



# WADER QUEST

THE NEWSLETTER Volume 8; Issue 3; October 2021



Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* Peter Blanchard

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THE NATURAL HOME FOR WADER LOVERS

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Website: [www.waderquest.net](http://www.waderquest.net)

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Vacancies

#### Grants Panel:

Ray Heaton (Chair)  
Jannik Hansen  
Andrew MacGarvey  
Rick Simpson

**Vacancies:** Interested parties in any of the above, please email [info@waderquest.net](mailto:info@waderquest.net) for further information.

#### Next meeting:

Trustees: AGM November 7th 2021

Exec. Comm: AGM November 7th 2021

AGM: 7th November 2021

#### Friends of Wader Quest fees:

Individual £10.00  
Family £15.00  
Life £200.00

#### Sponsorship fees:

Club £20.00  
Corporate £50.00

#### General enquiries:

[info@waderquest.net](mailto:info@waderquest.net)

#### Wader Conservation World Watch enquiries:

[wcww@waderquest.net](mailto:wcww@waderquest.net)

#### Grant applications and information:

[applications@waderquest.net](mailto:applications@waderquest.net)

#### Merchandising enquiries:

[sales@waderquest.net](mailto:sales@waderquest.net)

#### Membership enquiries:

[membership@waderquest.net](mailto: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



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Edited by Rick Simpson

# Wader Quest News

## **Notice of Wader Quest 2021 Annual General Meeting; 14.00 hrs. (UK time) 7th November 2021**

Notice is hereby given that on the 7th of November Wader Quest will hold its AGM. By now all Friends of Wader Quest and Wader Quest Sponsors should have received formal notice. (Please get in touch if you have not received this notice.)

As last year this will be a virtual event and like last year as well as the formalities of the AGM, we have an exciting programme for you to enjoy including guest speakers Tamás Székely of Élvonat who will talk about how climate change is affecting waders across the world and Ailsa McGilvary-Howard who will tell us about her personal battle to save the nests of Double-banded Plovers, which she lovingly calls her 'banded dots', at Kaikoura in her native New Zealand.

We will also be hearing via video from some of the projects we have helped again this year.

Many thanks for your continued support for Wader Quest and we hope to see as many of you as possible on the 7th of November.

## **Trustee updates and news**

There has been some changes made to the make up of the Board of Trustees since July. We have had two Trustees stand down, Chris Lamsdell and Ian Dearing. Both have been exceptionally important in Wader Quest arriving at where we are today. Chris had experience with dealing with the Charity Commission and was instrumental in us moving from an unincorporated charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), a relentless and grinding task which he took on with determination and with great success. He has now moved to a different part of the country taking on new challenges and we wish him well in his new home and with his new life. Ian has been a Trustee since 2017 and the Board Secretary since 2019. The Board wish to extend their grateful thanks for all the input and effort that both Chris and Ian have brought to the charity.

The role of Secretary will be filled by the Secretary of the Executive Committee, Phil Hadley who will be joining the Board of Trustees with immediate effect, but will retain his role on the Executive Committee too, combining the roles creating a stronger link between the two governance bodies.

In addition we welcome as a new Trustee Elizabeth Anderson who has a wealth of experience to bring to the charity in a number of areas. Initially she has agreed to take over the responsibility of liaison between Wader Quest and the Charity Commission, keeping us on the straight and narrow, but she has already started using her many talents to look into developing the website further to make it more functional. The Board welcomes Elizabeth and looks forward to working with her to help the charity grow stronger and therefore more effective.

## **Executive Committee updates and news**

The only changes in the ExCo status are that Secretary Phil Hadley has now also taken on the role of Secretary for the Board of Trustees as mentioned above and new Trustee Elizabeth Anderson has also signed up for ExCo.

However, we still need help with various projects and there are exciting roles up for grabs on ExCo including Communications, Fundraising and Wader Conservation World Watch Campaign roles although we do still invite people to join ExCo if none of these roles specifically appeal, there is always plenty that needs to be done. So, if you are reading this and want to do something to help waders, get in touch and have a chat with us.

Contact Rick Simpson [rick.simpson@waderquest.net](mailto:rick.simpson@waderquest.net) or Andrew MacGarvey [andrew.macgarvey@waderquest.net](mailto:andrew.macgarvey@waderquest.net)

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

Wader Quest continues to support a number of conservation research and community projects across the globe.

The pandemic has meant that at least two projects which we support have had to be postponed due to difficulties with conditions on the ground and various restrictions. One such project in India looking at Oriental pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* nesting behaviour and associated threats, will resume when conditions permit and we will extend our funding accordingly. The study of Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola* in Nepal has also been postponed due to Covid restrictions. When they are able to resume we will continue to support this project.

In Uganda we will fund equipment, signage and educational material for the wader species element of Save the Shobebill Project in the Murchison Marshes, an important area for migrating waders and many other species.

We have recently agreed to support an educational and practical Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* conservation project that will be made available to schools in real time and online. The Curlew Action Junior Curlew Network will set up a nestcam at Curlew nesting site which fortuitously is directly behind one of the trial schools in Lancashire. The site will be protected from predators and livestock by protective electric fencing and the children will be able to gain a sense of responsibility by their involvement in such biodiversity conservation. Wader Quest is providing funding for cameras and nest protection. The live stream will be available to several schools and later as Youtube videos. The work will also involve field trips and communication between local bird groups and the schools, some of which are in different habitats. The children will be encouraged to take an interest in British wildlife and in wader and other species identification. Particularly from the pairing of schools in different habitat areas, it is hoped that the children will develop an understanding of the importance of the interconnectedness of habitats within the landscape and of the need to provide space for nature.

It is particularly pleasing to be able to add the 'Curlew Action Junior Curlew Network' to our other sponsorship of curlew conservation in the UK, such as the Shropshire Ornithological Society 'Save our Curlews' nest protection project. The Shropshire project has been successful in this year's breeding season. (see following page with updates on these two curlew projects).

# Curlews, kids and the future

## - Ellen Bradley; Curlew Action

The future of so much of our wildlife is uncertain and with 38,500 species threatened with extinction, the legacy we are leaving our grandchildren is not a vibrant one. A recent study found that 82% of British children were unable to identify a bumblebee. At a time when understanding biodiversity has never been more important for the future of our planet we have become worryingly detached from the nature in our gardens and local habitats.

Europe's largest wading bird, the Eurasian curlew, is far less familiar than a bumblebee and with its brown and white plumage and long sickle shaped bill which spends most of its time probing in the mud, the curlew might not seem all that inspiring. But the moment you hear their haunting call, over a misty moorland or a deserted mudflat, you will understand why we cannot let this bird fade from our landscape.

The UK holds a quarter of the global population of Eurasian curlews, but even here the numbers have halved over the last 25 years. The curlew represents so much of what is left of the true wilderness of Britain and if we lose this bird on our watch it is a sorry message to the rest of our wildlife.

Curlew Action is fighting to keep the curlew but intensive farming, high levels of chick predation and loss of habitat are making it increasingly difficult for adults to raise young. Curlews nest on the ground, away from woodland that could hold foxes, which means their nests often end up on farmland. Much of curlew conservation relies on the good will and cooperation of landowners and therefore engaging communities and teaching people about the plight of the curlew is a vital piece of the puzzle.

[Read full article](#)



Photos courtesy of Curlew Action

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## Save Our Curlews 2021 season summary

### - Leo Smith; Shropshire Ornithological Society

We work with 10 Community Wildlife Groups, which together monitor the vast majority of the County Curlew population of about 120 breeding pairs, down over 80% from the estimated population of 700 pairs in 1990. In 2021, work was carried out in three Community Wildlife Group areas, Upper Clun, Clee Hill and Strettons. In April, the Community Wildlife Groups located the pairs in these areas.

Nest-finding started in early May, and a total of 16 were found. Three were predated within a day, before the planned electric fence to protect them could be erected, and the owners refused permission to fence another. The project target, finding four nests in each area, and fencing three, was exceeded.

[Read full article](#)



Recently hatched Curlews — Tim Lewis

# It's that time again

**Wader Conservation World Watch is here!**

## 6th & 7th November

An event to draw attention to the perils facing waders or shorebirds the world over.

It's really easy to take part and show you care.

- 1- Go and look for wader on either or both days
- 2 - make a note of what you saw, where and with whom.
- 3 - send us the details for our roll of honour, wader list and newsletter  
by either
  - sharing your eBird list with our WaderQuestTeam account
  - sending an email to [wcww@waderquest.net](mailto:wcww@waderquest.net)

We did really well last year and if everyone recruited one more observer, we'd do twice as well!

Let's make a noise for waders around the world, give them a voice by standing up to say I Care!

**Remember:**

**Caring is the first step to conservation.**

**PRIZE DRAW; ONE LUCKY PARTICIPANT WILL RECEIVE  
ALL THREE, SIGNED, WADER QUEST BOOKS.**

# A.G.M.

Sunday 7th November 2021  
14.00 - 16.00 hrs (UK time)

## Event Agenda:

- 1) Apologies
- 2) Approval of Minutes of previous AGM (25th October 2020). Executive Committee Chair – Andrew MacGarvey
- 3) Matters arising. Executive Committee Chair – Andrew MacGarvey
- 4) Treasurer's Report. Executive Committee Treasurer – Louise Hathaway
- 5) Chair of Trustees overview of 2021. Rick Simpson
- 6) Ratification of Wader Quest Executive Committee. Nominations:  
Chair: Andrew MacGarvey.  
Secretary: Phil Hadley.  
Treasurer: Louise Hathaway.  
Membership Secretary: Corinne MacGarvey.  
Trustee Liaison: Rick Simpson.  
Executive members: Elizabeth Anderson, Luke Marriner, Dylan Parry-Davies, Aberdeen Powell, Elis Simpson, Ellie Wise.
- 7) Ratification of Trustees of the Board. Nominations:  
Chair: Rick Simpson.  
Grants Panel Chair: Ray Heaton.  
Charity Commission Liaison: Elizabeth Anderson.  
Secretary: Phil Hadley.  
Trustees: Nicky Fennessey, Elis Simpson.
- 8) Any other business.
- 9) Date of next AGM.

