wader Quest Brasil news

- Karina Ávila and Bruno Lima

Wader Quest Brasil and the future guardians of waders



Using the telescope donated by Wader Quest
— Zênite Arte & Cultura

With the advances made in the vaccination roll out in Brazil, still being very slow, we are slowly returning to our environmental education activities. In Peruíbe on the south-east coast of Brazil, Wader Quest Brasil and the Projeto Aves Limícolas have already carried out birdwatching activities on the beach in partnership with the Relfe Institution. This was possible thanks to the donation of an OPTICRON telescope from Wader Quest, and indispensable tool for bringing the children close to the birds. The majority of them having never even seen binoculars nor telescope before.

The Relfe Institute www.institutorelfe.org.br is an NGO that supports vulnerable children and adolescents through music, environmental education, culture and sports. Twice a week, whilst following all the Covid-19 protocols we are doing birdwatching activities. Whilst the majority of the migratory waders are not here at present, the youngsters are learning about the behaviour of the resident waders such as Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis* and Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*



The majority had never seen a telescope before
— Zênite Arte & Cultura

For now the outings are carried out in the woodland and roads around the Relfe Institute, but when the Nearctic migrants begin to arrive we will take the participants to the beach.

We have been quite touched by the way the children have embraced the outings to look at birds by listing the birds that they see and making notes on their behaviour in their field notebooks.

On returning after each outing the children set about making drawings of the birds they have seen with the help of the art teacher. The idea behind this is to publish a guide to the birds of Peruíbe using the artwork done by the youngsters.

We always impress upon the group the importance of the beaches in the region for migratory waders and how we can make their passage through the area safer. We are certain that we will leave the youngster passionate about birds and keen to see the arrival of the waders. This work continues...

We are very grateful for all the support we have received from both sides of the Atlantic, which has given us strength to



Young participant with the wader wing banner — Zênite Arte & Cultura



Wader Quest Brasil news - cont'd



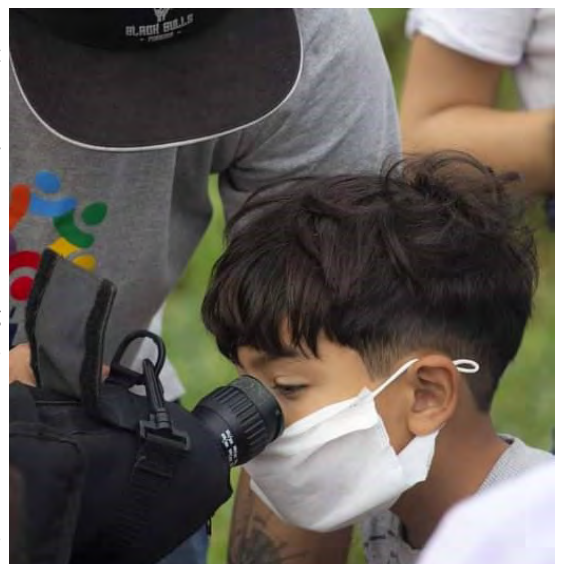
Identifying and drawing the birds they have seen—Zênite Arte & Cultura



face the arduous battle to protect one of the last refuges for coastal birds on the coast of the State of São Paulo: Tanigwá beach. Thanks to Wader Quest who have given us the necessary tools to continue with our research project, conservation and environmental education, and due to the support of some individuals and institutions, we are managing to close access for dogs and vehicles to this beach, making it a secure location for coastal birds.

Vital contributions in this struggle have been made by Mari Polachini, of MoCAN (Movimento Contra as Agressões à Natureza), biologist Fernando Villarubia, Allan Clé Porto (also part of Projeto Aves Limícolas), Márcio Motta e Marina Leite (Projeto Trinta-réis). This whole trajectory is being masterfully recorded by our new partners Toda Zênite (www.znt.art.br), who, apart from helping with the installation of the information boards, are making a documentary about Peruíbe and our environmental work within the municipality.

There are few places of refuge left for waders to rest and feed, and bearing in mind the fact that populations of most wader species are in decline, it is our duty to invest all our energy and time to save them. It is for this that Wader Quest Brasil and the Projeto Aves Limícolas have been created!



Capturing young imaginations — Zênite Arte & Cultura



WINTER WADERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA — RARITIES AND REGIONAL WANDERERS

Bird lovers in Southern Africa are able to report their rarity sightings via a free subscription service that is diligently published by Trevor Hardaker, and known as South Africa Rare Bird News Report SARBNR. Trevor himself is a keen wader watcher, often visiting our West Coast National Park and the wader hotspots near the town of Velddrif.

Since the previous Wader Quest newsletter, the following selection of wader rarities and regional wanderers (out-of-range birds) have been reported in the SARBNR by birders across the sub-region.

April 2021

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis*. This long-staying mega rarity (to South Africa) treated many of our birders to fantastic views, as it lingered in the warmer climes of northern KwaZulu Natal until mid-April, before heading north towards its summer breeding grounds.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*. A few individuals of this summer visitor are sighted along our Southern African shorelines, and sometimes enjoy the feeding grounds as late into April before leaving the sub-region.

Bronze-winged Courser *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*. The small resident population of this little-known nocturnal species is swelled by an influx of birds in November each year. Most of these birds depart northwards by May, and are resident year-round north of the Zambezi River.



Red-necked Phalarope - Otto Scribante



Bronze-winged Courser – Ian Ferreira

May 2021

Common Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus*. Also known as Kurrichane Buttonquail, this bird's normal range in the sub-region lies to the north of 30 degrees south. An exhausted individual was observed in Port Elizabeth, about 400 kilometres to the south.



Red Knot – Dave Gilroy

June 2021

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*. This visitor to our eastern and western shorelines have mostly departed for the Arctic tundra by the end of April, but some individuals occasionally overwinter. One of these is pictured here, taken at the Vilanculos wader hotspot in Mozambique.

April - June 2021

Double-banded Courser *Rhinoptilus africanus*. Although resident in the north-west parts of the sub-region, this wader is known to expand its range southwards in winter, with individuals being reported from as far afield as Moorreesburg in the Western Cape.



Double-banded Courser – Stephen Mills

Wader hotspot; Marievale Bird Sanctuary, Gauteng, South Africa - Sue Oertli

Marievale Bird Sanctuary is situated near the town of Nigel on the South-eastern side of the Gauteng Province. It forms part of the Blesbokspruit, one of 27 RAMSAR sites in South Africa. The RAMSAR convention on wetlands, established in 1975 in the Iranian city of Ramsar, adopted an intergovernmental treaty for the protection & conservation of wetland habitats with 171 participating parties and 2424 designated wetlands promulgated.(1)

The Sanctuary is about 1000ha in size and has a bird list of nearly 300 species. The perennial Blesbokspruit (river) that flows through the sanctuary, provides extensive phragmites and Typha reedbeds, areas of shallow water for waders, patches of highveld grassland and stands of alien trees. Much of the water system of the Blesbokspruit is fed by underground mine drainage. With 4 bird hides, a picnic site and good road



Marievale Bird Sanctuary entrance – Sue Oertli



African Snipe – Sue Oertli

infrastructure. The Sanctuary is well known as a safe birding venue about an hour's drive from Johannesburg and remains a favourite photographic destination.

In summer it is possible to see large numbers of migrant / resident waders. A brief study of the bird list from the South African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP2) and an eBird hotspot list for the Sanctuary illustrate the following regular wader sightings: African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*, African Wattled *Vanellus africanus*, Blacksmith V. *armatus* and Crowned Lapwings *V. coronatus*, Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*, Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, Common Ringed *Charadrius hiaticula*,



Pied Avocet – Sue Oertli

Wader hotspot; Marievale Bird Sanctuary, Gauteng, South Africa - cont'd

Kittlitz's *C. pecuarius* and Three-banded Plovers *C. tricoloris*, Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*, Curlew *Calidris ferruginea*, Little Stint *C. minuta*, Ruff *C. pugnax*, Sanderling *C. alba*, Marsh *Tringa stagnatilis* and Wood Sandpipers *T. glareola*, Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*, African Snipe *Gallinago nigripennis*, Greater Painted-Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*, and Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*.

The Sanctuary has also produced some wader rarities over the years like Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (Dec 1999), Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (Dec 2001), Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis* and Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii* (Feb 2001), Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* (Nov 2015), Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* (Jan 2016) and Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* (Dec 2018).

Marievale Bird Sanctuary remains one of the most productive wader hotspots close to Johannesburg & is open all year round.

REFERENCES

1. www.ramsar.org
2. Birdlife South Africa: [www.birdlife.org.za / media & resources/ archives](http://www.birdlife.org.za/media&resources/archives)
 - a. "African Birdlife" Nov/Dec 2014 Page 46 "Destination Birding" Trevor Hardaker
 - b. "African Birdlife" Sept/Oct 2019 Page 6 "Good Godwits" Nick Cowley
 - c. "African Birdlife" Sept/Oct 2019 Page 35 "Six of the best" John Kinghorn
3. "The Chamberlain Guide to Birding Gauteng" Page 226 Etienne Marais & Faansie Peacock.



Black-winged Stilt – Sue Oertli



Three-banded Plover – Sue Oertli

Kittlitz's Plover – Sue Oertli

Wader hotspot; Wirral's wonderful waders

- Dr Karen Leeming

The beautiful Wirral peninsula is in the north west of England is bounded on one side by the river Dee, its estuary and the Clwydian mountain range of North Wales and on the other side by the iconic river Mersey, its estuary and the world renowned Liverpool waterfront. Each of the estuaries are one of the largest and most important areas in the country for wetland birds and are both nationally and internationally recognised as outstanding habitats.

The Mersey is an extremely busy shipping route and is industrialised on both sides of the river. Many of the places where birds gather are obscure or only accessible by permit or the land owner's consent, so this article will concentrate on the north Wirral coast and river Dee where access is easy.

From September to March, when the tide is out, the mudflats of both estuaries and the north Wirral coast are host to thousands of wading birds - although they are not always visible. But when the tide comes in things start to become interesting, as the birds get pushed close to the land.

