

# WADER WADER QUEST THE NEWSLETTER Volume 2



Wilson's Phalarope Phalaropus tricolor Bill Bouton

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THE NATURAL HOME FOR WADER LOVERS

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Registered Charity England and Wales; 1193674

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Dylan Parry-Davies

Aberdeen Powell

Elis Simpson

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

Rick Simpson information.
Ellie Wise

Vacancies

#### **Next meeting:**

Trustees: April 11th 2022 Exec. Comm: March 14th 2022 AGM: 16th October 2022

Friends of Wader Quest fees: General enquiries: info@waderquest.net

Individual £10.00 Wader Conservation World Watch enquiries: wcww@waderquest.net

Life £200.00 Grant applications and information: applications@waderquest.net

Sponsorship fees:
Club £20.00 Merchandising enquiries: sales@waderquest.net

Corporate £50.00 Membership enquiries: membership@waderquest.net

# Wader Quest's aims

To raise awareness about the challenges waders face in the modern world.

To raise funds to support wader conservation worldwide, especially those involving locally led community projects.

# Our mission:

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

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

Wader Quest is an entirely voluntary organisation.

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Edited by Rick Simpson

# **Wader Quest news**

#### **Trustee updates and news**

There have been no changes since the last newsletter in personnel or posts.

### **Executive Committee updates and news**

There have been no changes since the last newsletter in personnel or posts. However, we are still keen to hear from anyone who has some spare time, a love of birds and a desire to help Wader Quest grow by getting involved with our projects and administration. You may just have the skills we are looking for. To register your interest and for more details, contact Rick Simpson <a href="mailto:rick.simpson@waderquest.net">rick.simpson@waderquest.net</a> or Andrew MacGarvey <a href="mailto:andrew.macgarvey@waderquest.net">andrew.macgarvey@waderquest.net</a>

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

We have six current applications for funding. They represent a wide geographical spread and some of the species involved are rare or little studied.

We have already sent optical equipment to a project in the Murchison Marshes in Uganda. This was kindly couriered there by the 'Croc Man' who is working on human crocodile interaction in the Marshes, with the hope of protecting both species. In addition we hope to be in a position to sponsor signage and information boards near jetties and landing beaches to inform tourists and local people and to help in the bird guiding work. We hope these will contribute to a more sustainable tourist industry and a better used and safer environment for all.

In the Russian far-east we are again looking at sponsoring monitoring equipment for the ongoing study of the Nordmann's Greenshank's *Tringa guttifer* nesting behaviour.

In Nepal we will support a study of the breeding distribution of the Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola*. Again this is a project we have previously assisted, but their study is ongoing and important for the conservation of this species.

We are looking to sponsor equipment to study the distribution of the Fuegian Snipe Gallinago stricklandii in Patagonia.

In Venezuela we intend to help sponsor a study of two breeding populations of Wilson's Plovers Charadrius wilsoni.

Note: The Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* study in India is still on hold due to Covid restrictions and associated problems.

### Talks and events news

Since the last newsletter in October Rick and Elis have been able to make the first live talks for some time. This is an important and crucial step forward since the average income from sales, donations and sign-ups for these talks is over £100. By contrast the same figure for Zoom presentations is less than £10, so it is clear the impact of live presentations when trying to convey what Wader Quest is and does, Is more effective live.

Having said that, we still feel that as Wader Quest has two aims, both of which are satisfied by the live talks, the aim of raising awareness is vitally important and therefore, despite the small financial gain from virtual talks it is still considered beneficial. If we were to wait for an opportunity to talk live, then we would have missed an opportunity to reach another group of people.

# The recent talks were:

Live/Zoom	Date	Group	Audience No.
Live	2/11/21	Kintbury Wildlife Group / Newbury and District Ornithological Society	26
Zoom	5/1/22	Shropshire Ornithological Society	40
Live	10/1/22	Chesham and District Natural History Society	9
Live	14/1/22	Bexley RSPB local group	48

#### Forthcoming talks:

Live/Zoom	Date	Group	<u>Talk title</u>
Live	08/02/2021	Wigan RSPB local group (3rd visit)	New Moon on the Wane, the Curse of the Curlews
Zoom	05/03/2022	N E Hampshire RESPB local group (1st)	Wader Quest
Live	08/03/2022	Lichfield RSPB local group (3rd)	A Quest for Waders (new title)
Live	05/04/2022	East Lancashire Ornithological Club (2nd)	New Moon on the Wane, the Curse of the Curlews
Live	22/04/2022	Southport RSPB local group (5th)	New Moon on the Wane, the Curse of the Curlews
Live	27/04/2022	Huntingdonshire RSPB local group (1st)	Wader Quest
Live	19/05/2022	Chorleywood RSPB local group (2nd)	Seapies, Smudgies and Tobies: The World's my
			Oystercatcher
Live	26/05/2022	N W Surrey RSPB local group (3)	Seapies, Smudgies and Tobies: The World's my
			Oystercatcher
Live	14/06/2022	N E London RSPB local group (2)	A Quest for Waders
Zoom	26/06/2022	Fylde Bird Club	Wader Quest
Live	27/09/2022	Gravesend RSPB local group (3)	A Quest for Waders
Live	01/10/2022	Gwent Ornithological Society	Wader Quest

# Wader Quest news cont'd

#### Talks and events news cont'd

There have been no more live events for us to attend since the last newsletter, however we are delighted to announce that we have applied to be exhibitors and to give a talk at the new <u>Global Bird Fair</u> to be held on the 15th to 17th July this year at the Rutland Showground. It is being organised by our Patrons Tim Appleton MBE and Penny Robinson, so we expect that this will be a tremendous event, under a new name, in a new location.

#### **General news**

A joint Trustees and Executive Committee meeting was held on the 24th January 2022. It was felt that as we come out from under the pandemic the charity needed a kickstart, especially as his is our 10th anniversary year. The discussion centred around how to improve the administration of the charity to make it more effective and also how we would celebrate our 10 years of supporting wader conservation.