The A.G.M. will be preceded by:

- Introduction - Executive Committee Chair – Andrew MacGarvey
- **A Message from Our Patrons - Tim Appleton MBE and Penny Robinson**
- **Presentation; Kaikoura's Banded Dotterels - Ailsa Howard-McGilvary**
- Videos from projects we have supported this year - Rick Simpson

And followed by:

- **Presentation; Climate change affecting waders - Prof. Tamás Székely**
- Closing remarks

## Recent events - Rick Simpson

Finally we have returned to giving live talks, although a number of groups or societies are continuing with virtual talks for the time being, and we had one that was postponed recently due to COVID.

In August we were asked to participate in a podcast to India, which we gladly did, sadly the link crashed at slide 16 out of 60 odd, and we blithely carried on unknowingly, ending with a flourish of '...and with that I will hand you back to our hosts in India'. Silence, all very upsetting. No other technical disasters (well nearly none) occurred during the other virtual talks to Bangor Birdwatching Group and Guildford and District RSPB local group, the subject matter being *New Moon on the Wane - the Curse of the Curlews* and *Wader Quest* respectively.

The live talks took us to Wensum Valley Birdwatching Society in Norfolk (*Wader Quest*), Potters Bar and Barnet RSPB local group in Hertfordshire (*New Moon...*) and the Derbyshire Ornithological Society (*New Moon...*).

With virtual talks it is hard to raise funds from sales, sign-ups and donations, the spur of the moment impulse is lost without a physical presence, so, as far as we know, those talk have produced no income for Wader Quest. On the other hand, the three live talks produced; £171 in sales, £33 in donations and we had 6 sign-ups, 5 individual Friends and Life Friend, making the income from those £250. The total therefore was £454, showing what a difference live talks make to income. Having said that, an equally important aspect of Wader Quest is awareness raising and the audience at the two virtual talks totalled 94 not far short of the three live talks with 106, so 200 more people we have recently been reached with our message.

We also attended our first (and last) birdwatching event this year, namely the North-west Birdwatching Festival at WWT Martin Mere in Lancashire. Here we gave two talks (same subject, *For the Love of Waders*, one each day; 94 audience over the two days), which seemed to be well received judging from the interest at the stand following them. During the weekend we took £349.50 in sales of merchandising, received £86 in donations and made £65 from sign-ups to Friends of Wader Quest. Also at the event Viking Optical agreed to become Corporate Sponsors adding another £50 to the total we can credit to the weekend. The weekend was great fun, it was enormously pleasurable to be back talking to people face to face, and Saturday was greatly enhanced by the presence of Phil and Karen Hadley who helped at the stand, giving Elis and I some time to look around together and get a bite to eat uninterrupted added to which, they were very pleasant company all day.

It was also an opportunity to catch up with Friends and Sponsors of Wader Quest, pin badge collectors, and also Phil and Gail Pickett, who have previously volunteered for Wader Quest, ensuring our presence in the absence of myself and Elis at the Wirral Wader Festival, an event that we hope will return in 2022.



Phil and Karen Hadley at the Wader Quest stand, Martin Mere - Elis Simpson.



Murillo, Peter and Jenny Sharland (Costa Rica), Alan Porto, Milena Corbo, Karina Ávila, Bruno Lima (Brazil). More importantly we raised £135 for Birdlife International, which this year were appealing for help with wetlands, something we at Wader Quest feel very strongly about of course.

Naturally we greatly missed attending the British Birdfair again this year, both from a social and economic point of view, and although rumours are rife, we have no idea what next year will bring in this regard. We do hope that something will take place, but what it will look like and where it will be, who knows for sure?

On the 9th of October we entered a team to take part in the Global Bird Weekend (organised by Global Birding, our sponsors Tim Appleton and Penny Robinson), combining the lists of all the team members on Global Big Day we reached 504 species! Of course this wasn't an entirely UK based team, we had people in Australia, Reunion Island, Mozambique, South Africa, Anguilla, Costa Rica and Brazil. A big thank you to the team; Rick and Elis Simpson, Andrew MacGarvey, Phil Hadley, Allan Archer, Barry Madden (UK), Alan McBride, Renate Hottmann-Schaefer (Australia), Jean-François Cornuaille (Reunion Island), Gary Rowan (Mozambique), Martin Benadie, Sue Oertli, Niall Perrins (South Africa), Jackie Cestero (Anguilla), Aberlado Benavides



# Wader Quest Brasil News

## - Karina Ávila and Bruno Lima



The coast of São Paulo is much visited by both tourists and researchers alike. Despite this, its importance for birds has hitherto not been adequately recognised by those visitors nor by the local community, both of which remained unaware of the enormous pressure coastal birds have been suffering on the beaches of the region.

To address this situation, a group of organisations that act in the protection of coastal birds - COMBEM, MoCAN, Project Trinta-réis, Wader Quest Brasil and the Aves Limícolas Project - decided to create the 'First Festival of Coastal Birds of the Coast of São Paulo'. The event was enabled by the indispensable support of Wader Quest, Zenith Art and Culture, Environment for the Americas and the Relfe Institute and began on October the 15th.

During the opening three days, several presentations were made by organisations and individuals working in the study and conservation of coastal birds, including a video contribution from Wader Quest.

The festival is planned to extend until May because this covers the period in which migratory shorebirds/waders are in the region, and is the period covered by the Peruíbe municipal law 'Reception and Welcome to Migratory Shorebirds'. This law, the brainchild of the group itself, stimulates environmental education activities and festivals.

The physical part of this opening event involved beach cleaning by a group of young people from the Relfe Institute and a protest made by them to prevent shorebirds being run over by vehicles on the beach. For the protest, the youngsters made posters and spread several wooden coastal birds along the beach, painted by themselves - an idea that was born in England, called 'The Flock' and that has travelled the whole world.



The First Festival of Coastal Birds of the Coast of São Paulo.



Beach Cleaning: Bruno Lima (left, Wader Quest Brasil/Aves limícolas Períbe) with children from Relfe during the beach clean — Karina Ávila



The Flock Brazil: Karina Ávila (2nd left, Wader Quest Brasil/Aves limícolas Períbe) with youngsters creating the flock — Bruno Lima



Protest on the beach — Zênite Arte e Cultura



# Wader Quest Brazil News - cont'd



Children dressed as shorebirds — Karina Ávila



Do not run us over! 'We've come along way, we want peace.'  
— Zênite Arte e Cultura



The Flock on Peruíbe beach — Zênite Arte e Cultura

Being part virtual and part face-to-face, the event will feature environmental education stands, mainly focused on the campaign 'My bird hero dog' [encouraging responsible dog ownership in the use of the beaches], and other important topics such as litter on the beach. There will also be more beach cleaning efforts and there will be the presence of artists, who will paint their pictures on the beach, depicting both the landscape and the coastal birds.

A local artist will also paint a huge mural in the municipality of Peruíbe depicting Red Knot, Southern Lapwing, Royal Tern and other coastal birds, against the backdrop of Tanigwá Beach, one of their main refuges on the coast of São Paulo. The poster of the Festival is, in fact, Tanigwá Beach itself, beautifully portrayed by designer Hellen Barreiros (@a.r.t.e.h.e), a partner of the Aves Limícolas/ Wader Quest Brasil Project. This beach has already been the stage of action of the group, when they succeeded in preventing vehicular access to the beach by installing officially sanctioned stakes at the access points.

In addition, the group was able to raise awareness about the management of the Central Coastal Marine Protection Area to enact the beach as a Protected Area, thus ensuring greater protection in the long term. With the Festival, we intend to draw the attention of even more people and persuade them to act with us in the protection of the wild birds.



Protest poster — Karina Ávila



# Wader Quest South Africa News

## - Peter Sharland & Sue Oertli



### Richards Bay Powership Project update - Peter Sharland.

A project, which entails the generation of electricity from two floating mobile Powerships, moored in the Port of Richards Bay that are fed with natural gas from a third ship, a Floating Storage Regasification Unit (FSRU) has been submitted for approval. The three ships will be berthed in the Port for the project's anticipated 20-year lifespan. Wader Quest and Wader Quest South Africa have registered as Interested & Affected Parties (IAPs) as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project. This has now been submitted to the South African Government for consideration and their feedback before 30 Jan 2022.

The assessment of avifauna impacts can be summarised as follows:-

- High negative impacts on avifauna from a visual disturbance point of view, both during construction and operational phases of the proposed project.
- Noise disturbance on avifauna has been mitigated by a design change (details are contained in the EIA), and is now classified as moderate
- A recommendation to implement a waterbird monitoring programme

The following extract from page 350 of the EIA is of interest to stakeholders such as ourselves: -

"One of the key mitigation measures identified in reducing the significant impact of visual disturbance on the avifaunal assemblages utilizing the sandspit, is long-term protection to the Kabeljous flats and sandspit. This protection would be seen to include:

- Limiting any future new Port infrastructure development within the immediate area of the Kabeljous Flats and sandspit (which would de facto happen as a result of the development of the NIFPP)"

I have attached a copy of the specialist study that was undertaken by [Nick Cutts, et al.](#) This document forms part of Appendix 6 of the EIA, and is one of the specialist studies that were undertaken during the course of the EIA investigation.