[Read full article](#)



Waders gathering at Hoylake beach - Karen Leeming

Wader Olympics - Rick and Elis Simpson

As we write this storm Evert is thundering its way across southern England and our ears echo with the sound of rain lashing against the window of the house. In some ways this is quite appropriate as the birds that mainly feature in the initial part of this article are the Pluvialis plovers, the tundra plovers. These birds have been traditionally connected to the coming of rain, the genus name Pluvialis coming from the Latin *pluvia* meaning rain.

Whilst Evert is thrashing our shores, on distant shores in the Pacific Ocean, athletes from across the world are kicking up a storm of their own as the delayed 2020 Olympics take place in Japan. Newscasters from countries across the world will be reporting back each day on their national team's successes and failures and the tally of accolades will be proudly (it is to be hoped) totted up. These accolades are the traditional Gold, Silver and Bronze medals that we bestow upon the best athlete's we can produce stretching the abilities of the human body to ever greater excesses.

This got us to wondering what events a team of waders may excel at if there were an Wader Olympics.

Firstly we considered what the accolades to be conferred on the elites would be. Naturally they would need to be gold silver and bronze, and so we thought about birds with those adjectives in their name. We obviously immediately thought of Golden Plover, and specifically the European Golden Plover. So first prize would be the Golden Plover medallion, that was easy.

Silver appears in a number of bird names; Silver Gull; Silver Pheasant; Silvereye; Silver-eared Mesia for example, but a wader was not obvious. But you know us by now, we love to delve into the obscure, and doing so we found that an old name for the Grey or Black-bellied Plover is Silver Plover and, as we do like a thread in our articles we decided that this would be the runner-up accolade, the Silver Plover medallion. Actually this is not as obscure as it might seem at first glance, the current name for this species in Dutch is *Zilverplevier*, the French version is *Pluvier argenté*, the Romanian name is *Ploier argintiu* and perhaps our favourite is the Bulgarian *Сребруста булка* which charmingly means silver bride.

So that brings us to the third placed finisher in each discipline, the Bronze. Of course there are birds with bronze in their name, mostly bronze-winged something or other and that includes...

[Read full article](#)



Eurasian Golden Plover © Andy Walker/Birding EcoTours; Grey Plover © Elis Simpson; American Golden Plover © Kevin J. Zimmer

Join us for our Wader Watching Weekend to celebrate the conservation of waders or shorebirds around the world.

WCWW8
6th—7th Nov
2021

For more details email



Russian Nordmann's Greenshank project update - Philipp Maleko

My team and I just got back from Schaste Bay a few days ago. The season went really well!

We found four Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* nests, tagged ten birds, and resighted six of our nine previously banded birds. A rather incredible field season!

We couldn't have done it without Wader Quest's generous donation of optical equipment! We used the spotting scope very often and it was instrumental in us finding nesting territories without disturbing birds, watching them sit on their nests and ultimately us finding the nests!

We would have missed a few banded birds, or misidentified them, without the gear too.

So, thank you very much!



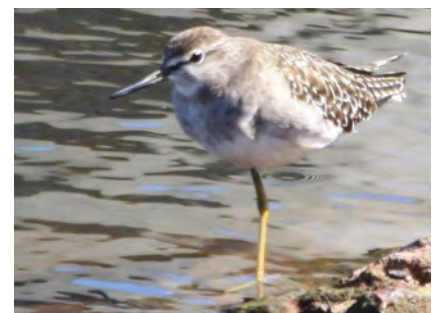
Kostya, one of the team, using the scope and tripod donated by Wader Quest— Philipp Maleko

Wader trapping on the increase in Malta - Rick Simpson

BirdLife Malta have been making steady, if slow, progress with tackling the illegal killing of birds and also with finch trapping. This success has been achieved with a combination of fieldwork, lobbying and advocacy work.

However, tragically, in the past few years there has been an increase of wader trapping from June to September. This occurs mainly in the coastal areas but it even happens in other areas where artificial ponds are created to attract waders. In the past two weeks alone, with the assistance of the police, and with only a small amount of effort, over fifty waders were found to have been trapped illegally including Eurasian Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus*, Eurasian Curlews *Numenius arquata*, Common Sandpipers *Actitis hypoleucos* and Wood Sandpipers *Tringa glareola* and many others. These birds were confiscated, taken to the vet and then released.

Complementing their field work BirdLife Malta use their experiences to lobby the Maltese Government and the EU Commission for better enforcement. In addition they involve local communities, children and families helping them to learn more and to care about what is happening, with a view to possibly recruiting them to help protect these birds.



Wood Sandpiper © Elis Simpson

The meaning of *Numenius* - Rick Simpson

In 1760 Mathurin Jacques Brisson separated the discrete group of birds known as curlews and whimbrels and lumped them together under one genus; *Numenius*.

The majority of the birds in that genus, and all but one of the species called curlew, are now under threat with declining populations.

One of the [Wader Quest talks](#), about curlews and whimbrels and the conservation aspect of their decline, has been given the dramatic and complicated title of *New Moon on the Wane — The Curse of the Curlews*, which probably needs some explaining. The second part of this title clearly alludes to the parlous state of curlew populations of all species across the world, and the first part, is connected to the genus *Numenius*, because conventional wisdom has it that this is modern latinised Greek meaning new moon. But does it?

[Read full article](#)



Eurasian Curlew © Hardik Pala

Wader swamp shooting in the Caribbean - Rick Simpson

Most of the migratory shorebird species breeding in eastern North America and the Arctic pass over the Caribbean region during late August, September. As they do they may encounter severe tropical storms and use the islands as refuges. Hunting clubs in the region take advantage of these falls of birds, often concentrated in small areas of mangroves etc. to shoot large numbers of birds.

In 2009 seventeen Hudsonian Whimbrels were satellite tagged in the US. They were followed on their migration south through the Caribbean to their wintering area in São Luis, Brazil and then back to their breeding grounds in Canada. Two of these tagged

Whimbrels were named Machi and Goshen. They were travelling separately when they were caught up in different storms. Goshen flew through the east side of Hurricane Irene, and ended up in Guadeloupe via Montserrat and Antigua. Machi on the other hand flew through Tropical Storm Maria and landed on Montserrat before flying on to Guadeloupe. Both set down in Guadeloupe on the 12th of September 2011 and, within hours, both had been shot.

Their deaths in this manner highlighted the plight of waders that are unlucky enough to pass through the Caribbean, and a public outcry followed. [Read full article](#)



Decoys and Grey Plovers on Barbados © Reginald Senior

What's in a name; Kentish Plover - Rick Simpson

The second in the series of interestingly named species is another plover, this time the Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*. As Henry Seebohm put it in his 1888 book *The Geographical Distribution of the Family Charadriidae, or, The Plovers, Sandpipers Snipes and Their Allies*;

'The Kentish Plover might be supposed, from its most inappropriate name, to be confined to the south-east corner of England. On the contrary its range extends eastwards for 250 degrees of latitude.'

So why is this lovely little plover so inappropriately named?

[Read full article](#)



Kentish Plover © Dave Jackson

Finally a good year for Black-tailed Godwits in the Netherlands - Astrid Kant

The year started with a gap in our database since we were not allowed to go to Portugal due to COVID-restrictions. Each February we usually go to the Tagus estuary to count the Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa*, read their leg rings and say hello to a few of our returning birds.

However, by the end of February the first individuals were already arriving back in The Netherlands. We were then able to read the combinations of the ringed birds and we were pleased to find some birds that had been ringed by us as a chick had returned for the first time.

The spring of 2021 was very wet, very cold with heavy rain and dark skies. The way it used to be in the early days. The farmers were not best pleased by this weather as it meant they could not mow and were asking 'what is going on?'

As a result of all this rain, and lack of sun, the soil was soft and wet, which meant



23 day old Black-tailed Godwit chick - Astrid Kant

that the Godwit adults were able to reach more than enough earthworms; they were in a good, healthy condition. As a result many nests followed. The downside of the weather was that many of the nests were left unmarked as I could not reach them due to the sodden ground, it was too wet to drive through the tall grass. But every cloud has a silver lining and this very same problem also meant that nobody else could enter the grass either, and there was no mowing at all! What was going on in the fields? Silence, unusually there were no mowing machines in the first days of May.

Nevertheless I was able to monitor more than 300 Godwit nests in my region of Vijfheerenlanden where there was no mowing at all. Despite this, some nests were lost because when the wet grass collapsed onto the nest and eggs, especially on windy days, and of course there was the normal predation pressure. The first chicks hatched on the 23rd of April, which meant that the first eggs must have



20 day old Black-tailed Godwit chick - Astrid Kant



Black-tailed Godwit chick safely gathered in - Astrid Kant

Finally a good year for Black-tailed Godwits in the Netherlands - cont'd



Farmer Samuel holding three of the famous quadruplets, an historic moment - Astrid Kant

been laid while there was still snow on the ground! On the 13th of May I managed to catch and ring a number of them.

Then at the end of May the mowing started, which precipitated a series of calls from farmers who caught big chicks for me to ring while in the process of mowing. They kept these birds in a cardboard box in the tractor for me. I drove from farm to farm, I was kept very busy, but I had one of the best days of the year.

The chicks were all healthy and heavy, a good sign, and to my delight I even managed to ring my first set of quadruplets, that is four birds from the same nest. This is the first time I had ever done this in all the many years I have been monitoring and ringing Godwit chicks, an absolute thrill for me and all thanks to farmer Samuel, who appears in the picture above holding three of the quadruplets, unfortunately the fourth chick was caught minutes after we had released the first three and so does not appear in the photograph. All four of the chicks weighed more than 220 grams; nearly 900 grams of new Godwit chicks! Another amazing day followed on the 8th of June when I was able to ring a further 16 big chicks.

Finally it was all over despite being able to ring chicks in July this year. During the season I had managed to ring 55 big, nearly-fledged chicks. But, the good news goes on as it was not only in my region in the centre of the Netherlands that the Godwits achieved such a high success rate with breeding. Throughout the Netherlands it had been a great year with many chicks fledged. Together we had managed to ring more than 400 chicks. This is a wonderful thing because, as we all now know, a healthy population requires a good supply of healthy young birds fledging each year. So, what a breeding season we had in 2021, a great success for both the conservationists and the Godwits themselves.