# The 2022 Virtual 10th Anniversary AGM will be held on 16th October 2022.

# Keynote speaker: Nigel Clark - Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force

Nigel will give an overview of what has happened to the Spoon-billed Sandpiper since Wader Quest's first engagement with the species that led to the charity's existence.

Nigel was instrumental in motivating Rick and Elis to found Wader Quest as it was a talk by him that inspired them to get involved. So we are pleased to welcome him to bring us up to date.



# Wader Quest chosen as the Association of Animal Artists 2022 charity partner.

We are delighted and honoured to announce that Wader Quest was nominated by several members of the AAA and chosen by the committee to be their 2022 charity partner.

The AAA has over 200 members from the UK and internationally and are passionate about not only delighting the viewer, but also using their artwork to educate and raise awareness about the animals they paint; it is the only animal art association to encourage the depiction of ALL animal life, from the largest mammals to the tiniest insects.

Each year they hold two art exhibitions and donate a percentage of any sales to their chosen charity partner. In addition, they hold a fundraising event, an online postcard auction from which all proceeds are donated, which allows their members to more directly explore the work of their charity partner.

The three main fundraising events are their Spring & Autumn Exhibitions - where a percentage of each sale is donated - and an online postcard auction for which all proceeds are donated.

All the donations are added together, and then rounded up a bit and then donated to the charity at the end of the year/beginning of the next depending on how things fall.

We look forward to working with the AAA during our anniversary year.

# The exhibition details for this year are:

Spring Exhibition: Castle Park Arts Centre, Castle Park, Frodsham WA6 6SE Exhibition dates: 8th April - 15th May

Meet the Artist Evening (TBC) - 8th April 2022, 7-9pm

**Autumn Exhibition:** Granary Art Gallery, Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard,

Shifnal, TF11 8LE

Exhibition dates: 29th October - 30th November

The postcard auction usually falls between the two, but the date is yet to be set.



# Wader Quest's 10th anniversary year; a potted history - Rick and Elis Simpson

We are proud of our history. Wader Quest has been instrumental in raising awareness about the plight of our waders in addition to raising funds to support much needed conservation since 2012. We wish to express out thanks to all of our supporters, Friends or Sponsors of Wader Quest, donors, members of the Executive Committee, Trustees and guides during our travels. Without you all Wader Quest would not be what it is today. Here are some landmarks;

#### 2012

#### May:

Wader Quest created to raise money for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper captive breeding programme (WWT).

#### November

The travelling began with trips to Thailand, United Arab Emirates and USA.

#### 2013

#### January-March:

Moratorium from the travelling due to ill health and passing of a family member.

April:

Travelling resumed with trips to USA, Brazil, Peru.

July:

First Wader Quest Collectable pin badges launched.





Pin badge No 1 Diademed Sandpiper

### August-November:

Travelling continued with trips to South Africa, Botswana and Namibia; Australia and New Zealand; Brazil and Chile. Wader Quest South Africa born August.

Wader Quest Brasil born October.

#### 2014

#### January:

Final trips to The Gambia, India and a return to Thailand to finish the quest. Fundraising ends. First Wader Quest Calendar published. (continued until 2020)

#### March:

Wader Quest became an unregistered small charity with the inaugural Trustees meeting in London.

#### May

First AGM of the charity held in London & fundraising begins for Wader Quest Magellanic Plover project.

#### April:

First quarterly newsletter published.

#### • June

Application made to HMRC to be recognised as a charity.

#### • October

Wader Quest recognised as a charity by HMRC allowing us to claim Gift Aid.

#### 2015

#### March:

New logo designed and launched

### 2018

#### August

New Wader Quest website launched – designed and built by Trustee Allan Archer of talk: wildlife

# 2019

#### June:

Wader Quest becomes Registered Charity (England and Wales) No. 1183748.

#### September:

Grants panel formed to assess applications for funding.

#### October:

First public AGM event at Cley Marsh Reserve, Norfolk, England.

#### 2020

### March:

Inaugural meeting of the Wader Quest Executive Committee.

#### October:

First virtual AGM held due to Covid-19 crisis.

#### 2021

### January:

Subscription payments move to January for all Friends and Sponsors

#### February:

Wader Quest re-registered as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) No 1193674



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# Wader Quest's 10th anniversary year; a potted history - cont'd

#### Wader Quest events organised

- Wader Conservation World Watch 2014 2021.
- Quiz Night in conjunction with 'Miss Quiz' 2015-2018 & 2021
- Wader Quest initiated the UK's first ever Wader Festival in the UK in the Wirral in partnership with Dee Estuary Volunteer Wardens, RSPB, Cheshire Wildlife Trust and Wirral Borough Council rangers. 2015-2019.
- Wash Wader Festival held with RSPB at Titchwell Marsh reserve. 2015.
- Walney Wader Festival held with Cumbria Wildlife Trust. 2016-2017
- Severn Wader Festival held with WWT at Slimbridge Wetland Centre 2017-2018.





#### Other events attended

- British Bird Fair at Rutland 2013-2019
- WWT Martin Mere Northwest Birdwatching Festival 2013-2019 & 2021
- Dutch Bird Fair 2014
- Falsterbo Bird Show 2014-2019
- Norfolk Bird Fair 2015-2016
- Plover Appreciation Day 2016-2019
- Scottish Ornithologists' Club Conference 2016-2019
- Spurn MigFest 2016
- Curlew Workshop attended at WWT Slimbridge. 2017
- Bolton Castle Curlew Festival. 2017-2019
- Walton-on-the-Naze Birdwatching Festival 2017-2018.
- Upland Wader Summit hosted by HRH The Prince of Wales on Dartmoor 2018
- Pensthorpe Norfolk Bird Fair 2019
- Global Bird Weekend 2021



**Falsterbo Bird Show** 









#### **Fundraising**

# November 2012:

Fundraising started for Spoon-billed Sandpiper captive breeding programme (WWT). We raised £3,526.06.