My concern is that the avifaunal impacts were originally identified as a fatal flaw in the draft EIA documents, and were then downgraded to "High Impact" in the final reports by means of mitigation measures being adopted. Had the impacts been retained as a fatal flaw, then the South African government would be hard pressed to approve the implementation of the project.

Over the next few months I will be engaging with [Birdlife South Africa](#), to see whether they share my concerns, and how Wader Quest could perhaps work together with them to ensure that the avifauna at Richards Bay retain the undisturbed environment that they currently inhabit.

### Wader Conservation World Watch 8.

For the forthcoming WCWW, Sue and I are trying to set up an outing for the [Overberg Eco Rangers](#), possibly in conjunction with Wim de Klerk. [Fynbos Buttonquail](#) *Turnix hottentotus* and other goodies will be on the "Wanted List", whilst the Wader Quest South Africa team in Gauteng will be visiting the Marievale Bird Sanctuary, a wader hotspot as described by Sue in the [July Wader Quest Newsletter](#). Sue will also be co-ordinating the southern African effort among birders in many countries in the region.

### Winter waders in the sub-region - Sue Oertli.

South Africa suffered a third wave of Covid infections over the winter period which curtailed many birdwatching activities in July & August. However, a selection of waders made it onto the South Africa Rare Bird Report published by Trevor Hardaker.

July 2021.

**Burchell's Courser** *Cursorius rufus* - 4 birds were seen at Amakhlala Game Reserve in the Eastern Cape Province. This species is highly nomadic and a prized sighting for many birders in the country.



Double-banded Courser — Trevor Hardaker

**Double-banded Courser** *Rhinoptilus africanus* these birds remained in the Moorreesburg area as reported in the July 2021 Wader Quest Newsletter

The 31st of July marked the 13th birthday of the South Africa Rare Bird report (SARBN) established by Trevor Hardaker with twice weekly reports available to over 5000 subscribers.



Burchell's Courser — Wesley Gush



# Wader Quest South Africa News - cont'd



August 2021

**Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola*** The San Sebastian peninsula near Vilanculous in Mozambique produced an amazing sighting of 45 Crab Plovers by birders who visited this mega wader hotspot. Although not classified as waders, research being conducted now on the movements of Damara Tern *Sternula balaenarum* and Saunders's Tern *Sternula saundersi* here (both species first reported from this hotspot in Sept 2019) enabled further reports and some photographic opportunities of the Crab Plovers to be showcased.



Crab Plover — Etienne Marais

**Long-toed Lapwing *Vanellus crassirostris*** 8 adults and 4 chicks were seen at Darwendale Dam near Harare in Zimbabwe.

Sept 2021

**Sanderling *Calidris alba*** an early spring arrival of this non-breeding migrant from the arctic tundra at Finfoot Lake Reserve in the North-west Province.

**Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*** this uncommon non-breeding Palaearctic migrant made its home at the Bronkhorstspuit Dam in Gauteng for a few days allowing Gauteng twitchers to add the bird to their year lists.

Once again Wader Quest South Africa extends their thanks to Trevor Hardaker for keeping wader watchers fully informed on the movements and sightings of waders in the Southern African sub-region.



Long-toed Lapwing — Jean-Michel Blake



Sanderling — Sarel van der Westhuizen



Bar-tailed Godwit — Johan van der Walt

# WCWW8 6th—7th Nov 2021

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

[wcww@waderquest.net](mailto:wcww@waderquest.net)



WCWW8: 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021

[www.waderquest.net](http://www.waderquest.net) / [wcww@waderquest.net](mailto:wcww@waderquest.net)

## South American Breeding Waders; Lapwings - Rick Simpson



Eurasian Stone Curlew with chick © Ian Grier under licence

South America is well known for its many unusual bird families, some of which occur nowhere else; antbirds, hummingbirds, ovenbirds, woodcreepers, manakins and cotingas all spring readily to mind. As a result, when planning trips to the region few people will prioritise waders among their list of most wanted birds, unless they are wader lovers like us of course.

However, there is an amazing number of waders to be found, many of which are Nearctic migrants but surprisingly, there are 35 species of wader to be found breeding in the region, of which 30 are endemic.

There are two lapwing species that dwell in South America, which are, more or less, endemic; Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis* and Andean Lapwing *Vanellus resplendens*. In times past they were both entirely endemic but the Southern Lapwing is expanding its range northward into Central American and the Caribbean making it the only example of a lapwing living in North America. Go back even further than recent history to prehistoric times and we find that the Southern Lapwing did already exist even further north. A fossil of this species was found in Florida from the late Pleistocene period. Originally it was named as a different species, but as it is indistinguishable for the extant birds it is now considered to be the same species. That said, California played host to a completely different, and now extinct, species called *Vanellus downsi* which is closely related to the Southern Lapwing.

[Read full article](#)

# Redshank C73: What's in a number... or the story of the “daughter of the widow of old Bil”

## - Wim Tijssen

Since I started my Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* research Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) project in 2000 and using colour rings, birds became individuals, although they have numbers. My whole life the figures 7 and 3 have been my lucky numbers... so it is not such a big surprise that C73 has become a remarkable bird!

### Naming

She is a child of C06 and A86 born in 2004 in the Normerpolder, Wieringen, Netherlands. The former isle of Wieringen is 2.5 by 10 square kilometres and lies in the NW-part of the province of North-Holland, close to the Waddensea. Normerpolder is the main study area in my RAS-project and is managed by farmer Jan Mulder, who cares much about all his breeding meadow birds. I ringed her with just a metal ring when she was in the nest as a 14 grams chick during the first day, on the 20th of May, but caught her back 11 days later on the natural skating rink and gave her a colour ring C73. Her mother (C06) ‘married’ one year later a neighbouring male C68, being the most famous Redshank in the Netherlands called “Bil”, which was almost the oldest Redshank in the European database. Ringed by Cees Bil in 1989 C68 reached the age of 19! C06 and C68 find each other in 2005 after both losing their partners in early spring and made the best of it as neighbours. In spring 2009 “old Bil”(C68) died, so C06 was ‘the widow of old Bil’ and from now on I named C73 ‘the daughter of the widow of old Bil’!

[Read full article about her long life.](#)



Common Redshank C73 - Wim Tijssen

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## Lianyungang: a long-overlooked coastal jewel in the Yellow Sea - Lin Zhang

Southern Jiangsu is a key staging site for the famous Spoon-billed Sandpiper, and many other endangered shorebirds, and the NGO established by Shanghai birders is called Spoon-billed Sandpiper in China (SBSinChina). It includes the southernmost part of Yancheng, a city that lies in the middle of the Jiangsu coastline, which became a World Heritage site due to its importance for biodiversity, including shorebirds especially the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, in 2019.

Of course, we are aware that not all shorebird species, or all populations, rely on Southern Jiangsu in their life histories. Some species occur here regularly in just small numbers and/or for short periods. To recognize other important shorebird sites it is necessary to give all shorebirds a safe flyway.

In 2010, Blitztit, a birder living in coastal Lianyungang, northernmost Jiangsu joined a China Coastal Waterbird Census Team soon after he fell in love with birding, and after his decade's of continuous efforts, we finally recognized the value of Lianyungang. and the story of shorebirds in Lianyungang started.

[Read full article](#)



Asian Dowitcher - Lin Zhang

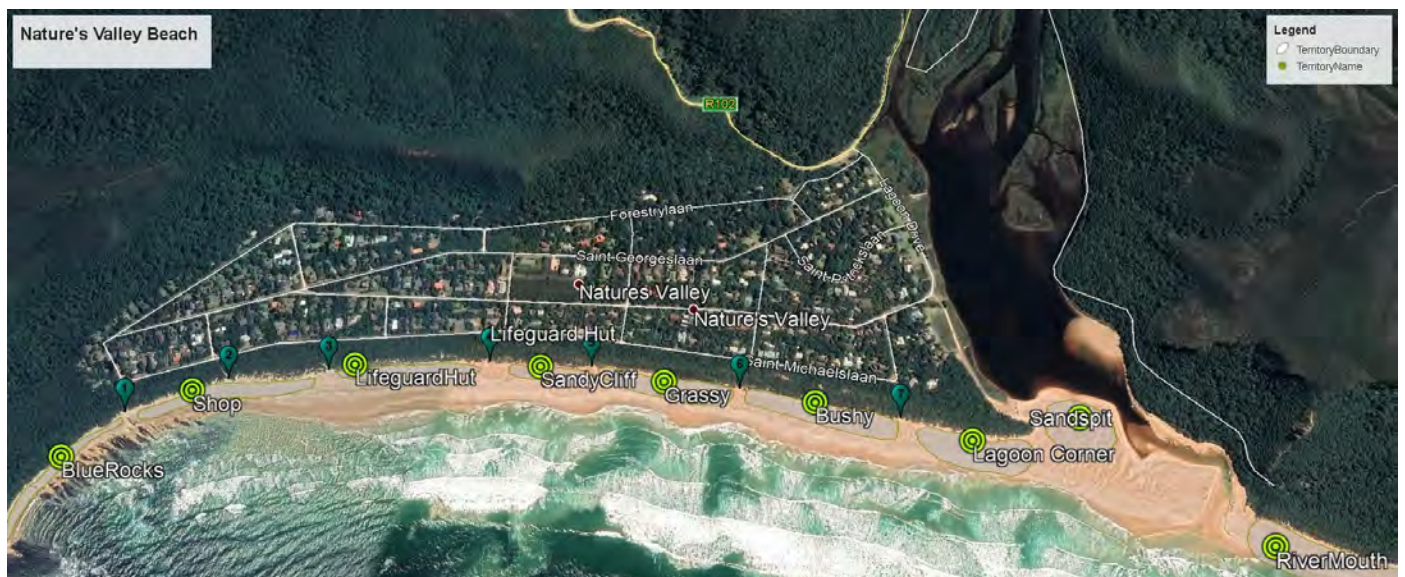
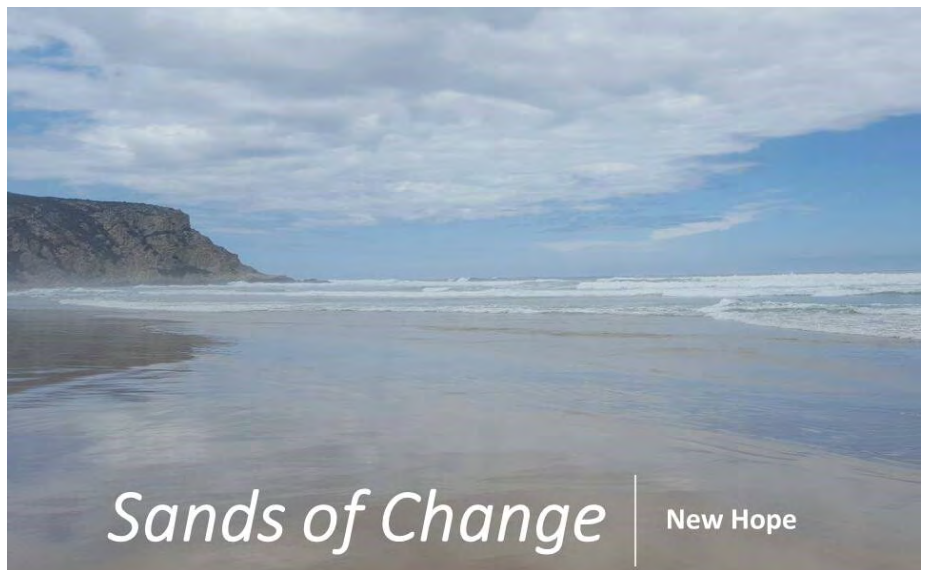
# The Sands Of Change: Series 2 Episode 8