Working in the mobile ringing 'shed' - Astrid Kant

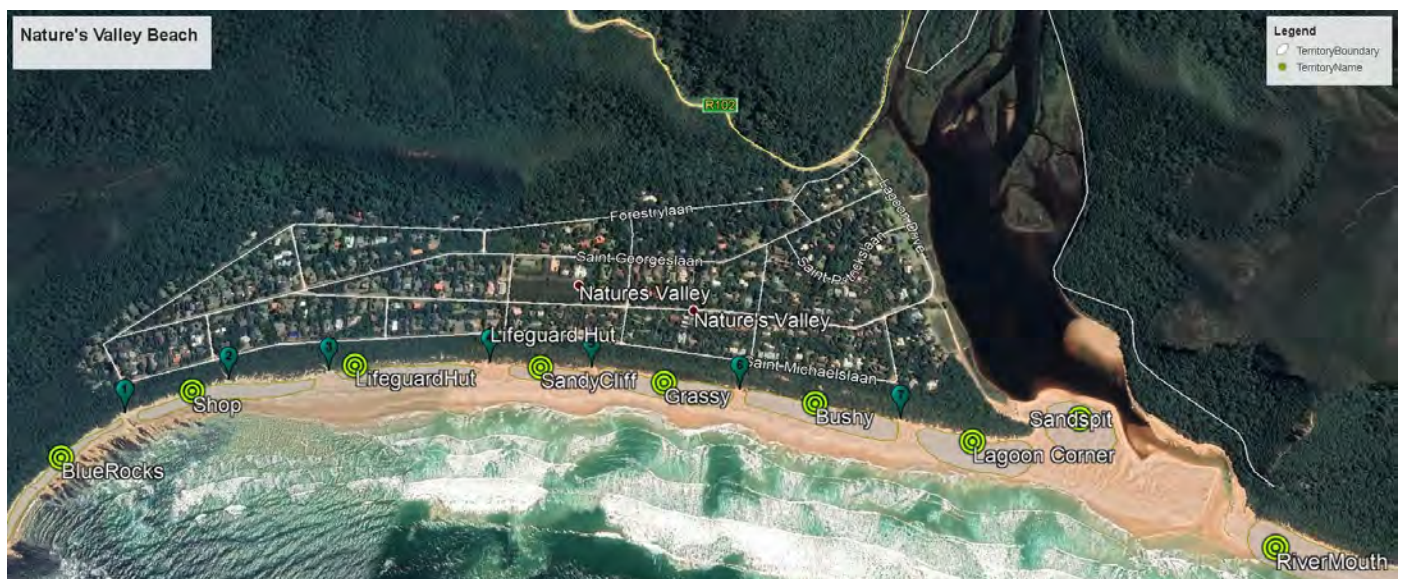
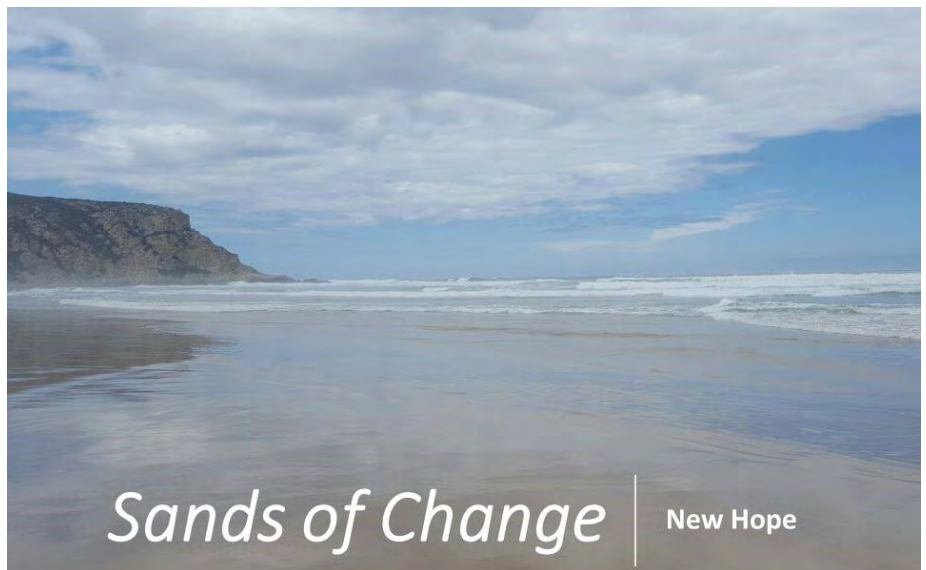
The Sands Of Change: Series 2 Episode 8

- 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.



The sands can be indescribably cruel. The tiniest grain can temporarily blind the strongest of characters. When these perilous particles conspire with gusts of wind they can exert significant and severe pain when being flung rapidly upon one's skin.

The sands can be fickle. In the early morning the vast sand dunes stretching before us are often excruciatingly cold and unfeeling. By midday these fine rock particles can become boiling hot, furiously burning our soft skin as we scamper across this capricious landscape in search of some shade to escape the elements.

Yes, we are all too aware by now that the sands can bring abrupt and aching changes to our shores. In the past weeks we have seen the mysterious disappearance



The nest of Betty and Barney - NVT

The Sands of Change: Series 2 Episode 8 - cont'd

of dear little Pearl, we have come across the carcass of a Kelp Gull struck down in his prime, we have seen the evidence of Plover eggs mercilessly trampled, but by far the worst tidings the sands would reveal to us was the cold and undeserving death of little Ketchup!

Still reeling from last week's painful death of little Ketchup, researchers were heartbroken, and in need of some recuperation. To remedy their sore hearts they went off to the more tranquil and secluded part of Nature's Valley beach. Nature's Valley's more eccentric pair of plovers lives in this section. Betty and Barney live a life which would be envied by most. Their serene residence falls within the picturesque Tsitsikamma section of the Garden Route National Park. Here they live a secluded existence, often cut off from the more civilised part of Nature's Valley beach when strong storms tear the Groot River mouth open and water gushes out of the estuary.

They seem to prefer it this way and who would blame them? No dogs are allowed in these parts, and although they sometimes need to flee the odd illegal four-footed intruder, or dodge the tired Otter explorer, for the most they lead happy lives. This exceptional Plover pair have veered off from the norm, they are not mesmerised by shiny shells like the plovers living at the Blue Rocks territory. They do not adhere to this modern idea of perpetually perusing new, and seemingly more attractive mates. No, this pair are happy with the beautiful territory they have, never seeking shiny new stomping grounds and never straying far from one another, remaining faithful no matter what hardships may await. Many could learn a thing or two from these courageous creatures, who unashamedly live their quiet lives with absolute bliss.

This pair first piqued our interest early in November. Our researchers were trekking through the sand, making their way across the temporarily closed off mouth with ease, interested to see what awaited them on this quaint part of Nature's Valley's beach. There in the sands they saw them – two gems hidden between our fine fickle sand. Betty and Barney were clearly wanting to start sharing their shore with some youngsters of their very own. Our researchers were happy, though a bit apprehensive at the placement of the nest – surely a nest this low down on the dunes would be easily trampled by some weary traveller or washed away by some troublesome tides?

It seemed our researchers had worried for nothing. Over the coming month hikers came and went, the moon waxed and waned, storms appeared as if out of nowhere, but nothing would touch Betty and Barney's most precious possessions. Perhaps the sands took favour on this pair? Possibly the gaping mouth of the estuary prevented too many footsteps from mercilessly trampling these untouched eggs? Maybe this fearless pair were ferociously protecting their progeny?

Regardless, soon there were two new additions to the beach. Little Brittany and Liezl were strong and feisty. They were definitely giving their parents the run around and researchers were happy to see these little ones grow up fast and strong. However, we are well aware that the sands are in constant flux, with the wind billowing down the beach, often changing direction, so too can the fortunes of our beloved plovers change at the drop of a feather. This was realised one



Betty Incubating - NVT



Hatchlings Brittany and Liezl - NVT



Betty fearlessly protecting - NVT



Nearly ready to fledge - NVT

The Sands of Change: Series 2 Episode 8 - cont'd

fateful afternoon when little Brittany could not be spotted anywhere.

Researchers again feared the worst, especially when this little beauty failed to make her appearance on multiple occasions. Could she have suffered a similar fate as little Ketchup? Again, the capricious sands were revealing little of her fate, but it soon appeared that the tides were destined to bring good fortune to this little family. After nearly losing all hope, researchers spotted little Brittany scurrying about, Liezl not far behind. The researchers rejoiced as Brittany and Liezl grew quickly, becoming ready to fledge before our very eyes.

In times of anguish it is hard to remain positive. We forget to look at the beautiful sunrise across the vast ocean. We pass by the magnificent mountainous views of Formosa without a second glance. This has certainly been the case after the painful death of our dear little Ketchup. In these moments of heart-break, we would do well to remember that the sands can be favourable as well. We often focus so much on the harsh dramas unfolding on our shorelines that the sublime, happy moments we experience with our gallant shorebird community can fall under the radar. The story of Barney, Betty and little Brittany and Liezl is uplifting, it shows how successful our shorebirds can also be, especially in a more natural setting. We can learn a lot from these beautiful birds who unassumingly live with their surroundings and who are able to enjoy life to its fullest, regardless of what the sand and wind may fling their way.



Fledged - NVT



Father Barney - NVT



Cute newly hatched and ringed chick - NVT

Rehabilitating a sick Greater Sandplover

- David Bakewell



Sickly Greater Sandplover 15th March 2021 — David Bakewell

I am fortunate to live about a ten-minute drive from a stretch of beach on the coast of Miri, Sarawak, in central northern Borneo, and I often go there in my free time to watch waders. Numbers and diversity are relatively small compared to the mudflats of western Sarawak, but the advantage of the beach is that it is easily accessible by car and on foot.