August 2013:

Fundraising started for Hooded Plover Beach Nesting Birds (BirdLife Australia). We raised £1,316.33.

• February 2016:

Wader Quest passes the £10,000 mark for funds raised for wader conservation.

October 2016:

Trustee Andrew Whitelee makes fundraising bike ride.

November 2017:

Wader Quest passes the £20,000 mark for funds raised for wader conservation.

April 2019:

Wader Quest passes the £30,000 mark for funds raised for wader conservation.



#### **Grants and donations made**

- Total funds raised and donated since 12/09/2012 (Includes reserve funds in hand) £36,952.03
- \* Appeals total: £6,041.77
- \* Total Donations made: £9,747.61
- \* Total disbursements from Grants Fund: £13,818.10

For a full run-down on all grants and donations made please see page 41

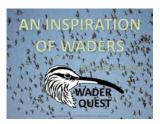


Mixed flock on a Broome beach, Western Australia - Elis Simpson

# Wader Quest's 10th anniversary year; a potted history - cont'd

#### **Talks**

- \* 165 talks delivered
- \* 7085 attendees
- \* £5716.73 sales
- £2607.53 donations
- \* 129 sign-ups to the value of £2552.50













**Wader Quest Publishing** 

#### 2016

June:

Wader Quest Publishing established.

August:

Our first book published - Eury the *Spoon-billed Sandpiper* a children's book for 6-11 year olds following the story of Eury from egg to first breeding on his migration from Russia to South-east Asia and back again.

<u>Available in our shop</u> for £7.50.

# 2018

August:

Our second book published - An Inspiration of Waders demonstrating how waders have inspired humanity in science, art, music, poetry literature, myths, legends and more besides and how they themselves are inspiring, giving rise to the collective noun 'an inspiration of waders'.

Available in our shop for £8.50.

#### 2020

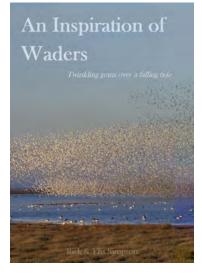
### August:

Our third book published - A Quest for Waders chronicling the creation of Wader Quest from an idea, to travelling the world in search of waders to becoming a charity. Full of lively tales of Rick and Elis' travels described as a 'birding Michael Palin' with many photos and original artworks of the birds seen by the authors.

Available in our shop for £15.00.



All proceeds from the sale of these books go to Wader Quest not the authors.







# Wader Quest Brasil news - Karina Ávila and Bruno Lima



# Aves Limícolas no Aquário Municipal de Santos, São Paulo, Brazil.

Entre de 15 de dezembro e 14 de fevereiro a Wader Quest Brasil e o Projeto Aves Limícolas estão em exposição no Aquário Municipal de Santos. O Aquário se localiza no município de Santos, no litoral paulista, e a setenta anos encanta turistas e moradores, sendo o mais antigo aquário do Brasil. Com uma área de 3.000m2 e recebendo milhares de visitantes, é considerada a maior atração turística do município.

O tema da exposição é a atuação da Wader Quest Brasil e Projeto Aves Limícolas no litoral do Estado de São Paulo e os principais problemas que as aves limícolas enfrentam na região. Estamos levando a informação de que essas aves existem, pois a população as desconhece, e estamos ressaltando os riscos dos veículos na praia, dos cães e do lixo.

# Waders in the Santos Municipal Aquarium, São Paulo, Brazil.

Between the 15th of December and the 14th of February, Wader Quest Brasil and the Aves Limícolas Project have an exhibition in the Santos Municipal Aquarium. The Aquarium is situated in the municipality of Santos on the south coast of the State of São Paulo and for 70 years it has enchanted tourists and locals alike, being the oldest aquarium in Brazil. With an area of 3,000m² it receives thousands of visitors and is considered the biggest attraction in the municipality.

The theme of the exhibition is the work being carried out by Wader Quest Brasil and the Aves Limícolas Project on the São Paulo coast, and the principal problems that waders face in the region. We are raising awareness about these birds, as the local population is largely unaware of their presence, and we are highlighting the risks of vehicles, dogs and litter on the beach.



Aves Limícolas Project — Karina Ávila



Red Knot Calidris canutus exhibit — Karina Ávila



Hudsonian Whimbrel Numenius hudsonicus exhibit — Karina Ávila



# Wader Quest Brazil news - cont'd



A Ilha das Aves (Bird Island English version)



Trinta-réis-real Thalasseus maximus, Trinta-réis-de-bando Thalasseus acuflavidus e Gaivotão Larus dominicanus são muito abundantes na ilha - Karina Avila.

Localizada no extremo sul do litoral do Estado de São Paulo, a Ilha Comprida é uma longa e estreita ilha arenosa com 74 quilômetros de extensão e 3 quilômetros de largura. A porção norte da ilha, onde está situada a cidade de Ilha Comprida, é a mais habitada e desenvolvida, abrigando uma população fixa de 8 mil habitantes, que convivem lado a lado com uma população reprodutiva de Guará *Eudocimus ruber* e com as últimas dunas do Estado de São Paulo. O restante da ilha é um complexo mosaico de hábitats que se sucedem a partir da costa oceânica em direção ao interior da ilha, composto por praias costeiras, dunas, restingas arbustivas, brejos, matas de restinga e manguezais.

É difícil não prestar atenção nas matas de restinga da Ilha Comprida: ali encontramos facilmente endemismos ameaçados como Maria-da-restinga *Phylloscartes kronei*, Papagaio-de-cara-roxa *Amazona brasiliensis*, Saíra-sapucaia *Tangara peruviana*, Araponga *Procnias nudicollis* e outros. Toda a Ilha Comprida é uma Important Bird Area (IBA SP12).