## - 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 of dear little Pearl, we have come across the carcass of a Kelp Gull struck down in his prime, we have seen the



F115 White-fronted Plover chick - NVT

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

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 fateful afternoon when little Brittany could not be spotted anywhere.



Barney - NVT



Betty - NVT



Betty and Barney's nest - NVT



The hatchlings Brittany and Liezl - NVT

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

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.



Betty fearlessly protecting the chicks - NVT



Nearly ready to fledge - NVT



Fledged! - NVT



## UK - Singer-songwriter David Gray in conversation with Mary Colwell.

Few know that multi-platinum British singer/songwriter, David Gray, is a superb lifelong naturalist and active conservationist. The natural world inspires his creative life: "It is hard to overestimate how important the natural world is to me – I see everything framed within it."

David is appearing at St Swithin's in Bath on November 20th for an evening of nature, music and conversation with award winning writer and well-known curlew conservationist, Mary Colwell.

This intimate audience will show David as never seen before, as a naturalist enthusing about the living world and how it shapes his moving and soul-searching music. He will tell us about his involvement with projects on the Island of Skomer, the nesting plover on Norfolk beaches and his support of Mary's charity Curlew Action, dedicated to saving curlews.

David will be playing some live music and we will hear many of his songs.

Tickets here: <https://lnkd.in/dX8YzGJr>



David Gray performing in Redmond Washington USA  
— Kirk Stauffer [Link to licence](#)



# The wader from highland Nepal - Hari Basnet



Wood Snipe habitat in Langtang National Park, Nepal - Hari Basnet

Nepal is home to six snipe species: Solitary Snipe *Gallinago solitaria*, Wood Snipe *G. nemoricola*, Pintail Snipe *G. stenura*, Common Snipe *G. gallinago*, Jack Snipe *Limnocryptes minimus*, and Greater Painted-Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*. Among them, Wood Snipe is the species of greatest concern because it is Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List on the basis of its small and, declining populations. Moreover, it is one of the least studied wader species in the world.

Within Nepal, the Wood Snipe is rare and sparsely distributed, breeding locally in April–June in the subalpine zone and alpine meadows (elevation between 3,650–4,520 m above sea level), with scattered low dwarf scrub in barren boulder-strewn areas. It has been recorded from Shey-Phoksundo National Park (NP), Sagarmatha NP, Lamtang NP, Makalu Barun NP and Kanchenjunga Conservation Area in the breeding season. Once they breed, with the onset of winter, they migrate to lower elevations as these highlands are covered with snow. In the winter, it has been recorded in Chitwan NP, Shuklaphanta NP, and Bardia NP, lowland protected areas (below 500 m) of Nepal. Despite the fact that the species is of greatest concern, only a single species focused study has been carried out before us in Nepal and elsewhere in its distribution range. Thus, scientific information about the species is limited or outdated as the species breeds in the difficult Himalayan topography and macroclimate, which makes surveying the bird difficult.



Walking through the Wood Snipe habitat in Lauribina area in Langtang National Park — Hari Basnet

# The wader from highland Nepal - cont'd

Therefore, in 2019, with support from a small grant program of the Oriental Bird Club and Wader Quest, our team visited eighteen sites in the Lauribina and Gosainkunda areas (elevation between 3800 and 4560 m) of Langtang National Park. Through a dawn and dusk call count survey, we have estimated 19 different calling Wood Snipe. Interestingly, the species was well known among the alpine herders and locals due to their peculiar calling behaviour, their beaks, and their feeding habits. Moreover, these birds share the common habitat with the Chauri (Yak) and locals reports that they are often seen in swampy areas and cattle sheds where they feed on insect larvae in the early winter. Locals further claimed to see the nest of the species in the rhododendron bushes, which has never been recorded before.

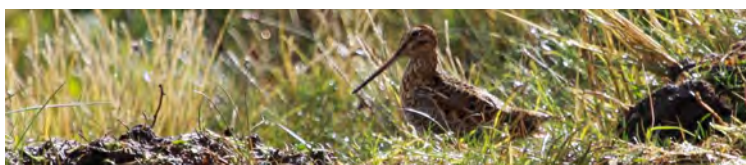
Therefore, we planned to return to the site again in the spring of 2021 to focus on the breeding population, but the 2nd wave of Covid prevented our team from visiting the area, forcing us to postpone our field survey until the spring of 2022. The International Wader Study Group and Wader Quest are both supporting this effort. We will spend at least a month camping above 4000m in Langtang National Park to explore the breeding of the rarest snipe. We'll be recording the courtship display, estimate the breeding population and explore nesting ecology. During our last visit, we found some evidence that supports Wood Snipe feeding on larvae in the Chauri dung and locals said they often spotted snipe in the Chauri dung doing this and feeding on insects, once herders shift their shed to a lower elevation. Therefore, we will try to explore the Wood Snipe's relationship with the grazing system. Furthermore, because most of the monsoon swamp will be dried out by early winter, it will be easier to see the actual swampy area. We plan to visit the area in early November 2021 with the goal of taking photos of the species and verifying some of the information provided by the locals.

The Wood Snipe is of greatest interest to me because it is one of the highest breeding birds. The climate in the Himalayas is changing faster than the global average. Local herders have also reported more heavy, frequent rainfall and unusual snowfall in the region. This could have a significant influence on Himalayan species such as the Wood Snipe, which require a specific temperature to breed successfully. Furthermore, the species migrates to the lowlands in the winter, bridging the Himalayas and the plains, and satellite tagging could help answer numerous ecological questions about the species' migration and life cycles.



Our camping site at Brana, Laurinina with Manaslu range in the background — Hari Basnet

**FUN SNIPE FACT:** Other snipe species breed at high altitudes too; The highest is Solitary Snipe *Gallinago solitaria* up to 5,000m. In the Andes of South America, Puna Snipe *G. andina* occurs up to 4,500m Noble Snipe *G. nobilis* up to 4,000m, Andean Snipe *G. jamesoni* up to 3,800m and Imperial Snipe *G. imperialis* up to 3,500m.



Puna Snipe — Elis Simpson

# The Clive Minton Discovery Centre - Chris Hassell

The Broome Bird Observatory (BBO) has just opened a state-of-the-art new visitor centre. A 4-year project to establish and fit out a new visitor centre from getting the building to putting in modern interactive displays. The majority of the project was funded with a single donation from a life-long friend of Clive Minton's, Mr Charles Allen OAM. The building itself was donated by Woodside Australia and Brajkovich Demolition. The entire project was initiated and brought to completion by Maurice O'Connor the current Chair of BBO. The entire content was prepared by BBO staff and volunteers (as they have more knowledge than pretty much anyone else about the shorebirds of Roebuck Bay!) and then curated by an interpretive design specialist.

The Clive Minton Discovery Centre focuses on the migratory shorebirds for which the BBO is so famous. Interpretive panels explain what we know of their amazing migrations, while other displays feature stunning murals of Broome landscapes painted by local artist Chris Hill. Visitors can experience the sounds of our local habitats through an immersive audio installation, and can take a closer look at the mud-living invertebrates that make Roebuck Bay such a special area for birds. A highlight for many is our interactive How Far Can You Fly challenge, which is captivating the young and not so young! Currently our warden who is 31 years of age trails a visitor to the centre aged in her 80s by some 500 flaps!

Charles suggested naming the centre after Clive Minton following Clive's untimely death in November 2019, and there was unanimous agreement from all associated with the BBO. Clive's legacy in the shorebird world is immense. He was a founding father of the BBO, whose infectious enthusiasm and love for shorebirds inspired generations of researchers and volunteers. We hope the centre that bears his name will carry on that vital role.