One particular spot is favoured as a high tide roost by Charadrius plovers (Greater *C. leschenaultii* and Lesser Sandplovers *C. mongolus* as well as Kentish Plovers *C. alexandrinus*), and on 14 March 2021, I sat down to await the arrival of the birds as the tide rose in the punishing mid-morning sun. My attention was soon drawn to movement among the flotsam and jetsam of the tideline, and on inspection, I discovered that it was made by a Greater Sandplover which appeared unable to stand up.



Greater Sandplover 17th March 2021 — David Bakewell

I picked the bird up and brought it home. It weighed only 63g (Wells 1999 gives the weight range of handled birds as 61-95g) and appeared to have lost all muscular condition, being unable even to support the weight of its own head.

Having previously tried to rehabilitate another Greater Sandplover in a similar condition (which did not

Rehabilitating a sick Greater Sandplover - cont'd

survive), I had had the benefit of advice from Grace Maglio and Danny Rogers in Australia. The symptoms of this bird fit with a condition known as muscle cramps, or capture myopathy. Danny and others had written up the treatment of this condition in a number of Great *Calidris tenuirostris* and Red Knots *Calidris canutus* (Rogers et al, 2004). It is thought to be caused by extreme stress associated with high temperatures and high body weight. In their case, the stress had been caused by capture for banding. In the case of the plover, it was neither overweight nor had it been subject to any known trauma, so there was also a need to eliminate Avian Influenza (AI) as a possible cause for the bird's distress.



Greater Sandplover 21st March 2021 — David Bakewell

In the first two days of rehabilitation, I force-fed it every three hours with a few small mealworms and some drops of water, and otherwise left it alone in an undisturbed outside bathroom. Since it was unable to hold its head up, I shaped a towel and placed the bird in it so that the body and head could be supported. After feeding, it was visibly gasping for breath, and, on the first full day in rehabilitation, its weight dropped to 61g. The bird seemed moribund and I doubted it would survive the night.

On Day 3, I made a crude hammock of an upturned yoghurt pot with the bottom cut out and some fine mesh net stretched over it, with a hole cut in it to allow the legs through. The idea was to allow the bird to rest with the legs extended, which I hoped would help increase blood circulation. The height of the hammock was such that the bird could support some of its body weight on its legs if it wanted to. Its body weight had increased to 63g but the bird was still unable to support its head for longer than a few seconds. However, when I weighed it after feeding, for the first time it was able to sit on its haunches.

On Day 4, I had arranged to have the bird tested for AI by the Department of Veterinary Services, and to meet a representative of the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC). The agreement was that the bird would be euthanized if tested positive. In the case of a negative result, normally a fully protected species such as Greater Sandplover would be handed over to SFC for rehabilitation. The test result was negative, and a special exception was made to allow me to continue to care for the bird because of my knowledge of shorebirds.



Greater Sandplover 28th March 2021 — David Bakewell

On Day 6 the bird stood for the first time, taking a few wobbly steps at first, and by the evening it was walking fairly well. I stopped force-feeding and provided live mealworms in a tray and some fresh water in another. This nearly proved disastrous. When I went to weigh it in the evening, I found the bird stuck in the water bowl, completely wet and unable to get out. I removed the water bowl.

Over the next few days, the bird did not start self-feeding and its weight went down to 60g. By now the bird was running quite well, but would often stumble and fall, taking a few seconds to stand again. On a couple of occasions, it turned completely on its back and was unable to right itself. I decided that

Rehabilitating a sick Greater Sandplover - cont'd

speeding the bird's muscle repair and increasing its weight was more important than waiting for it to self-feed, so resumed force-feeding.

By Day 10, its overnight weight had increased to 64g, and I decided to give it some time in an outdoor enclosure. This is actually a netted vegetable patch, but it doubled well as an exercise yard, provided that we kept a constant vigil for neighbourhood cats on the prowl.

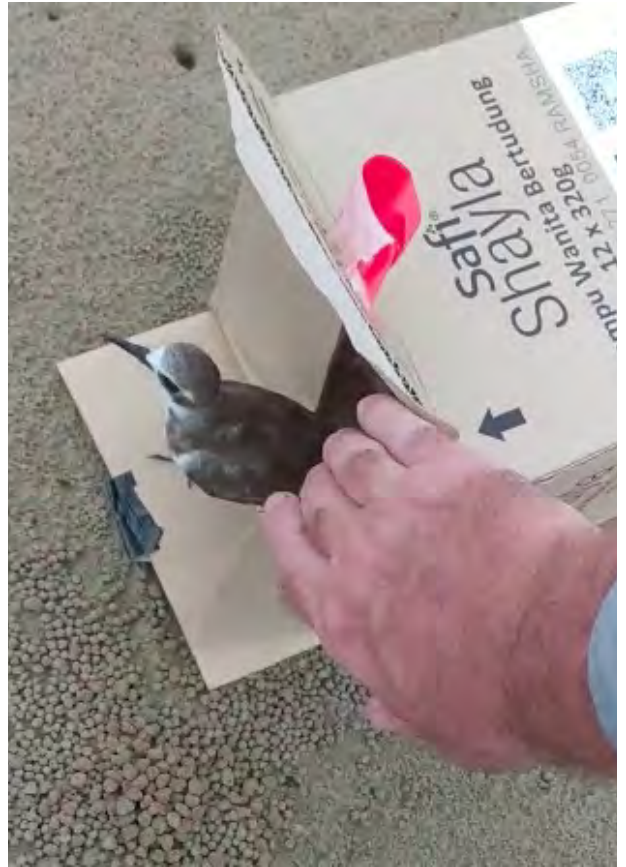
The bird was now running well, and was starting to try to exercise its wings. At first, it would just open them and jump, but within a few days, it began to flap them vigorously, succeeding in lifting itself off the ground a few centimetres.

The increased health and agility of the bird meant that the procedure of catching it to feed and then weigh it was increasingly stressful (both to the bird and me!). By Day 14, the bird's overnight weight was 67g. It had had a couple of extended periods in the outdoor enclosure and I decided that it was time to release the bird. I had not seen whether it could fly well, but this was difficult to assess in the confined spaces where it was being rehabilitated. Looking at the tide table, I could see that the tides over the next few days would not be high enough to inundate the beach completely, which I hoped would give the bird a few extra days to feed and build up its strength.

On Day 15 (29 March), in the early morning I took the bird to the place where I had caught it and released it. It ran strongly away from me and eventually reached a shallow rain pond where it began washing. It took a short flight, and then another, all the while putting distance between itself and me. Eventually it stopped at a tidal inlet and began an intensive time of washing and preening itself. I left the bird still preening.

Because I was not able to mark or band the bird, I could not track its progress for long. By noting details of plumage and bill structure and comparing them in photos with the bird when it was in captivity, I was able to confirm resighting it until 4 April, when it appeared to be in good health.

I documented the rehabilitation process in a short video, which can be viewed here: [Watch video](#).



Greater Sandplover 29th March 2021 — David Bakewell



Rehabilitated Greater Sandplover (front) with Lesser Sandplover 4th April 2021 — David Bakewell

Wader news from around the world in brief

The Netherlands - 2021 was a wonderful *wiedevogels* breeding season.

Wiedevogels translates to English as meadow birds, among these are; *Grutto*, the Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* The Netherlands' national bird, *Tureluur*, the Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* and *Kievit*, the Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

The spring of 2021 in The Netherlands was cold and wet. This is surprisingly beneficial to the breeding waders of the meadows, most of which are now used for silage production rather than hay production.

For a start the grass grows more slowly which means it is not ready to mow until much later giving the young birds longer to develop undisturbed by cutting activities. Most places were not mowed until the end of May and some well into June this year, which is very late.

Secondly, the insects that the birds need to develop are easier to catch in damp grass than in dry grass helping them to feed more effectively. Also the soil is wet and soft meaning the adults can feed easily leaving them in tip top breeding condition.

In addition, the damp conditions make hunting more difficult for predators such as foxes and buzzards which gives the birds some respite from that pressure too.

Unusually, most pairs were successful in fledging at least one chick, which makes 2021 a good year for breeding waders in The Netherlands. See article by Astrid Kant on page XX for details of her ear with the Black-tailed Godwits.



23 day old Black-tailed Godwit chick — Astrid Kant

Estonia - Northern Lapwing egg discovered in Common Ringed Plover nest.

Our friend Triin Kaasiku in Estonia found a Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* incubating a Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* egg in its nest, along with its own eggs. How it got to be there is a mystery.

The eggs were watched and float tested and seemed to be all developing nicely, researchers held their breath to see what would happen if the eggs hatched.

Sadly though, and not surprisingly since 90% of all broods in the area are predated, this nest suffered the same fate.

So, we shall never know what the sight of a parent Ringed Plover, shepherding its massive Lapwing chick would look like.

It is unusual to see Ringed Plovers nesting on grass, but apparently not so rare in Estonia, where the smaller birds probably derive some protection from the presence of the larger more aggressive congeners.



3 Ringed Plover and 1 Lapwing egg in the same nest — Triin Kaasiku

Iceland - European Golden Plover or *Heiðlóan* voted Bird Of The Year 2021

The European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* or *Heiðlóan* in Icelandic has been selected as Bird of the Year 2021. The species was a runaway winner when it received by far the most votes from a selection of 20 species.

The bird, mostly simply known as *Lóa* among Icelanders is also referred to as *vorboðinn ljúfi* the sweet spring herald. The *Lóa's* arrival is said to be an indicator of better weather to come in Icelandic folklore, winters in Iceland can be pretty harsh, so the spring is eagerly awaited and much welcomed when it arrives. As the *Lóa* is thought to be a harbinger of spring, the first to arrive is reported with much jubilation. The first this year was reported by Alex Máni Guðrýðarson at Stokkseyri on the 28th of March.