Mas vamos dar as costas um pouco a essas ricas florestas e voltar nossa atenção para o imenso estuário existente entre a ilha e o continente. São 200 quilômetros de estuários, manguezais preservados e bancos de lodo, que formam a região conhecida como "Complexo estuarino do Lagamar". Por ser usado para reprodução por mais de uma centena de espécies de crustáceos e peixes, esse estuário é considerado o "berçário do Atlântico Sul". Tamanha abundância de alimento mantêm as pequenas famílias de pescadores artesanais que habitam o local e uma enorme quantidade de aves aquáticas: é nesse estuário que se encontra a maior população de Garça-azul *Egretta caerulea* e Savucu-de-coroa *Nyctanassa violacea* fora da Flórida! E as aves limícolas migratórias frequentam os bancos de lodo e manguezais durante a maré baixa ou quando as praias da Ilha Comprida estão cheias de turistas.

A ilha é de extrema importância para as aves limícolas migratórias, que entre agosto e maio se espalham ao longo da praia. Maçarico-de-papo-vermelho *Calidris canutus rufa*, Maçarico-acanelado *Calidris subruficollis*, Maçarico-branco *Calidris alba*, Batuíra-



A Ilha Comprida é uma extensa ilha arenosa composta por dunas, florestas de planície, manguezais, praias e pântanos - smetal.org.br



Entre a ilha (à esquerda) e o continente (montanhas à direita), encontram-se 200 quilômetros de estuários preservados, manguezais e bancos de lodo - guiadeareasprotegidas.sp.gov.br



Os bancos de lodo entre a ilha e o continente são importantes para uma enorme diversidade de aves residentes e migratórias - Pedro Rehne

# Wader Quest Brazil news - cont'd

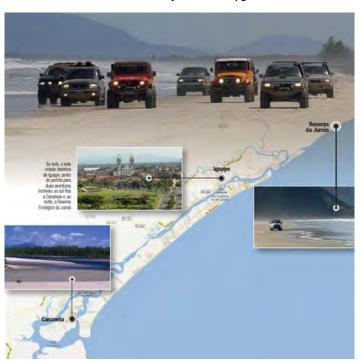
de-bando *Charadrius semipalmatus*, Maçarico-do-campo *Bartramia longicauda* e outras espécies forrageiam tanto na faixa arenosa, quanto na vegetação baixa atrás das dunas e nos brejos de água doce. Nessas praias também foi realizado o primeiro registro conhecido para o Brasil de Maçarico-de-perna-vemelha *Tringa totanus*. A Ilha Comprida é considerada o stopover mais importante do Estado de São Paulo para as aves limícolas migratórias neárticas.

As praias da ilha também são muito importantes para as aves limícolas reprodutivas, principalmente para Piru-piru *Haematopus palliatus* (ameaçado de extinção no Estado de São Paulo) e Batuíra-decoleira *Charadrius collaris*, que encontram na Ilha Comprida o mais importante sítio reprodutivo do Estado de São Paulo.

Além disso, as praias são um importante ponto de alimentação e descanso pós-reprodutivo de 30% da população extra-caribenha de Trinta -réis-de-bando *Thalasseus acuflavidus eurygnatha*.



Único registro de Maçarico-de-perna-vemelha *Tringa totanus* conhecido para o Brasil, em Ilha Comprida. Photo: Fernanda Hoppen - Disponível em: <a href="http://www.wikiaves.com/1114002">http://www.wikiaves.com/1114002</a>



Existe uma espécie de roteiro turístico que estimula o uso de carros na praia - motorshow.com.br  $\,$ 

Porém esse paraíso se encontra ameaçado: um grande fluxo de veículos frequenta as praias da Ilha Comprida durante os finais de semana, atropelando as aves limícolas migratórias e também as reprodutivas, seus ovos e filhotes. Muitos costumam estacionar seus veículos na porção norte, esmagando os ovos. Existe até mesmo um "roteiro turístico" onde os carros percorrem todas as praias da região!

Outro grande problema são os cães levados pelos turistas, que perseguem e espantam as aves em diversos trechos da praia, principalmente nas margens dos brejos e riachos.



Cães são um grande perigo para as aves aquáticas que frequentam a ilha. Photo: Pedro Behne.

Por essa razão estamos começando a atuar na Ilha Comprida, levando educação ambiental para os turistas e para a comunidade local, e fazendo levantamentos de aves. Pretendemos identificar todos os ninhos de Piru-piru e Batuíra-de-coleira e tornar essas espécies conhecidas da população, por meio da campanha "Adote um Piru-piru".

Vamos instalar placas educativas ao longo das praias e realizar tendas de educação ambiental nos finais de semana para explicar a importância de não levar cães à praia nem entrarem com veículos na faixa de areia. Também vamos participar de reuniões com o governo municipal para organizar um roteiro de fiscalização para proibir o trânsito de veículos na praia.



Maçarico-de-colete *Calidris melanotos* e Batuiruçu *Pluvialis dominica* são algumas das espécies comuns na lha, que chegam no final de Agosto - Pedro Behne.



Juvenil de Piru-piru and Maçarico-branco - Karina Avila.

# Homenagem para a Tânia Faitarone (1972-2021) - Bruno Lima & Karina Ávila



Maçarico-de-papo-vermelho - Red Knot Calidris canutus rufa that was run over and killed on Peruíbe beach — Tânia Faitarone

Tânia Faitarone foi uma daquelas pessoas que vieram ao mundo para torna-lo melhor. Por meio de sua arte, soube captar a essência das aves e transformá-las em pintura.

Uma região do planeta tinha um lugar especial em seu coração: o município de Peruíbe, no litoral sul do Estado de São Paulo. Ali a natureza que ela tanto amava ainda é exuberante e as aves ainda encantam a todos.

Quando soube que estávamos iniciando uma campanha contra os carros na praia, Tânia se apressou em nos ajudar. A campanha carrega como símbolo um Maçarico-de-papo-vermelho - da subespécie *Calidris canutus rufa*, em declínio — que foi atropelada justamente na praia de Peruíbe. Tânia imortalizou a pequena ave com sua pintura (acima), que utilizamos como bandeira em diversas apresentações e campanhas de educação ambiental.