Once the world opens again please come and visit. You can also take a look at the roosts of Roebuck Bay its self, seriously some of the best shorebird viewing in the world.

Chris Hassell is a BBO Committee member based in Broome Western Australia and a member of the Global Flyway Network  
<https://www.broomebirdobservatory.com/>



# Wader News From Around The World In Brief

## USA - Update on Monty and Rose the Chicago Piping Plovers.

On a busy beach in Chicago an pair of Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* set up home. These two birds are very popular among the locals who have named them Monty and Rose. This year they set up a nest in the middle of the new Montrose Beach Dunes habitat addition. Much to the pleasure of local conservationists, they couldn't have wished for more. Later though a Skunk robbed the nest of all four eggs.

The pair quickly had a second clutch, in not quite such a well protected area but somehow, through hot and dry conditions a couple of storms the succeeded in hatching all four eggs.

One of the four eggs was taken to Lincoln Park Zoo and headstarted, being returned to its family when it hatched. The family did well, getting to the age they could be ringed, but then two days later two of the chicks disappeared.

One of the surviving chicks was the headstarted bird, which had now been named Siewka, the other was given the name Imani. They both reached fledging age and will hopefully go on to produce more Piping Plovers in future. Piping Plovers struggle to raise their chicks to fledging, that is why they need so much help from local community conservationists, but against staggering odds, these two birds have managed to raise 11 fledged chicks in just three years on one of the busiest Chicago beaches.

News was also received that one of the previous offspring of Monty and Rose, called Nish, had mated with another female called Nellie in Ohio, the first recorded to have done so in over 80 years. Surprisingly, on their first attempt at breeding, these birds raised all four of their chicks.



Siewka - Tamima Itani

## USA - Great Lakes Piping Plover already seen on wintering grounds.

The first of our thirteen 2021 captive reared chicks has been spotted on the wintering grounds! Of,GY:X,B/O/B or "Guy Bob Haley" was sighted in East Shackleford Banks, NC on October 1st. You may remember the post in July about Guy Bob Haley who is named for both its biological dad "Guy" (Of,GY:X,Y), and its guardian angel dad, Scott Haley. Scott is the Facilities Manager at University of Michigan Biological Station, and makes sure the Captive Rearing Center has everything it needs in terms of water, electricity, heating and cooling, and especially the outdoor flight pens.

"Guy Bob" is an extra special captive reared chick. It spent its initial 18 days in the wild and was then rescued and brought into the captive rearing center. It was then cared for until it reached 30 days and was flying like a pro. We are ecstatic that GuY Bob was the first to be spotted on the wintering grounds. It appears it used its smart mix of wild and captive upbringing plus a little luck to safely make the



"Guy Bob Haley" Of,GY:X,B/O/B — Stephanie Pogachar

journey south. A big thank you to everyone who helped in the rearing, rescuing and monitoring of GuY Bob! And thank you Jeff Lewis for recording your sighting and photo of Of,GY:X,B/O/B on Ebird.

If you see this plover, or any other Great Lakes Piping Plovers (ones with orange bands or orange flags) on the wintering territories, please let us know. Send a photo or description of the bands to [plover@umn.edu](mailto:plover@umn.edu).

# Wader News From Around The World - cont'd

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

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

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



Hudsonian Whimbrel — Elis Simpson

## UK - BBC AutumnWatch's Michaela Strachan visits the Wash Wader Ringing Group with a film crew.

Way back in 2013 Elis and Rick Simpson visited the Wash Wader Ringing Group for a fact-finding weekend, which in Rick's own words '*left me with a deep and abiding respect for wader ringers the world over. The deprivation and discomfort they endure to perform this task has to be witnessed to be believed.*' Yet these hardy ringers go about the business of finding out stuff for us all to admire and write about wader with cheerful aplomb.

This is not a pastime for the faint hearted, long days, little sleep, food snatched when a lull allows, and those are few and far between. It is all go, and most of it carried out on a cold and windswept marsh. Despite all this, the level of enthusiasm for and empathy with the waders that they are busy trying to catch is palpable, there is a buzz of excitement when a catch is due to take place whether that be in the middle of the night or during a snowstorm. The safety of the birds is always uppermost in all the minds of all taking part but the pleasure that each gets from this close contact with these amazing little birds is heart-warming to witness.

These are unsung heroes, but have now had their deserved moment in the limelight. The popular BBC AutumnWatch programme sent Michaela Strachan to the Wash, to find out for herself what it was all about. The programme was aired on 28th of October but no doubt you'll still be able to watch it via BBC iplayer.

Here are two accounts from two young ringing enthusiasts who form part of the WWRG, that convey some of the excitement and also the hardship of a weekend ringing waders in The Wash.

[Seb Cooksey](#)

[James Yates](#)

More information about the Wash Wader Ringing Group [here](#).



James Yates

## China - Clare Fearnley the New Zealand Ambassador to China

Recently Ambassador Clare Fearnley, the New Zealand Ambassador to China, hosted an event 'Friends of the Flyway' in Beijing.

Some ideas that were voiced at the meeting, included;

- a potential ambassadors' trip to the Hebei coast next spring to witness the migration,
- a new initiative to voluntarily nominate embassy grounds as "ecological spaces" with commitments to monitor migratory birds and implement measures to make the spaces more friendly for wildlife (Beijing's embassy district is an important green space for migratory birds - not waterbirds of course).
- 'Friends of the Flyway' being the first in a series, with other ambassadors potentially hosting on a rotational basis.

It is good to see a political figure like Ambassador Fearnley using her position to deliver a positive message on shorebirds and their conservation.



Ambassador Fearnley — Terry Townshend

# Wader News From Around The World - cont'd

## Russia - Breeding range of Black-tailed Godwit extended by newly discovered *bohail* subspecies.

The Bohai Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa bohail* is a newly discovered subspecies in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, that was discovered in China and reported in the last Wader Quest newsletter. 21 individuals were satellite tagged and followed from 2016 to 2018. A recent study has used these data to describe the annual cycle of this subspecies.

All of the birds that had been tagged wintered in Thailand, the most southerly point that they reach in all cases away from their breeding grounds to the north.

Leaving Thailand in March, their first stop was Bohai Bay where they were first discovered. They then stopped in Inner Mongolia and Jilin province and arrived at their breeding grounds in the Russian Far East towards the end of May.

Breeding centred on two sites the eastern site extended the known breeding distribution of Black-tailed Godwit, the western site was some 1,100km distant.

The birds left for their southward journey in Late June stopping at the same sites as the northward migration. But some also stopped in the middle-lower reaches of the Yangtze River in southern China. By late September, most tagged individuals had arrived back in Thailand.

[Read scientific paper here](#)



Bohai Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica bohail* (front) with Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* — Katherine Leung

## Central Asian Flyway - New subspecies of Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica yamalensis* officially recognized.

Hitherto there have been 5 recognised subspecies of Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, they are *L. l. lapponica*, *L. l. taymyrensis*, *L. l. menzbieri*, *L. l. baueri* & *L. l. anadyrensis*.

The new subspecies, *L. l. yamalensis*, has been split from the *taymyrensis* subspecies due to its unique pattern of migration and slight difference in size but, Roeland Bom, lead author in the study, says that genetically it does not seem different. 'At least: not yet.'

For some time it has been known that there were two distinct wintering areas for the two forms, but it was not until they carried out a study using tracking devices that they realised that the breeding areas were also different. This, together with the size disparity, allowed the researchers to register the two taxa as distinct subspecies.

*L. l. yamalensis* breeds on the northern West-Siberian Plain including the Yamal Peninsula from where the name is derived. They follow the Central Asian

Flyway, stopping in the Caspian and Aral Seas. Wintering areas include Oman among others in the Middle East, Iran, Pakistan and West India. There have been two previous ringing recoveries from this population showing that some individuals continue along the West Asian – East African Flyway, to winter as far south as South Africa.

[Read scientific paper here](#)



Yamal Bar-tailed Godwits *Limosa lapponica yamalensis* — Jan van der Kam

# Wader News From Around The World - cont'd

## Ukraine - a message from Valery Gydey

On the eve of the UN Conference on Climate Change (26th session of the CC) in Glasgow, I want to draw close attention of all those involved in environmental issues and participants in the Framework Convention, on the problem in Ukraine regarding the keeping of the natural reserves "Tuzlovskie Limany" and the proposed construction directly on the territory reserve, the tourist and entertainment complex "Dunaya", the construction of which was initiated, as Fazil Askerov, the curator of the "Dunaya" project, reported in the press, on the initiative of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky. Zelensky announced this back on September 15, 2019 in Kiev, at the forum of the Yalta European Strategy: "One of the projects of our team is the construction of a new resort on the Black Sea coast. It is necessary to clarify that it will be a completely new city, from scratch."

Also, Mikheil Saakashvili spoke about this zone for the development of tourism at the parliamentary hearings in 2016. "Ukrainian Las Vegas" - this is how the President of Ukraine calls the Ramsar sites of international importance, through which a million birds fly, and then settle in Europe as well. I ask scientists and journalists who will be present at the conference to ask President Zelenskyy questions about the project. You may be able to influence the situation and keep the natural reserves "Tuzlovskie Limany". Unfortunately in Ukraine, the state protects the interests of businessmen, poachers and developers. There is no one to protect the birds; they have no money and no lobby in the government.

[See full message here.](#)



Odessa Province Ukraine

## Western Palearctic - Rare waders (1st -3rd national records) reported in August to October

### October

**Pin-tailed or Swinhoe's Snipe** *Gallinago stenura*; 1st record for Turkey.

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*; 3rd record for Norway.