The Species even has its own Facebook page [Heiðlóan | Facebook](#)



The first European Golden Plover in Iceland 2021 — Alex Máni Guðrýðarson

Wader news from around the world - cont'd

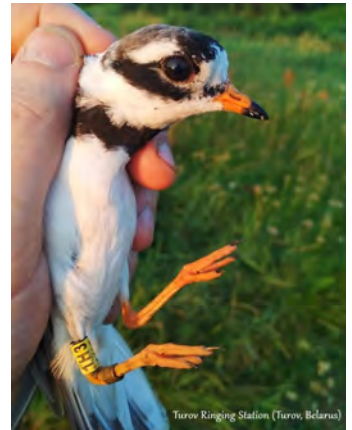
Belarus - Old Common Ringed Plover and Common Redshanks

In Turov meadows, a project that Wader Quest recently supported by providing optics, a Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* was recently captured.

The leg ring told the story that the bird had been ringed as an adult in the spring of ten years ago, making this bird at least 12 years old. However this is not the oldest Common Ringed Plover ever recorded. According to the BTO website a bird was recovered in 2015 that was 21 years 11 months 12 days old. Nevertheless, this bird is doing well as the typical lifespan of this species is just 5 years.

At the same ringing station recently they also found another long-lived bird, this time a Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*.

This bird was first ringed in 2007, also as an adult, and is therefore at least 16 years old. However this was surpassed during the next ringing session when a bird ringed in 2006, again ringed as an adult, was caught making it at least 17 years old. The longest recorded Common Redshank lifespan is 20 years 1 month 15 days, which was recorded in 2007, the year the second bird was ringed. All of these birds did particularly well as the typical life expectancy of Common Redshanks is just 4 years.



Common Ringed Plover
— Turov Ringing Station

France - Eurasian Curlew illegally shot on Ile Madame.

On 9 August 2020, one of 10 tagged Eurasian curlews *Numenius arquata* that had been tracked with GPS died on Ile Madame, France. The corpse was recovered and it was found that the bird had been shot. X-ray imagery revealed a single lead ball under the skin of the bill, which had recently been fractured. The GPS tracks indicated a normal foraging activity during the previous night. The bird moved to the high tide roosting bank of Ile Madame during the night, and was shot at sunrise. Whether or not the Curlew was the intended target of the shot it was found to be the cause of death.

The Eurasian Curlew is Near Threatened, and as such is protected across Europe. The tagged individual belonged to the small threatened Belgian breeding population estimated to be between 170–230 breeding pairs.



Eurasian Curlew — Elis Simpson

Europe/Africa — Great Snipe flies high

A recent study of the migration of Great Snipe *Gallinago media* has revealed some amazing statistics. The birds were fitted with dataloggers in Sweden and flew to sub-Saharan Africa. These were direct flights and ranged between 4,000 and 7,000 km and over a duration of 60–90 hours.

The study also showed that the birds would change altitude around dawn and dusk, flying higher during the day (around 4,000 m above sea level) than at night (around 2,000 m). Many birds regularly flew at 6,000m and one reached the dizzying heights of 8,700m, which could possibly be the highest ever recorded flight of a known bird species on migration.

The reasons for these changes in altitude seemed to be independent of climate zone, topography, and habitat overflow. Ambient temperature, wind condition, and humidity do not vary significantly between night and day at these high altitudes. It is thought that the reason therefore for these changes in altitude are related to improved view for orientation by landmarks, predator avoidance and seeking cold altitudes during the day to counteract the heat from the sun to prevent overheating.

The original paper can be seen [here](#).



Great Snipe — Åke Lindström

Wader news from around the world - cont'd

United Arab Emirates - 34 Sociable Lapwings in one flock recorded in the UAE.

A record number of 34 Sociable Lapwings *Vanellus gregarius* has been reported from the Al Maha Pivot Fields (circular irrigated fields) on February 16th this year. The previous high count was just 12 making this a significant rise. This number of birds highlights the importance for birds of these irrigation fields that have been created in the desert, both resident birds and those passing through.

Numbers of Sociable Lapwings have declined drastically, by around 90% in the last 80-90 years. They breed on the steppes of northern Kazakhstan, some migrate south to India and Pakistan and others south-west to Africa for the winter. The decline started in the 1950s when the Soviet Union created farming collectives, which made use of the steppe by ploughing it up for agriculture. However some birds adapted to the new landscape, but when the farming collective closed when the Soviet Union ceased to exist, the region turned to scrub rather than return to steppe grasslands, and this had a disastrous effect on the Sociable Lapwing population. As a result of this habitat loss, and the hunting pressure placed upon the species along its migration routes Sociable Lapwing is categorised as Critically Endangered. The total number of Sociable Lapwings is now thought to number just 24,000.



Sociable Lapwings over the pivot fields — Oscar Campbell

Australia — an update on the long-staying 'Nordy' the Nordmann's Greenshank at Cairns towards the end of its stay.

'Nordy' the Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* first seen on Christmas Day 2020, towards the end of its stay, came and went, disappearing for periods of time leading to erroneous speculation that it had gone, until finally, it did.

'Nordy' first went missing on the 10th of February and was presumed to have departed north towards its breeding grounds. However on the 15th of the same month it returned. Where it had been in the intervening days was never discovered. It then remained at Cairns until the 13th of April when once again it was thought to have gone north, but, on the 25th it was back, as large as life, again with no clue to its whereabouts in the meantime.

'Nordy' was officially declared departed having not been seen after 9th May. Some were hoping it would over winter in Cairns, but it wasn't to be. The date of departure would rather indicate that this bird was not destined to breed this year, it was well behind its brethren and had a lot further to travel.



'Nordy' the Nordmann's Greenshank at Cairns Esplanade — Jun Mitsui www.birder.travel

It would be so good to know where he will spend the northern breeding season and it will be equally interesting to see if he chooses to return to his favoured spot in front of the Cairns Esplanade when he migrates south again.

Wader Quest consulted Philipp Maleko, one of the team studying the breeding Nordmann's Greenshanks in Russia, to whom we sent some optical equipment earlier this year and posed some questions about this bird. Firstly, we thought that 'Nordy' was a first year bird and, as such, we wondered whether it would not normally breed anyway; secondly we asked if there were any records of Nordmann's Greenshanks overwintering outside Russia, this was his reply:

'What a peculiar bird! It certainly would have been good to put some bands or tags on it and see where it went next. I am inclined to agree with you, May 9th is a somewhat late departure date from way down south. At the same time Nordmann's Greenshank have been known to leave their wintering grounds in Thailand as late as the last days of April, but the age of those birds is uncertain. Very little is known about the age of breeding, but yes, as of now it is assumed they do not breed until their 2nd full year. There are also very few records of Nordmann's Greenshanks over summering outside of Russia, only one individual seen in S.E. Asia and a couple in China. So most likely it will still head to the Russian Far East (maybe to scope out a future breeding area?)'

Wader news from around the world - cont'd

Victorian Government rejects AGL gas terminal in critical RAMSAR site

BirdLife Australia's Migratory Shorebird Program, put in a submission to Victoria's Planning Minister to oppose the proposal to develop a gas terminal and pipeline at Crib Point, within Westernport Bay. This area is both in the middle of a RAMSAR site, and merely kilometres from Phillip Island and its famous Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor* colony.

Fortunately the pleas from BirdLife and other individuals and organisations was heeded and the proposal was rejected. This result gives us hope that collective opposition to projects such as these can be effective/

BirdLife Australia now hope that this may add pressure on the Queensland and Federal governments as they are considering whether or not to reject proposed luxury apartments smack bang within Toondah Harbour, part of the Moreton Bay RAMSAR site, a vital habitat for birds including the critically endangered Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*!



Far Eastern Curlew — Elis Simpson

Colombia - First Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, or any kind of seedsnipe for that matter, for Colombia.

On 24th July two Rufous-bellied Seedsnipes *Attagis gayi* were found on the Colombian side of Volcán Chiles which straddles the Ecuadorian and Colombian border, the following day three were discovered. The species had previously been found on the Ecuadorian side of the volcano in 2018 but this is the first record for Colombia of this, or any, species of seedsnipe, so therefore also a new family Thinocoridae has been recorded for the country.



Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe — Will George

Americas - Manomet would like observers to help them find the rufa Red Knot!

This year's Red Knot *Calidris canutus rufa* count of 6,880 birds in Delaware Bay was well below the anticipated 20,000+ that we have seen in recent years. This is worrying but wader or shorebird migration is complicated and it could just mean that unusually high numbers of birds are over-summering along the Atlantic coast of South America. [See blog](#)

In an international effort to try to get to the bottom of this, Manomet with partners across the Western Hemisphere wants to gather data for over-summering shorebirds that for some reason did not migrate to their breeding grounds. Although the mid July date has already passed, any data from any time during the "over-summer" period will be useful to the researchers.

If you are able to and haven't already done so please participate in by counting all shorebirds present and make a specific effort to find Red Knots, Then report your sightings using the ISS protocol on eBird.



Red Knot — Elis Simpson

USA - Salt Lake City Governor Spencer Cox declares 2021 the Year of the Shorebird

Great Salt Lake has been a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) site of hemispheric importance since 1991, this declaration is a celebration of that fact.

Every year millions of shorebirds comprising 42 species congregate on Great Salt Lake. It is one of the largest concentrations of birds on earth. Great Salt Lake supports nearly a third of the world's Wilson's Phalaropes *Phalaropus tricolor*, over half of the global population of American Avocets *Recurvirostra americana*, and just over a third of the North American population of Black-necked Stilts *Himantopus mexicanus*. The lake's shoreline, also supports the fifth of the North American breeding population of Snowy Plovers *Charadrius nivosus*.

WHSRN conserves shorebird habitat through a network of key sites across the Americas. Currently, there are 107 sites in 17 countries covering 38 million acres. Partners at each location commit to conserving and managing sites to benefit breeding, migrating and wintering shorebirds.



Wilson's Phalaropes — Elis Simpson

Wader news from around the world - cont'd

Canada - Ontario Piping Plover breeding summaries

A pair of Piping Plovers *Charadrius melodus* nested at Wasaga beach and produced 4 eggs, of which only 3 hatched but all 3 chicks of them survived to fledge! The parent birds have now departed and these young fledged birds will follow soon.