Tanta luta resultou na proteção definitiva de um trecho de 7 quilômetros de praia para as aves costeiras, e conseguimos fazer com que a fiscalização municipal atuasse mais constantemente na praia.

Tânia voou para outros ares, mas ajudou a deixar as aves e a praia que ela tanto amava muito mais protegidas.

Obrigado, Tânia, por toda a amizade e por ter usado seu dom para proteger as aves limícolas.

### Tânia Faitarone (1972-2021)

Tânia Faitarone was one of those people who came into the world to make it better. Through her art, she was able to capture the essence of birds and turn it into paintings. There was one region on the planet that she held dear to her heart and that was the Municipality of Peruíbe on the southern coast of São Paulo State in Brazil.

There the natural world that she loved so much is still exuberant where the birds still charm us all. When she discovered that we were initiating a campaign against the use of vehicles on the beach, Tânia rushed to assist us. The campaign has a Red Knot (of the declining subspecies *Calidris canutus rufa*) as a symbol, which was run-over on the beach at Peruíbe. Tânia immortalised this small bird with her painting (above) and we use it as a symbol in various presentations and environmental education campaigns.

Much battling resulted in the protection of 7km stretch of beach for shore birds, and we succeeded in getting the municipal inspectorate to be a more constant presence on the beaches.

Tania has flown to other skies, but she helped leave the birds and the beach she loved so much considerably more protected.

# Waders in art - Hellen Barreiros

(Hellen is Brazilian, for an English version of this text and more artworks see next page.)

Desde criança nunca considerei a arte como profissão, sempre foi particular, um espaço no tempo em que eu poderia desenhar e surpreender a mim mesma. Dentro desse espaço no tempo, conforme fui crescendo, pude desenhar e pintar de tudo um pouco, mas sempre considerando isso como minha extensão particular.

Desenhar aves ainda é novo e encantador, comecei no início de 2020, através de um pedido do meu chefe de estágio. Era um pedido especial pra mim, um desenho específico do Maçarico-rasteirinho *Calidris pusilla* cuja espécie está ameaçada de extinção.

A partir disso, desenhei ele milhares de vezes, nunca achando bom o suficiente, pois me preocupo muito com as expectativas que são depositadas nesse processo.

Através de uma das minhas tentativas, conheci o trabalho do Projeto Aves Limícolas e pude desenhar outras espécies Limícolas, que têm todo meu amor e dedicação.

Desenhar aves abriu caminho pra que eu pudesse conhecer pessoas incríveis que tenho tanto carinho e admiração, e compartilhar as artes com outras pessoas me faz refletir sobre como trabalhar assim me faria feliz.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** 



MAÇARICO-ACANELADO Colidria Subruficallia

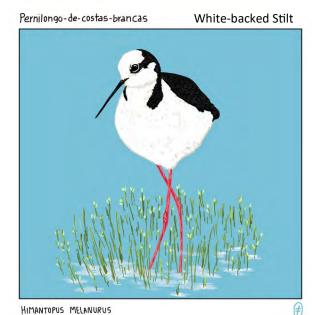
Willet



Semipalmated Sandpiper



2010-10-30



MAÇARÎCO-DE-BÎCO-TORTO Hudsonian Whimbrel

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# **Waders in art - Hellen Barreiros**

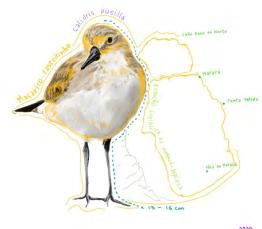
Since I was a child, I never considered art as a profession, it was always a private thing, a space in which I could draw and surprise myself. Within this space, as I grew, I found I was able to draw almost anything, but I always considered it a private and personal domain.

Drawing birds is still new and charming to me, I didn't even start until early in 2020, and then only because of a request from my intern manager. It was a specific request to do a drawing of the Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*, a species that is threatened with extinction.

From that moment, I drew it thousands of times, never satisfied with my efforts. I worry about what other people will think, their expectations weigh heavy on me.

Through one of my attempts, I came across the work of the Aves Limícolas Project (see page 8) and had the opportunity to draw other wader species, all of which I now love and to which I am dedicated.

Drawing birds paved the way for me to meet amazing people for whom I have so much affection and admiration, and sharing my art with other people makes me reflect on how working in this way would make me really happy.



Semipalmated Sandpiper





Sanderling Calidris alba



American Golden Plover Pluvialis dominica



Semipalmated Plover Charadrius semipalmatus

# Where do Icelandic Purple Sandpipers spend the winter? - Ron Summers

In 2019, a joint study by Icelandic and Scottish ornithologists was carried out in northeast Iceland to determine where Icelandic breeding Purple Sandpipers Calidris maritima spend the winter. Geolocators, bought by Wader Quest, were attached to 12 adult males whilst they were incubating their eggs or attending their chicks. Geolocators provide daily estimates of the location of the bird, but the birds have to be re-trapped in order to download the data. The study area could not be accessed in 2020 because of covid restrictions, but two of the Icelandic members of our group managed to re-visit the site in 2021 and re-capture five of the birds. Preliminary analysis of the data indicate that the birds spent the winter along the north coast



Purple Sandpiper in Icelandic winter — Yann Kolbeinsson

of Iceland, enduring the harsh climatic conditions just south of the Arctic Circle. None of the birds left Iceland, an idea that is considered a possibility. With only five geolocators retrieved, the study will be continued in 2022.

# **Vagrant Northern Lapwings in North America** - Rick Simpson

Speculation about the number of Northern Lapwings being reported in North America this winter had people asking as to whether or not this was going to be another famous 'big flight' year for them in North America.

Here we look at the historical influxes and look at the records to date for this winter.