**Oriental Pratincole** *Glaeola nordmanni*; 2nd record for Denmark (see below).

**Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri*; 1st record for Canary Islands.

### September

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*; 3rd record for Iceland.

**Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus*; 2nd record for Sapin.

**Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri*; 1st record for Switzerland.

**Great Knot** *Cladris tenuirostris*; 1st record Bulgaria.

### August

**Oriental Pratincole** *Glareola nordmanni*; 1st record for Germany.

**Grey-headed Lapwing** *Vanellus cinereus*; 1st record for Slovenia.



Semipalmated Plover — Elis Simpson

# Wader News From Around The World - cont'd

## Portugal - Kentish Plover pair brooding a plastic bottle.

Miguel Angel Gómez-Serrano was studying a pair of Kentish Plovers *Charadrius alexandrinus* and at the beginning of May 2021 the female laid 2 eggs.

Bizarrely, just a few days later a peculiar third "egg" appeared in the nest, a plastic container of liquid nicotine of French origin, which the sea had deposited on the beach.

On the 22nd day of incubation the nest was predated by a fox. Naturally it ate the eggs, but declined the opportunity to do the same with the plastic bottle.

Sadly the female decided to continue incubating her last "egg", i.e. the bottle, even adding new nest materials for camouflage and thermoregulation. Pathetically she even rotated and defended it.

The male however was not convinced by the bottle and started to prepare to renest by making scrapes for the female to inspect, one of them being just centimetres from the old nest. Nevertheless the female was uninterested. Instead she steadfastly remained on the bottle and incubated it for a total of 29 days in the forlorn hope that it will eventually hatch.

This story highlights two things. Firstly how hard it is for beach nesting birds like the Kentish Plover to raise young in the face of predators and secondly, and most startlingly, how plastic detritus on beaches is not just unsightly, it can also change the behaviour of birds. In this case it prevented a second chance at breeding for this pair.

[Follow Miguel's full twitter thread here.](#)



Kentish Plover nest with eggs and plastic bottle — Miguel Angel Gómez-Serrano

## Lisbon Airport development on Tagus Estuary halted; at least for now.

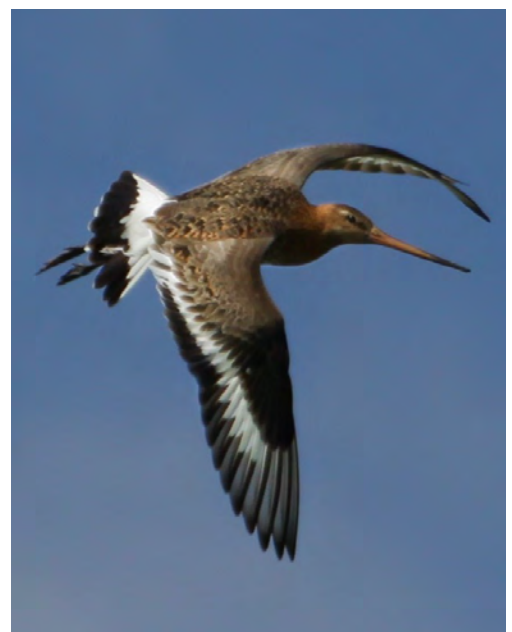
The Tagus estuary is an internationally protected wildlife site but is under threat from the development of a new airport. The Tagus is a vital stop over and wintering ground for many waders and other birds, including a huge number of Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa*.

The Portuguese government were determined to forge ahead with this development, despite the opposition of conservation groups and many others.

Recently though the Portugal's Public Prosecutor has come down on the side of the protectionists. Not entirely due to the strength of their arguments, although they were instrumental in bringing the attention of this issue to the authorities, but the judges ruled that since not all of the local government bodies were in favour, an existing law prevented the enactment of the plan.

The response of the government was, predictably, that they would find a way, even if it meant looking again at the law which prevented the development.

The tourism industry is crying out for this new airport, and the economics behind it are impelling to those who favour gain over the health of the environment, but the government also said that part of its deliberations would be to see if there was an alternative site that could be utilised; although it was generally agreed this was the most suitable in economic terms since a military base already exists there.



Black-tailed Godwit — Elis Simpson

# Waders In Poetry - Curlew; Alicia Hayden



Eurasian Curlew — Alicia Hayden

## Naturally Connected; Barry Maddens A review by Rick Simpson

Recently, Barry Madden, a good friend of a good friend, sent me a copy of his self-published book *Naturally Connected*; and what a treat it was. I think it is fair to say my tastes are fairly niche; birds, and waders in particular, are what float my boat. However, I am not averse to having my eyes opened when it comes to other wildlife by people who really know their stuff.

This book is not hard core, there is great attention to detail, with a balance of fascinating facts and interesting anecdotes, in a blend that will keep you eagerly wanting to turn the page to read the next account.

For me, one of the appealing factors of this book is that it comes in deliciously consumable chunks, which can be read as stand-alone anecdotes, a real boon for those of us who snatch opportunities to read when we can. However, if you have the time, Barry's descriptive accounts of encounters with all sorts of creatures will surely satisfy your desire to learn and enjoy through his words.

What makes this book so readable, apart from the writing skills of its author, is the fact that, as a lifelong birder, so many of my own experiences are echoed in Barry's writing. Tales of youthful discovery as a boy left to roam freely in the countryside, spellbinding days of discovery, and the lamentation of the loss of so much that was then common, but now is rare, or gone completely.

There are accounts too, of visits to places I will probably never go, but they were vividly brought to life for me to enjoy. Throughout, I was able to equate some of the empathy for the natural world that Barry so clearly has, with my own passion. I thoroughly recommend this book to anyone who cherishes wildlife.

Available online at [Bittern Books](#) and also on Amazon.



# Waders In Art - Mark Anthony



Common Snipe — Mark Anthony

My first street art painting of a bird was a Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. I got the opportunity as part of a local art and community group's efforts to improve the environment of a large housing estate in West London.

I had obsessively painted birds in my youth and in recent years had been painting them again on canvas, but had never before thought of painting them on walls, assuming the process would take too long. In fact I found a great ease of expression painting on such a large scale; intricate patterns of plumage became gestural marks of abstract expressionism and colours could be layered and dragged over the textured brick surface to create new visual effects.

I chose the Snipe for this location because it was Bollo Bridge Road. The modern tarmac overlays the river Bollo, which still flows beneath the road, a fate that has befallen so many streams and rivers in our towns and cities.

I imagined a time not so long ago, when Acton was on the outskirts of London, when there were water meadows in the flood plain of the Thames, when Snipe would have drummed over the marshy fields, when other now rare birds like Barn Owl *Tyto alba* and Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix* would have been common alongside human habitation.

The urban development obscuring the river and its natural processes seemed so emblematic of the destruction we have wrought, which continues apace. I also painted the Barn Owl and Grey Partridge along this road, to make the point of how much we have lost. Sadly, very few people even know what these birds are, let alone their present predicament, so far have we moved in our culture away from daily contact with and knowledge of them.

The Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* was another of my early pieces. Growing up in the North West of



Northern Lapwing — Mark Anthony

## Waders In Art - cont'd

England, Lapwings were such a common part of my childhood. I remember them in every farmer's field and the huge winter flocks on the reservoirs. It was the realisation of their encroaching rarity, within my lifetime, that made me want to use street art as a way to bring this shocking decline to a wide audience and be part of efforts to reverse it.

The Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* has always held a place close to my heart, their wild, haunting calls and the evocative windswept landscapes they inhabit are heaven to me. If only I could render in paint the power of their timeless, melancholy song, and communicate this to an urban audience. Were they to hear it they may care more. To realise they are the UK's fastest disappearing bird is all the more galling. The percentage numbers of the rate of their decline does not bear repeating, but in Scotland, Wales, Ireland and now England it is disastrous, and they could soon disappear forever from these shores. They are vanishing from our uplands and farmland as these are over-exploited, drained, ploughed, planted and developed.

Endangered 13 was an ambitious project organised by Louis Masai and Human Nature Art, to paint 13 railway arches by thirteen different artists in East London. Ecological crises from all over the world were chosen. I decided on the Curlew because our native species can often be overlooked in the catalogue of disastrous declines, yet the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries on the planet. The ecological Armageddon is not just happening on other continents.



Eurasian Curlews — Mark Anthony

The Walthamstow Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* was borne out of a Wood Street Walls' campaign to enliven the area with street art. Whenever I'm invited to take part in street art festivals I always choose a species with local connections. Here the Woodcock was chosen as it is so close to the remnants of the once mighty Epping Forest.

The great thing about painting walls is that each location is unique, the surface, shape and relation to surrounding buildings and other features. This variety requires a different response each time. The texture of a wall surface, whether brick, render, pebbledash or stone, creates the possibility for new technical approaches. For example, on a deeply fissured surface, optical effects can be created by painting base colours and then dragging other colour over the surface so the



Eurasian Woodcock — Mark Anthony

## Waders In Art - cont'd

undercoat shows through. This can't really be done on a smooth surface. Conversely, a smooth surface allows long, flowing, delicate and precise strokes of the brush, which become impossible on pebbledash, where a stipple technique is necessary.

The European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* on a granite rock on the tiny island of Utsira in the North Sea is a case in point. I had never encountered a smooth yet pitted surface like weather-worn granite before, and painting across the curves of the rock in each direction was a challenge. Golden Plovers used to nest on this island, but since the number of sheep has exploded, they no longer do, yet another cautionary tale of over-intensification of land use.



European Golden Plover — Mark Anthony

Waders are particularly vulnerable to development. They are migratory, many species traversing continents on vast journeys and so requiring unspoilt habitats on which to feed and rest in multiple locations. They need secure breeding grounds, wintering grounds and stop-off and refuelling points along the way in many different countries and jurisdictions. This makes protecting them all the harder, as a great deal of co-operation between nations is required.