On Woodland beach had a pair nesting for the second year in a row. The male, named Flash hatched in 2017 from captive rearing in Michigan. His first season in Wasaga Beach failed, due to his poor nest site selection skills. The following season he nested on private property. Despite grand support from the property owners, his nest failed again. Then in 2020 he found Woodland Beach, and fledged his first chick! With his mate who previously nested on Saubel beach they hatched 2 eggs and fledged both young.

This year on Saubel Beach a pair laid 3 eggs, and hatched all 3 in mid-July. This is a full month later than usual. The problem with delayed nesting, is that late season nests are rarely successful. The birds face greater threats later in the summer. More beach goers, and predators such as juvenile gulls, which are much more aggressive than their elders. Sadly, all 3 chicks were lost to predation shortly after hatching.



Piping Plover and chick on Saubel Beach
— Angela Cerelli Mercurio

USA - Nelly, Nish and 'the four we all adore' the Maumee Bay, Ohio Piping Plovers

Nelly and Nish are a pair of Piping Plovers who were fortunate enough to nest in a place where the locals were all rooting for them. They made a nest and hatching of the four chicks began on the 1st of July. Since then there has been nail-biting coverage of their development and on the 27th of July we got this news.

'It's a sultry afternoon in #Ploverville, but all is well with our Favorite Feathered Family! All of #TheFourWeAllAdore are now flying well. We were a bit concerned about Ottawa, but our dedicated Black Swamp Bird Observatory volunteers watched as that chick took a long, strong flight this morning.'

What we've accomplished here is very special. The average Piping Plover nest success rate in the Great Lakes is 1.3 chicks per nest. To have all four eggs hatch, and then to get all four chicks this far, is owing first to the outstanding instincts of Nellie and Nish. (It's a huge advantage to have two adult birds with such great instincts in the breeding population!) But the success here is also because of the incredible cooperation of the state and federal wildlife agencies, fantastic staff at [Maumee Bay State Park](#), and the extraordinary team of [Black Swamp Bird Observatory](#) volunteers who have adopted, documented, and protected Ohio's Favorite Feathered Family. Teamwork makes the Dream Work!'

Follow their story on their own facebook page [Nellie & Nish: The Maumee Bay Piping Plovers | Facebook](#)

Republic of Korea - Getbol tidal flats declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site (from EAAFP newsletter)

On 26th July, 2021, the 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee endorsed the inscription of the Republic of Korea's tidal flats on the UNESCO World Natural Heritage List, marking an enormous step forward to secure the critical habitats of the Yellow Sea for millions of migratory waterbirds that depend on this area as a vital stopover on their migratory journeys from as far away as Australia and New Zealand to breeding grounds in Arctic Russia and Alaska.

The inscription of the "Getbol", the Korean name for tidal flats, was announced during the World Heritage Committee meeting held in Fuzhou City, China and follows over 10 years of intensive preparation by the Korean authorities. The four sites included in the Phase I inscription of Seocheon Getbol, Gochang Getbol, Shinan Getbol and Boseong-Suncheon Getbol, collectively cover over 128,000 hectares of coastal wetlands in the Southwestern part of the country. Additional areas will be added as part of a Phase II nomination.

[Read full article](#)



Spoon-billed Sandpiper © WH Promotion Team of Korean Tidal Flat

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



Curlew Recovery Partnership - Mary Colwell

Never in my wildest dreams did I think that getting involved with conserving Britain's curlews would lead me to write two books, meet Dukes, a prince and a globally renowned singer-songwriter, found a charity, become Chair of the newly established Curlew Recovery Partnership and find myself in the middle of a full-blown Twitter hate-storm. The last 5 years have been quite a ride. But that is curlews for you – they are nothing if not surprising.

What is undeniably true is that Curlews have taken off – in popularity if not in numbers. They have become icons of wildness as well as symbols of Britain's failure to care for its wondrous creatures. They highlight our slide into intensification of farming over the last few decades, with its concentration on yield above all else, and at great expense to wildlife. They have put a spotlight on the complex phenomenon that is unique to the United Kingdom – grouse shooting – with all the politics and persecution that goes alongside it. They are helping us question the role of mass tree-planting to mitigate climate change – it isn't only trees that absorb carbon, preserving and enhancing grasslands and peat bog they nest on is equally good, if not more so.

Curlews stand for the unequal north-south divide, so familiar in human political social policy, but in the case of curlews it is turned around. The north of the country, especially upland areas, is where Curlews are faring better than in the south. And the shy, unassuming Curlew has also stirred the hornets' nest that is predator control – a subject many would rather not discuss as a conservation tool.

Who knew curlews were so all-encompassing, so political and so darned emotional? I didn't – but I do now.

After numerous conferences, workshops, a meeting in Downing Street and two symposia hosted by HRH Prince Charles, Defra seed-funded the setting up of the Curlew Recovery Partnership and it was launched at the end of February. I am Chair and Prof Russell Wynn is the Manager:

The Curlew Recovery Partnership is a new, exciting and transformative initiative, bringing together all those with an interest in Curlew conservation, including land managers, farmers, gamekeepers, policymakers and researchers. We are joining forces to help secure the future of one of England's most iconic and threatened species, the Eurasian Curlew.



The CRP leadership team workshop at WWT Slimbridge; clockwise from bottom left are Dr Andrew Hoodless (GWCT, co-opted member), Prof Russell Wynn (CRP Manager), Dame Teresa Dent (GWCT), Mary Colwell (CRP Chair), Dr Geoff Hilton (WWT), Tom Stratton (Duchy of Cornwall), Mike Shurmer (RSPB) and Amanda Perkins (Curlew Country); in addition Dr Samantha Franks (BTO) and Tom Orde-Powlett (Bolton Castle Estate) attended via video link and can be seen on the drop-down screen (appropriately, Sam was in the field watching head-started Curlews being released!).



Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* - Dave Jackson

Already we have 300 people signed up – please do join us through the [website](#) – and our workplan for the next year is taking shape. It involves engaging with Defra at the highest level to help shape the new agricultural schemes so that they are suitable for ground-nesting birds. Our working landscapes are not always friendly to curlews (and other ground-nesters), with frequent grass cutting, high numbers of predators, draining of land, forestry and disturbance. We will work with all agencies and NGOs to help restore the balance for Curlew – and by default so much else as well. Curlews tell us about the health of the countryside.

We will also be focussing on survey, monitoring, and training activities, and will explore how to deliver field-based training workshops next spring covering topics such as Curlew surveying, nest fencing, and monitoring productivity. We are also looking to provide strategic leadership and co-ordination on Curlew head-starting, working closely with Defra/Natural England and key partners engaged in active head-starting projects such as WWT and Curlew Country. We will also make sure we keep Curlew high on the public and political agenda. Public outreach is vital because everyone has to be engaged if this is to succeed, it is an ambitious programme and there is a lot at stake.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us so far. Please keep walking alongside and we will get there, and please do join the Curlew Recovery Partnership.

Waders in poetry; *Haiku* - Rick Simpson

Something a bit different this issue, a coming together if you will of a suggestion from Liudmila Korjukina, one of our Friends of Wader Quest in Eastern Europe and a television programme presented by James May about Japan. There may not be an obvious connection between these two sources, but there is, albeit rather obtuse, a connection and that is an ancient style of Japanese poetry called *Haiku* that brings them together.

Haiku poetry does not rhyme, it consists of just three lines carrying in total 17 syllables in the combination of 5, 7, and 5 syllables respectively. The tradition can be traced back to the 17th century, but it did not become known as *Haiku* until the 19th century. In Japanese these divisions are known as '*moras*', and although they don't translate well into English, the syllable is the nearest writers can achieve when constructing *Haiku* in English.

Having said that, not all *Haiku* poetry fits this format. The form that Liudmila sent to us is called *waka*, *uta* or *tanka* and has 31 instead of 17 syllables in a 5,7,5,7,7 combination. It is written by the medieval Japanese monk and poet Saigyō (1118-90), because it mentions a wader. In Japanese the word for sandpiper-like birds is *shigi* and it, much like sandpiper in English, can be qualified to represent a particular species. Some examples of this are *ta-shigi*; Common Snipe, *iso-shigi*; Common Sandpiper, *kusa-shigi*; Green Sandpiper, *aka-ashi shigi*; Common Redshank, *dai shaku-shigi*; Eurasian Curlew and *yama-shigi*; Eurasian Woodcock. The text doesn't define which *shigi* is involved so various translators have used different species.

This is what the *Haiku* looks like in Japanese:

こゝろなき身にも哀はしられけりしぎたつ沢の秋の夕暮

and in Roman script:

*kokoro naki
mi ni mo aware wa
shirarekeri
shigi tatsu sawa no
aki no yugure*



Ta-shigi; Common Snipe — Elis Simpson

An article that Liudmila sent to us by Paul S. Atkins (2009) to accompany the poem had no less than 50 interpretations in English of these words. The author of the piece, Atkins (2007) translated it thus:

*Even someone
without a heart
may be deeply moved—
snipe taking flight from a marsh
in the autumn twilight*

In addition Liudmila chose this version by Tyler (1997) as her preferred version along with Atkins' version:

*One without feelings,
yes, even he,
knows melancholy:
snipe rising from a marsh
at dusk in fall.*

My pick of the bunch was this one by Morrell (1985):

*A sense of wonder
Touches even one whose heart
Has renounced the world:
From a marsh in autumn twilight
Sandpipers take to the sky.*



Kusa-shigi; Green Sandpiper — Elis Simpson

As the poem is constructed in Japanese as one line, therefore translate it as a single line and I really liked this one by Macabe and Iwasaki (2002):

some

Even to me who has no special appreciation of nature, a touch of pathos is felt when I see a snipe flying away from a marsh in the autumn evening.

Waders in poetry; Haiku - cont'd

I'm no poet, I can barely string a limerick together, but intrigued by the idea, and encouraged by James May's attempts, just for a bit of fun, I thought I'd have a go. Here are my three efforts. My first attempt was to describe something we don't often see for ourselves, restless waders on an estuary during a moonlit night, with an attempt to inject a little humour, something that occurs regularly in *Haiku* it seems (with apologies to exponents of this form of ancient poetry).