It's hard to believe, when you watch the languid, flapping flight of what an American friend of mine described as a 'flopwinged mud-parakeet', that it would have the wherewithal to make a sustained flight across the Atlantic Ocean from its traditional wintering grounds in Europe. But they do just that from time to time, with the right conditions and timing. Usually, if that is the right word, they appear as single Northern Lapwing — Pete Blanchard birds and then certainly not every



year, but the winter of 2021-22 has seen a small influx of them bringing to mind the great flight of 1927 and later smaller influxes in 1966 and 2012/13. Read more

# Biggest bird table in the world; feeding Great Knots revisited - Rick Simpson



Supplementary feeding of waders is a controversial conservation method, as are others such as, for example, predator control, but in order to assist certain species, especially for those threatened species with small populations it can be a useful, if temporary tool.

One such species is the Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*, which has declined significantly, and dramatically so, on the completion of the Saemangeum estuary barrier in South Korea in 2006 where 90,000 displaced Great Knots were shown have not to have relocated as hoped, but simply perished. At the time this constituted round 20% of the world population. We have therefore seen that migratory waders, which use traditional stopover and refuelling sites, have no energy or time to find alternatives if they fail.

Despite being controversial, it can, as in the case of headstarting, provide a useful tool to tide populations over difficult periods while a more sustainable solution is found.

During the experiment, which was part funded by Wader Quest, (article in <u>July 2018</u> newsletter here) tens of thousands of Great Knots consumed the supplemental food but other species like the Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* also benefitted.

This type of operation can only be a stop-gap, which can reduce a food shortage, while management of the environment addresses the causes for the loss of food supply.

Unlike feeding birds in the garden, where entirely alien foodstuffs are presented for the birds to eat, in this case the food provided was entirely natural, of the same species that was lacking and therefore entirely expected within the

environment at the study site, the only change being the quantity available.

One note of caution was brought up by the authors of this study and that is that as we have seen with garden bird tables, unusually high gatherings of birds in one artificially small space may cause infections like bird flu to spread more easily, having a negative impact on the population instead of a positive one.

This study has shown that supplemental feeding can be effective as a management intervention tool and it may be that it will have an increasing role in wader species conservation.

Reference: Elsevier; Biological Conservation Volume 264, December 2021, 109394 Food supplementation as a conservation intervention: A framework and a case of helping threatened shorebirds at a refuelling site: Shoudong Zhang, Qingquan Bai, David S.Melville, Chenchen Feng, Theunis Piersma & Zhijun Ma.



Great Knot (top) and farmed Clams (above)

— Photographs supplied by the Great Knot Food Drop team

# Shorebirds for beginners; a guided walk - Richard Willis, Space for Shorebirds

Northumberland is on the north east coast of England, a coastline of stunning beauty, with open sandy beaches, hard rocky platforms and islands, interspersed with discrete areas of mud and backed by some impressive sand dunes, supporting important plant communities.



Rocky shore habitat at Boulmer — Space for Shorebirds

Space for Shorebirds was established two years ago by Northumberland County Council to enable people to continue to enjoy the magnificent coastline while ensuring that our important bird populations such as Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*, Common Redshank *Tringa totaus* and Sanderling *Calidris alba* can thrive.

Since the relaxation of covid restrictions we've held a number of Shorebirds for Beginners events. On 21 January 2022, we held an event at Boulmer. As usual for these events the sun was shining, though I'm sure we'll lose our 100% record in that respect in the months to come.

Wader identification can be quite intimidating, so the idea of these sessions is to offer people with some interest in wildlife the chance to learn about the important shorebirds with whom we share our coast. We pitch the sessions as no prior knowledge of waders being required, this is in order to let the participants know that we are all learning about the birds together.

At Boulmer 12 people, mostly residents of the county joined us. We aim to keep the groups small to encourage people to ask questions to create a two way conversation.



Shorebirds for Beginners; time for some talking — Space for Shorebirds

# Shorebirds for beginners; a guided walk - cont'd

Also we were happy to welcome Lily to the walk, one of our brilliant Dog Rangers - she proved to be a big hit with the other participants.



Lily the Dog Ranger

— Space for Shorebirds



Purple Sandpiper and Ruddy Turnstone, two important waders of the Northumberland coast — Space for Shorebirds



This was the start of wader watching for some of our participants — Space for Shorebirds

The format is a simple one, a welcome talk, after which we hand out our leaflet which shows most of the common wader species, then an introduction to Space for Shorebirds. It is then on with the walking and wader watching.

We concentrate on trying to help people understand what good coastal wader habitat looks like and introduce the challenging problem of repeated disturbance. We highlight feeding areas and the roosting areas, such as Longhoughton Steel where 500 Eurasian Curlews *Numenius arquatus* and 300 European Golden Plovers *Pluvialis apricaria* regularly roost. The latter was observed passing directly overhead, a real thrill for the new wader watchers seeing the goldies twinkle in the winter sun.

The participants also saw wracks of old seaweed, full of sandfly lava, and groups of Ruddy Turnstones and Common Redshanks feeding high on the beach on those areas.

A skein of 300 Pink-footed Geese also passed high above, crying "wink-wink" as they went, all adding to the drama of a coastline that is full of life, contrasting with the image of being England's most northerly county in the depths of winter.

Giving people access to good quality optics is also a joy, hearing someone exclaim when they first see a Curlew in a scope gives me a great feeling. Also it's great to read the feedback for the sessions; "Absolutely lovely morning, really interesting, Richard and Katherine [Dunsford] were both so kind and welcoming. Such an important thing to learn about our birds and how our actions walking along the coast can impact them"

Reaching people like this through engagement and education is crucial for Space for Shorebirds and more importantly our wonderful birds. What is absolutely clear is that Northumberland's waders can only be protected and Space for Shorebirds can only achieve its aims by working with the residents of Northumberland.

A final word is to ask all to support us on social media on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. It would really help us, thank you.