There is such widespread and ruthless development and drainage of estuaries and mudflats, for industry as well as human recreation, that many of these invaluable resources are disappearing at an alarming rate, making their life cycles impossible and waders the most threatened group of birds in the world.

A typical example is the Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmaea*, one of the rarest birds in the world. It was painted on the Leica stand at BirdFair 2019 and later auctioned for Leica's support of the WWT Spoon-billed Sandpiper conservation programme.



Spoon-billed Sandpiper — Mark Anthony

# Waders In Art - cont'd

I love Common Redshanks, the 'guard dogs of the marshes' for their energy and character; the way they flick their wings on landing to reveal the bright white underside.

Painted as a celebration of the nearby recently opened Walthamstow Wetlands, the largest urban wetland in Europe, and such a positive example of what can be achieved when different organisations, government and funding bodies come together with a common goal. The London Wildlife Trust, National Lottery, Waltham Forest Council and Thames Water joined forces to transform ten reservoirs into a haven for nature, with the planting of reed beds and the creation of sheltered areas and dense scrub-lined banks. This is invaluable for migrating waders and waterfowl. The mural depicts seven species found on



Common Redshank — Mark Anthony

the wetland, including a Redshank, which use it on their migration. The other species were; Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, European Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*, Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Common Swift *Apus apus* and Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

The Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* was also part of the UtsirArt street art festival on the Norwegian Island of Utsira. Painted beneath an old WWII German radio station, that has since fallen into the sea, the symbolism is of the resilience of nature as human history ebbs and flows.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust have recently acquired a large area of farmland to enable them to greatly expand the Carlton Marshes nature reserve. Big land works have blocked drainage ditches, dug new channels for water to flow over the land and created scrapes for the welfare of waders and waterfowl. Another beneficiary of this new landscape and its low intensity grazing regime is the Barn Owl, which gains from a plethora of voles. This shows that when habitats are restored, they never benefit just one species, even if this might have been the first intention, but always multiple species of invertebrates, mammals, birds, amphibians and flora thrive too. Walking around the reserve, listening to the calls of redshank and lapwing and watching barn owls floating across the fields is a magical experience, like stepping back in time.



Red-breasted Merganser — Mark Anthony



Barn Owl — Mark Anthony

ATM streetart

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## Waders In Art - footnote by Rick Simpson.

Following on from Mark Anthony's wonderful synopsis of his street art and his comments about Common Snipes in London. I thought the following might be of interest.

In his book *London's Birds* (1949) R. S. R. Fitter wrote about Common Snipes and other waders in central London. If you are at all familiar with the concrete mess that is central London it is hard to imagine that it was once a vast area of marshland. However there are historical records of Snipe being shot in central London, indeed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries Snipe and Woodcock were relatively common. A certain General Oglethorpe claimed that as a young man in the 1720's he shot Snipe and Woodcock in the open fields around Hanover Square. In 1815 William Wilberforce said he had spoken to a man who had shot Snipe in the Parish of St-Martin's-in-the-Fields and some 65 years later there were still people who remember shooting Snipe in the area that became Belgrave Square in 1824, known at the time as Five Fields. Other reports are of Snipe shot in the area of what is now Sloane Street and others at the site where Vauxhall Bridge now stands.

One very detailed story comes from Holte Macpherson who said that an old Crown lease of a premises in Regent Street, granted in 1820 for 99 years, contained a condition that the lessees were not to shoot Snipe on the land on Sundays, rather suggesting that if not prevented from such actions by decree, they could easily otherwise have done so.

Ruffs are also recorded to have occurred in the London Marshes. A gentleman by the name of H. N. Ridley recounted a reminiscence to Fitter of Ruffs in London from a chap called Sam Hunt in 1922. Ridley wrote;

*'In 1860 to 1864 behind Turnham Green on what was then Turnham Common was a lane called Frog's Lane with deep ditches on either side, and here in a field came in the winter many Ruffs and Reeves. The Ruffs, puffing out their frills, danced in a circle and made quite a mark in the grass. The Reeves sat apart and appeared to take no notice. He [Sam Hunts] and his companion used to shoot them through the hedge.'*

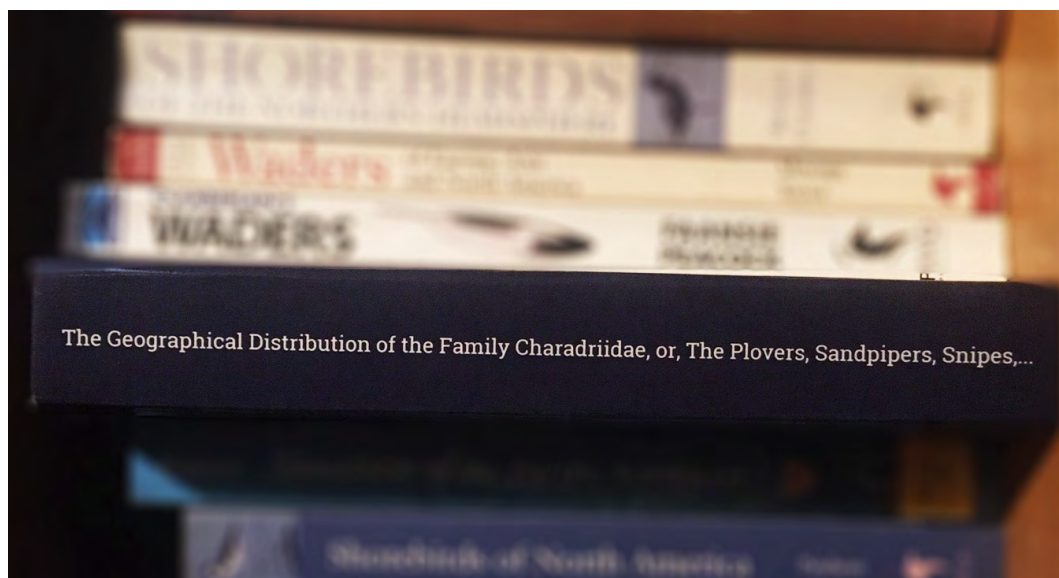


Common Snipe - Elis Simpson

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## From the library - The Geographical Distribution of the Family Charadriidae, or, The Plovers, Sandpipers, Snipes, and Their Allies; Henry Seebohm, (1888)

*'It is remarkable that the genus Esacus should have been so universally adopted. There never was a worse genus, or one, the recognition of which is more mischievous. To break up a well-defined genus like Œdicnemus destroys the value of all reasoning based upon geographical distribution of genera. The alleged differences in the sternum of the two groups (Blasius, Journ. of Orn. 1881, p229) are probably exaggerated, or are of little taxonomic value.'*



# Cover Photo; Collared Pratincole - Peter Blanchard



## Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* (Linnaeus, 1766)

IUCN Least Concern

### Alternative names;

Red-winged Pratincole, Common Pratincole. Swallow-Plover. *Perdix do Mar* in Portuguese which means partridge of the sea.

### Taxonomy;

- Brisson got very carried away in 1760 when he described four species of pratincole, all of which were the Collared Pratincole. He gave them the genus *Glareola*, which is still used today. He named his four species *G. glareola* (an adult) *G. torquata* (an immature) *G. senegalensis* (another immature) and *G. naevia* (what was described as 'a young bird')
- In 1766 Linnaeus coined *Hirundo pratincola*. *Hirundo* is the genus for some swallows, with which pratincoles bear a great resemblance, but this was preceded by Brisson's *Glareola*. It was Linnaeus however who first used *pratincola* for the species.
- Further attempts were made to redefine the genus; *Trachelia* Scopoli 1769; *Pratincola* Degland 1843 who had the current species and genus reversed as *Pratincola glareola*; *Dromochelidon* Landbeck 1846. When other pratincoles were described new genera were put forward; *Stiltia* Bonaparte 1856 and this still holds for the Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*, which is a sort of halfway house between the pratincoles and coursers. *Galacrysis* Bonaparte 1856 when describing the Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea*.
- Attempts at the specific name were made by



Collared Pratincole - Elis Simpson

## Cover Photo; Collared Pratincole - cont'd



A flock of Collared Pratincoles - Yanina Maggiotto

Gmelin *G. austriaca*; Rüppell *G. limbata* 1845. This was describing a new species which was in fact a young Collared Pratincole; Landbech added *natrophila* to his new genus *Dromochelidon* in 1846.

- Leach was the first to place the names in the current order in 1820.
- Three subspecies; *pratincola* Linnaeus 1766; *fuellerborni* Neumann 1910; *erlangeri* Neuman 1920.

### Details:

First record for Britain was shot in 1807 at Ormskirk in Lancashire. Two birds subsequently shot in Yarmouth, Suffolk, on Breydon Wall in May 1827. Who knows? Maybe they would have bred and their story would be very different today.

Some used to place these birds with swallows, others with rails but Selby decided their lineage agreed with that of the coursers and plovers and placed them between the two.

A colonial nester around fresh and saline pools with flat, dry muddy areas or in ploughed fields, where they are vulnerable to farming machinery. Breeds around the Mediterranean basin east to Kazakhstan Iran and Pakistan. African races *fuellerborni* breed in sub-Saharan Africa and *erlangeri* in Somalia and Kenya. All subspecies winter in sub-Saharan Africa from West Africa east to Ethiopia and south in Eastern Africa to South Africa. Nominate race mainly migratory moving from breeding ground to sub-Saharan Africa and some eastern birds to western India while the other subspecies make more localised movements within Africa.