Waders take to flight;
wings shimmer - reflect the moon;
the worms get a rest.

I then decided to try to portray a Common Redshank calling over a marsh:

The sentinel calls;
marsh denizens hold their breath;
hawk won't eat today.

Last, but not least, an attempt at summing up wader conservation in three lines:

They are on the edge;
dreadful havoc have we wrought;
flyways broken down.



Aka-ashi shigi; Common Redshank — Elis Simpson

If you write poetry and have a poem about waders, or one that includes them, or you have a favourite wader poem, do get in touch and let us know. We will include them (where copyright allows) in future issues.



From the library - Birds and I; Lesley Brown (1947)

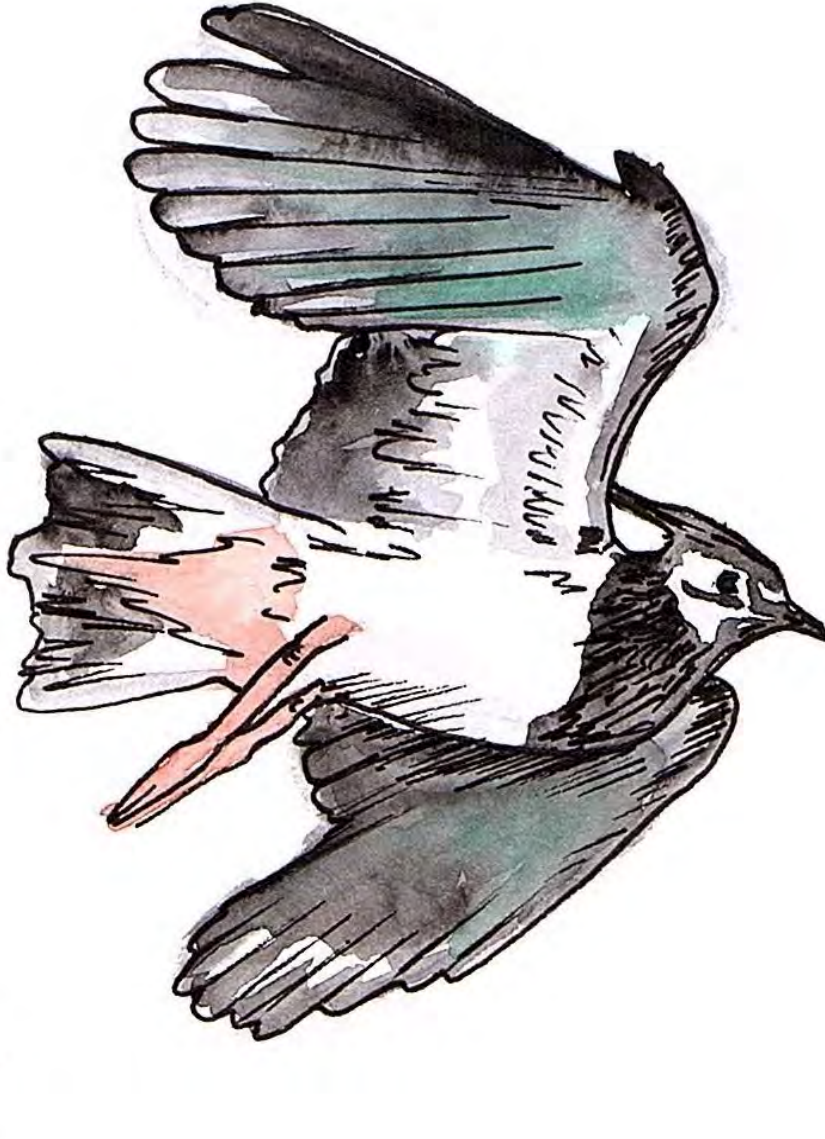
[Summing up his discovery of the nesting habits of Forbes' Plover] *'There cannot be many people who ascend the Igbete hill, and of those who would, few will be ornithologists. There are not a great many, I imagine, who would ascend other hills of similar kind in Nigeria. It is a sweat and a labour which few, I know, consider adequately rewarded by the view. But I have never been so well repaid for my habit of going where others do not go, for the first ascent of that hill at Igbete started a series of discoveries which gradually led to the unfolding of the hitherto unknown life of this little bird, a process I had only done once before, incompletely, in the case of the Cayenne nightjar, and which gave me more pleasure and satisfaction than any other ornithological experience I have had. Nor have I finished it, for there are many things left to learn. I am at the stage where the banded plover is an old friend, and I know, more or less infallibly, where to look for it and when. But it is not yet so intimately known to me that I can call my knowledge of its habits complete, and so long as there are hills and banded plovers it will be, though an unavoidable sweat, a pleasure to me to climb them and learn something more.'*



Waders in art - Alicia Hayden

All artwork on this and the next page - Alicia Hayden

I live in North Yorkshire, so I have grown up with several wader species on my doorstep, as they frequent the moorlands around my home. Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, and Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* are all regular waders to see on walks, so I love trying to depict them in my artwork.



Northern Lapwing

Curlews are particularly mysterious, and have inspired both my poetry and my writing due to their harrowing song, and their impressive camouflage. The bubbling call of the Lapwing is one of my favourite sounds, and it is something I also enjoy trying to describe using language. It is difficult to represent the joy and curiosity I feel when I watch these waders, in my artwork – experimenting with different media – from biro and ink, to watercolour, helps me showcase the variety of emotions I feel in the presence of waders, as well as highlighting different aspects of their morphology and behaviour.

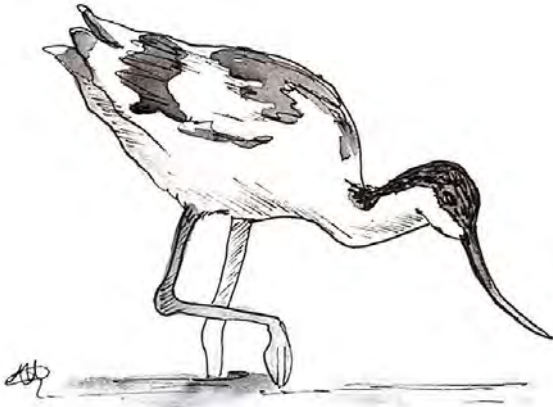
When it comes to waders in general, I find it fun to try and capture their behaviour and character. As these species tend to feed in estuaries and wetlands, it felt fitting to use watercolours to create



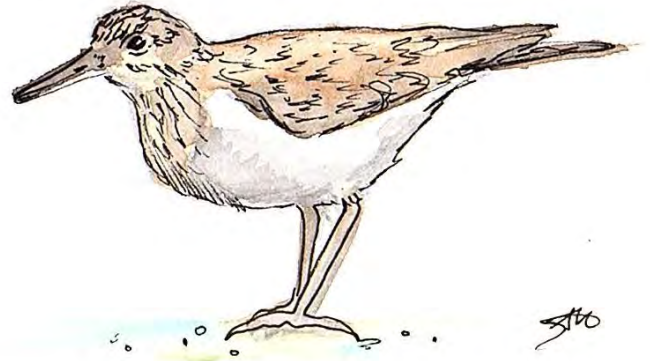
Curlew singing

Waders in art - cont'd

these illustrations. Previously, I've found watercolour difficult to work with due to its fluidity; so for these illustrations, I used a fine brush pen to apply the paint, which helped make my art more precise.



Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*



Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*



Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*



Ruff *Calidris pugnax*



Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Alicia is an award-winning wildlife photographer, artist, writer and filmmaker from North Yorkshire, who has just graduated with a degree in Biological sciences from Oxford University. See more about Alicia and her work:

[Website](#)
[Instagram](#)
[Facebook](#)
[YouTube](#)



Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Cover photo; Spoon-billed Sandpiper - Ilya Ukolov



All photos this page — Ilya Ukolov

Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmaea* (Linnaeus 1758) IUCN Critically Endangered

Alternative names;

None found in English but in Russia, where it breeds it is called *Лопатень*.

Taxonomy;

- Originally named *Platalea pygmaea* by Carolus Linnaeus in 1758.
- Formerly monotypic genus *Eurynorhynchus* (Nilsson 1821).
- Other former names include; *Eurynorhynchus griseus* (Nilsson 1821); *Tringa Pymaea* (Schlegel 1864)
- Now in *Calidris* (del Hoyo and Collar 2014)

Details:

Breeds only in north-eastern Russia on the Bering Sea coast of the Chukotsk peninsula and southwards down the Kamchatka peninsula. They winter mainly in China, Myanmar and Bangladesh but others are found in Thailand and Vietnam.



Cover photo; Spoon-billed Sandpiper - cont'd



Photos above and below — Ilya Ukolov

This species was probably never very common as it has quite specific breeding habitat requirements, however, development along the coast in the Yellow Sea region has destroyed much of its preferred feeding areas both on migration and during the non-breeding season. They have also been trapped for food, mainly as by-catch and not specifically targeted in areas where wader trapping is common and widespread. One story tells of trapper giving a live bird to his children to play with. On the breeding grounds, with a small population, predation threats are a real problem.

The conservation of this species has been a priority for some years now. Efforts to protect remaining suitable habitat on the migration route and wintering grounds, with education of local populations and retraining trappers to earn a living by fishing or other means has taken place. Also a headstarting programme where the first clutch of pairs located in Russia are taken and raised in captivity has been largely successful with many birds being fledged and returned to the wild bolstering the wild population while pairs go on and often raise at least some chicks from a second brood. One exceptional story was of a pair that had their first clutch headstarted with 100% fledging and their second clutch in the wild was also 100% successful.