# Wader Conservation World Watch 9 5th—6th Nov 2022

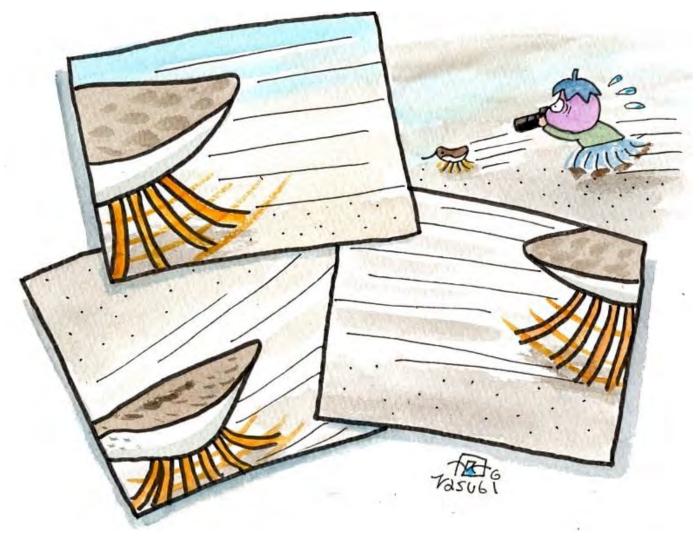
If you would like to help organise and develop this event on an International, national, regional or local scale, then please email for more details;

wcww@waderquest.net



Killdeer Charadrius vociferus - Elis Simpson

# A bit of cartoon fun - Nasubi Fujitaka



'Today I went to the tidal flats for the first time in a while; the Terek Sandpiper was fast.' - Nasubi Fujitaka

# Chicago's Monty and Rose add new chapter to the story of Great Lakes Piping Plovers - Bob Dolgan

July 7, 2021, was another hot one on Chicago's beaches. The humidity was thick in the air as beachgoers stood almost shoulder-to-shoulder on the sands.

As if to portend the drama that was to come, the winds shifted off the lake and a fog rolled in. The temperatures dropped about 15 degrees almost immediately.

It was around then that my typical Piping Plover-monitoring shift began. Just as it has since late April—and for many weeks in the previous two years. When I walked up to the monitoring site, I was greeted by "plover mother" Tamima Itani and intern Staś Gunkel. This wasn't just any shift, because today was the day that Monty and Rose's eggs might hatch.

Right away, Itani commented that she thought an egg may have hatched. I wasn't quite as sure. Rose was a little fidgety on the nest but looked about the same as every other day since incubation began in early June.



Then Itani and Gunkel stepped away to tend to some gulls. It was right then that I saw Rose leave the nest with an eggshell and drop it about 15 feet away. In that moment, I could see a little mass of feathers where there should have been a speckled egg. I shouted to Itani and Gunkel; Itani quickly confirmed the presence of a chick. She'd been right after all (I should have never questioned a plover mother, ha!). I later could see the chick's little face peering out from under a fluffed-up Rose. This was a first for me personally. I was out of town when the first chick hatched in 2019, which impressed so many by becoming the first in Chicago since 1948. Only a handful of people were allowed on the beach in 2020 and that meant fewer people could see the chicks hatch.

Still, any successful hatching of a Great Lakes Piping Plover is a very big victory. There only 74 pairs remaining on the thousands of miles of Great Lakes coastline. In 1990, the population was down to about a dozen pairs.

In Chicago, the hatching took on a special meaning as Monty and Rose have captivated the city for three years. This little bit of news that Itani, Gunkel and I observed was on the front page of the Chicago Tribune in coming days. Birders and volunteers have followed the story, but so have thousands of others. In 2021, they saw the first nest lost to a skunk. They saw how Monty and Rose resumed courtship within a week, with Rose quickly laying four eggs. It was a little emotional on that hot July day to say the least. In about a month we went from the loss of the nest to Monty and Rose mating again to new eggs and then chicks. There definitely were some travails for the birds in 2021.

We were near certain a second chick hatched within the hour on that Wednesday, as again we saw eggshell carrying. By the next day, another chick had hatched also. The story of the last egg is more complicated. Upon seeing it left in the nest, wildlife officials made the decision to rescue the egg and attempt to hatch it in captivity. And that they did, at the Lincoln Park Zoo. Within 24 hours, zoo staff brought the chick, or "Zoo Baby," out to the beach and the safety of its parents.

The challenges continued later into summer, too, as two of the juveniles were lost, likely due to predation. Zoo Baby, later named Siewka (shiv-ka), and Imani made it to fledgling, though, and headed to the wintering grounds in late August. Monty and Rose also headed south, and by all accounts they are doing well in Texas and Florida, respectively.

Now we wait through a dark, cold Chicago winter wondering what the next chapter in this story will be. Given the excitement of the past few years, it's sure to be a special one. (See page XXX for more mews on Monty and Rose)

[Bob Dolgan has made two documentary films about Chicago Piping Plovers Monty and Rose. His latest, "Monty and Rose 2: The World of Monty and Rose" is available at www.montyandrose.net]



'Zoo baby' Siewka was released to the safety of its parents at Montrose Beach, Chicago, Illinois, USA, on July 10 after hatching at Lincoln Park Zoo - William Santus

# 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 layperson. 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.



We wish for it on a warm dry day. We welcome it as it softly brushes our cheeks on a breezy summer's day. We fear it when it goes thundering through the trees. We bear the brunt of it on the beach as it flings the sand into the air. This powerful, yet invisible force. It can alter landscapes, moving quickly and unseen. This entity which can change without warning.

The power of the wind. When we go against it, we soon realise the futility of this activity. We get flung in all directions. We get blinded by the capricious sands. When, instead we decide to go with its flow, things seem quite different. We find it easy to move along the gusts billowing past us. Perhaps we can learn something from the sands. These minute particles which, instead of trying to fight that which they cannot control, move along without reluctance, journeying wherever the wind sees fit. No, it is no use trying to go against this powerful and



African Oystercatchers - Elis Simspson

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

ever-present force which gusts across the landscape, we are powerless against this commanding and forceful natural element.