Juvenile - Marc Guyt AGAMI Photo Agency

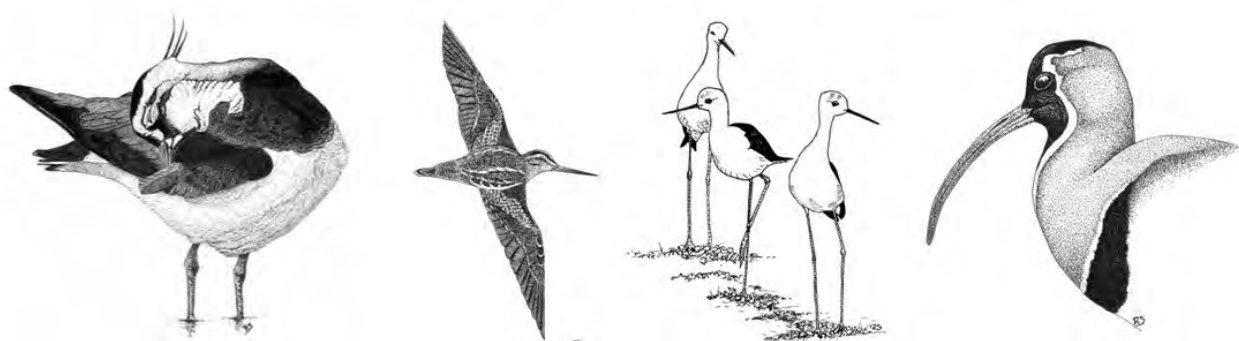


Adult - Chris Young

# 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](mailto:sales@waderquest.net)

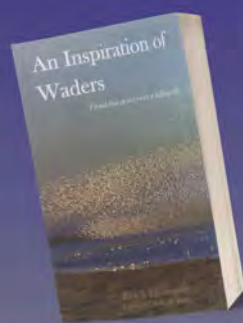


*'Breathtakingly excellent - like a birding Michael Palin. The photographs and drawings are fantastic, and the text is fast-moving and endlessly entertaining and amusing.'* Jim Wright.

# Wader Quest Merchandising

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

## An Inspiration of Waders



*Twinkling gems over a falling tide*

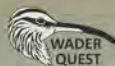
The foreword is by Keith Betton



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



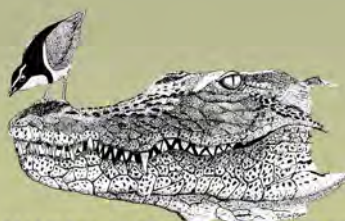
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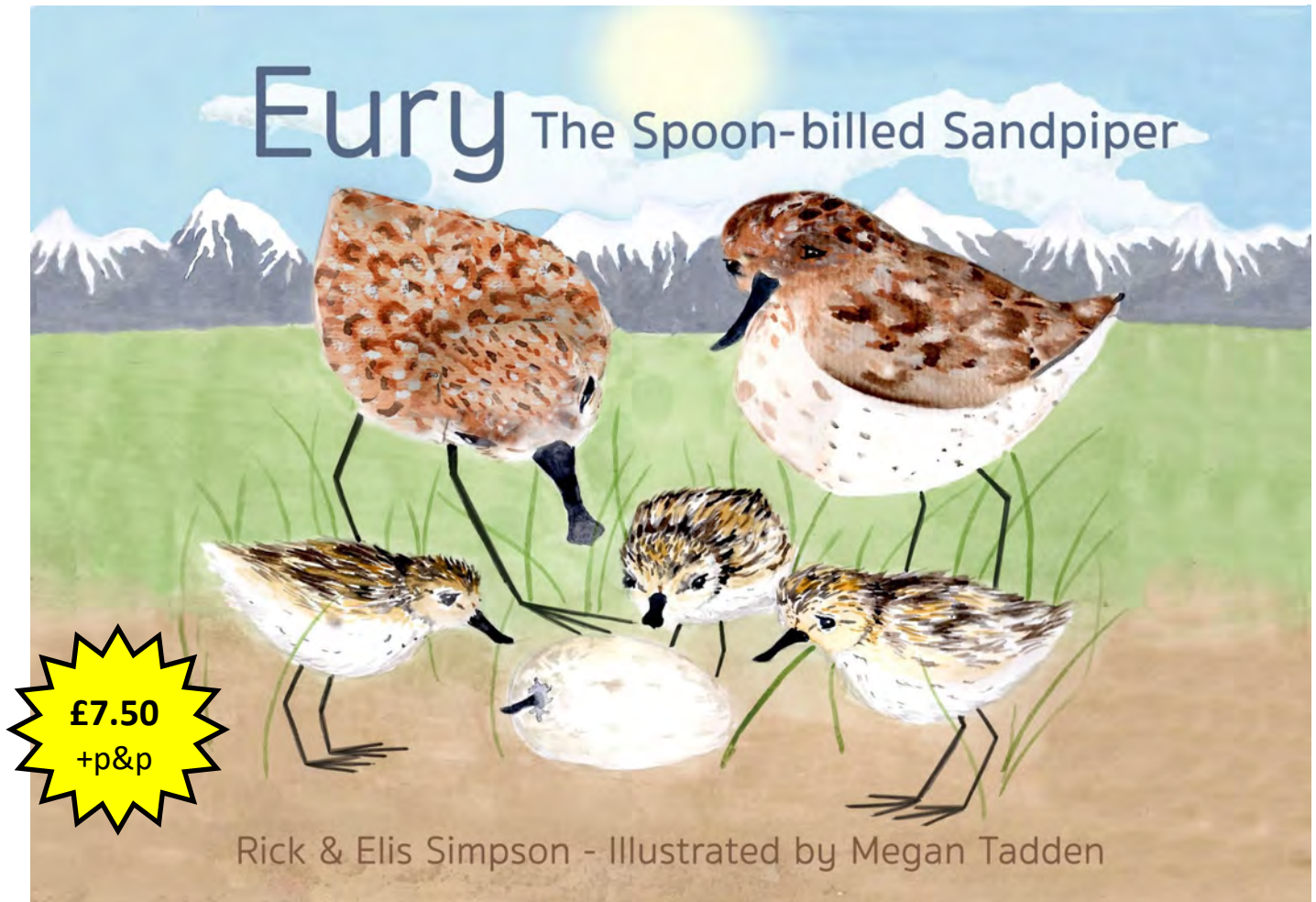
WADER QUEST PUBLISHING  
All profits will go to Wader Quest

# Wader Quest Merchandising

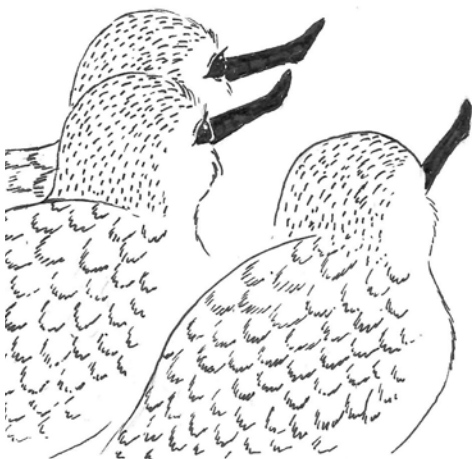
## Eury The Spoon-billed Sandpiper

A Wader Quest Publishing book By Rick and Elis Simpson

Children 6 -11 years



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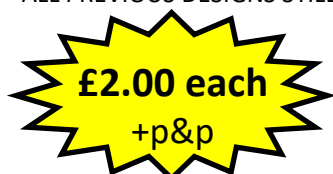
# Wader Quest Merchandising

## 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



2021 DESIGNS

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



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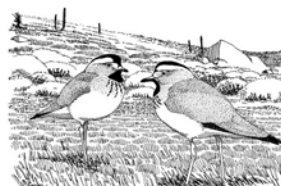
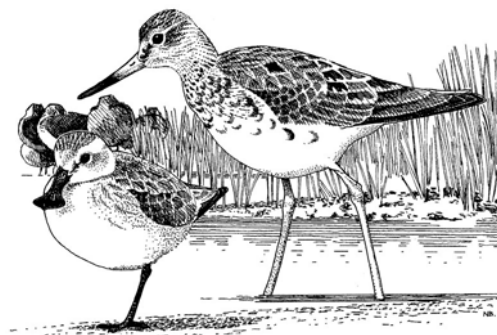
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# Wader Quest Merchandising



Pied Avocets over Titchwell RSPB reserve © Julia Page

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



Eurasian Oystercatchers © Julia Page



Common Snipe © Julia Page



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



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

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# 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](mailto:applications@waderquest.net)

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## Total funds raised and donated since 12/09/2012 (Includes reserve funds in hand) £36,453.73

### 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.  
15/12/2020 £487.94 – Donation to help recruit, train, and support shorebird enthusiasts for the International Shorebird Survey – Manomet/ISS  
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, Melrakkaslétta, Iceland.  
16/07/2019: £1,000.00 to the Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation, Nepal for studying of Wood Snipe in the Himalayas.  
15/09/2019: £132.00 to Wirral Wader Festival for leaflets.  
25/11/2019: £1,000.00 6th Anniversary Grant; Shorebirds Peninsular Malaysia Project, Nature Camp Programme, Teluk Air Tawar – Kuala Muda, Malaysia.  
15/01/2020: £158.40 Opticron car window mount and Velbon Tripod, to study WHSRN sites for Snowy and Wilson's Plovers – Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research  
28/02/2020: £703.74 – Kowa Scope and Velbon tripod sent to Elvonal Shorebird Science for use by field operatives in Eastern Europe – Debrecen University, Hungary.  
26/01/2021: £513.17 – Vortex telescope, tripod 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 – Elvonal 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**