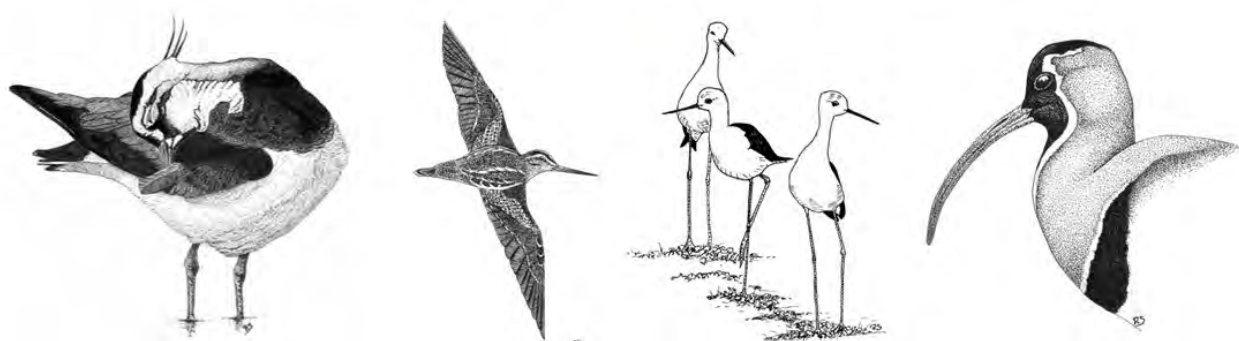
A captive breeding programme to establish a captive population as a safety net should the species become extinct in the wild has had limited success so far with few birds being raised but the techniques are being developed and improved each year giving cause for hope in that regard.



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

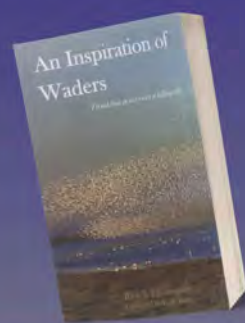


'Breathtakingly excellent - like a birding Michael Palin. The photographs and drawings are fantastic, and the text is fast-moving and endlessly entertaining and amusing.' Jim Wright.

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

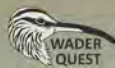
The foreword is by Keith Betton



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



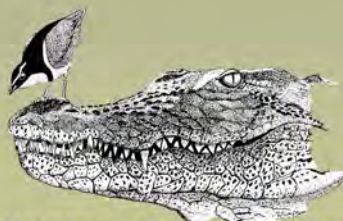
BY RICK AND ELIS SIMPSON



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

sales@waderquest.net

£8.50
+p&p



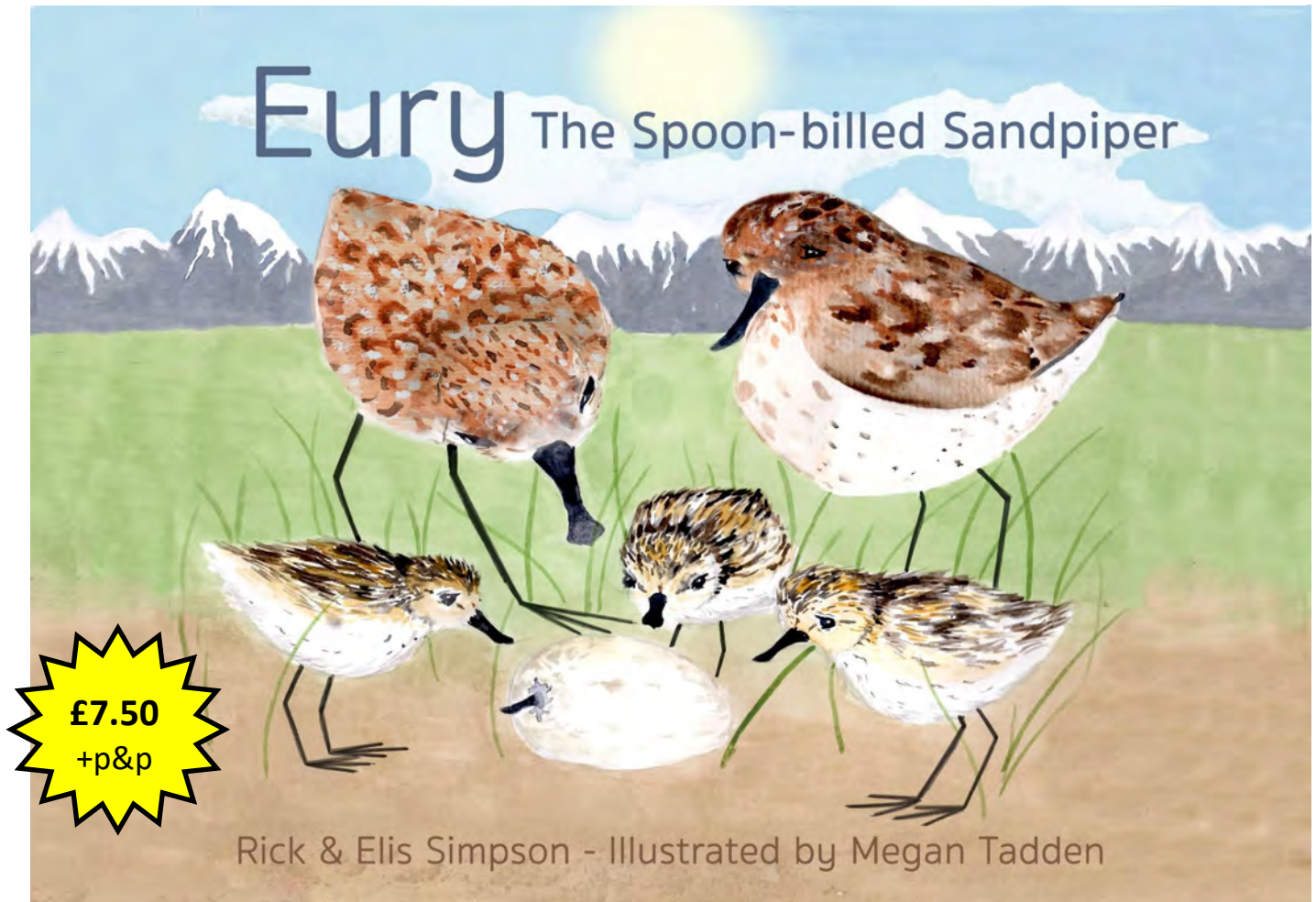
WADER QUEST PUBLISHING
All profits will go to Wader Quest

Wader Quest merchandising

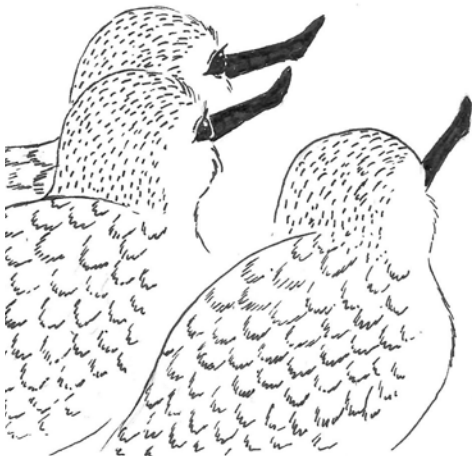
Eury The Spoon-billed Sandpiper

A Wader Quest Publishing book By Rick and Elis Simpson

Children 6 -11 years



sales@waderquest.net



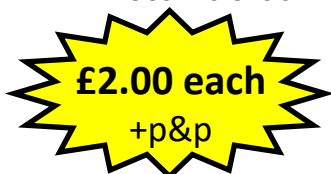
Wader Quest merchandising

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



ORDERS FOR ALL WADER QUEST
MERCHANDISING
sales@waderquest.net

PLUS NEW
FOWQ BADGE
Exclusive to 2021
subscribers.



Wader Quest Collectables - Enamelled



Earrings

Wader Quest merchandising

SIGNED LARS JONSSON
POSTERS 70 X 50CM £24.00

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



NIK BORROW DESIGNED
WADER GREETING CARDS

100 X 150 MM

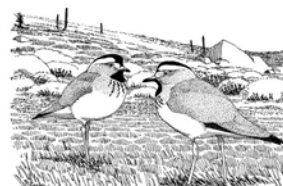
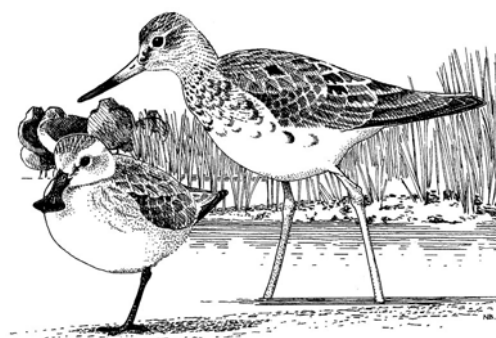
PACK OF 12 + 1 FREE £10.00

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



MUSEUM LARS JONSSON 2019
VAMLINGBO PRÄSTGÅRD GOTLAND WWW.LARSJONSSON.SE

sales@waderquest.net



Wader Quest merchandising



Pied Avocets over Titchwell RSPB reserve © Julia Page

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



Eurasian Oystercatchers © Julia Page



Common Snipe © Julia Page



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



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

POSTCARDS
100 X 150 MM
£1.00 EACH
OR 5 FOR £4.00
+P&P

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)
£35,768.65

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: £1,199.38

Appeals total: £6,041.77

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)

04/10/2017: £582.02 – Donated to Humber Ringing Group for ‘Phutt’ net development.

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: £1,000.00 – 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 Aves Limícolas Peruibe to purchase signs prohibiting dogs and cars from the beach in Peruibe, São Paulo, Brazil.

09/03/2020: £781.23 – Donated to Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network for Brazilian beaches project.

06/05/2021: £30.00 – 10 Sociable Lapwing pin badges donated to OSME to use as Sociable Plover conservation awareness-raising gifts in Kazakhstan.

Total Donations made: £9,747.61

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 Charadriiformes project along the Brazilian coast.

05/12/2016: £178.12 Celluloid colour leg rings, various sizes. Migratory ecology of Charadriiformes 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 Élvonal 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 Peruibe, 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 – Élvonal Shorebird Science Turov Meadow project, Belarus.

01/06/2021: £800.00 to the Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation, Nepal for studying of Wood Snipe in the Himalayas.

Total disbursements from Grants Fund: £12,868.10