Yes, the wind certainly has the authority to hide or reveal the secrets of the sands to us whenever it sees fit. So, just what secrets are being kept or exposed on our beaches this week? How has the sand been treating our beloved birds? What abrupt and heart-wrenching changes await discovery? To find out, our intrepid researchers went off to Lookout beach to see what our gallant shorebird community were getting up to. Whilst out looking for our beloved White-fronted Plovers we came across some of our



Gang of Oyks - NVT

other gorgeous feathered friends. African Black Oystercatchers. Their jet black bodies. Their blood red bills. Who would not fall in love at the sight of these birds?

One of our interns spotted them first. Two beautiful Oystercatcher chicks running in the distance, the parents' frantic calls alerting her to the little gems hidden craftily by the wily wind. These calls were like music to her ears almost as if these birds were calling out her name, begging her, and our other researchers, to protect these precious toddles with all their might.

Our researchers excitedly ran to find these little creatures. There they were, these precious little gems, with their grey bodies and soon-to-be crimson bills, they were a wondrous sight to behold. All seemed to be well on Lookout beach once more.

The wind, however, was about to reveal some of the painful secrets held by the often cruel sand. Something was amiss. The air was thick with anguish. One of our beloved beauties was small, smaller than stronger sibling, not growing at the rate she should. Our researchers were heartbroken and, to the dismay of some, one of our more gloom-ridden researchers had the honour of naming them. Regardless of their misfortune, little Rickets and Scurvy went about scurrying along the dunes. Up and down they went as the wind wafted across the shifting sands, tiny Rickets sometimes lagging behind the stronger Scurvy.



Newly hatched chicks - NVT

However, the wind was blowing, billowing with strong gusts down the shore, bringing dark clouds to these beautiful, albeit unfortunately-named, bundles of joy. The first blow was expected by some of our more cynical researchers. They spotted him from afar. The barely-moving body of little Rickets. There had been a vicious attack. This immature creature was bloodied and beaten badly. He had been struck repeatedly, most likely from those forbidding hungry Kelp Gull mobsters forever sweeping through the skies in search for an easy target. Clearly they had found one in Rickets and researchers realised quickly that there was no hope of him recovering from this battering.

Scurvy, on the other hand, seemed to be going strong as ever and researchers rejoiced every time they lay their eyes on him. Who could blame them? The sight of an African Black Oystercatcher will make most bird lovers weak at the knees. Their

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

comical bodies waddling up and down the shores. Sometimes they even flock in big numbers on the plains, forming a big congregation and allowing our researchers to marvel at their beauty.

They seem like a tranquil bunch. Not like those nasty Kelp Gulls forever attacking whatever they perceive as a weakling. To the Kelp Gulls, not even the tiniest little Gull chick is off limits, they hone in mercilessly to any who they perceive to be feeble in frame. Our Oystercatchers are not like that! They are proud and peaceful birds, surely they would be appalled at the mere thought of doing harm to one of their own. They definitely would, thought our researchers as they were happily watching Oystercatcher congregation flock around little Scurvy, hiding in the sand from those horrid Gulls. Surely they only wanted to say hello? Perhaps they were wanting to shield it from any aerial attacks by the ever -present Gull mobsters? However, the winds were about to reveal the second blow that would befall this poorly family. Seemingly out of nowhere the flock of Oystercatchers turned violent. Brutally attacking little Scurvy before the very eyes of our stunned researchers!!

Luckily Scurvy's mom was close by. This strong female, known affectionately as P61, was not about to lose another one of her chicks to a brutal attack. She chased the assailants off, angrily shouting at these supposed compatriots for their treachery! What of little Scurvy? Would he survive such a



Little Rickets after the attack - NVT



Scurvy tucked away - NVT

cruel attack? His unmoving little body was lying in the open plains of Lookout. Not moving, as our traumatised researchers approached slowly. Had they just witnessed a vicious murder? With every passing second their hearts felt heavier. The distance between them and this beaten beauty seemingly never to decrease.

A collective sigh of relief was given when they finally got to him. Unscathed physically he was only frozen in fear. The researchers left him, protected in some vegetation. Our shaken researchers were again left, as so often the case, with many unanswered questions. Why would the seemingly gentle Oystercatchers behave in such a way? Would little Scurvy remain unscathed or would he be subjected to more such attacks? Are the tenacious Kelp Gulls perhaps not the ones to blame for little Rickets fate? We can but hazard a guess at all these uncertainties.

In this life we have but a few sureties. The winds can turn without warning. One moment we can feel like we are soaring above the clouds without a care in the world, the next it can feel like the dark clouds brought on by the powerful wind will engulf us forever. Certainty is but a dream we hope for when all seems to be falling apart. We can but go with the wind and hope that, in time it will blow favourably in our direction once more.



# **Book review; Waders of the Indian Subcontinent** by Harkirat Singh Sangha - Rick Simpson

Waders
of the Indian Subcontinent

HARKIRAT SINGH SANGHA



Today we received in the post, a lovely book from Harkarat Singh Sanga, with whom I have corresponded over the last year or so regarding his book Waders of the Indian Subcontinent (cover depicted left).

As Harkirat himself acknowledges, there have been many books written about waders covering the region as part of a greater area, but this is the first time one has been dedicated to the Indian Subcontinent.

Initially it was intended as a field guide of the waders of India, but over the years it has developed into what is more like a handbook in its style, extending its reach beyond India to include; Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean.

Sections at the beginning of the book describe a bit about waders and their identification pitfalls and some hints about how best to overcome them. A section on the topography of waders explaining some of the terminology used throughout the book is made very clear using photos and artwork. Other sections include a history of previous works and books covering the waders of the region, I particularly enjoyed the information about Brian Hodgson who spent over 20 years in Nepal and that most of the waders seen in Nepal were first recorded by him.

There follow sections on Wader migration and habitats in the various countries and regions. These days with waders suffering so much it is also good to see a comprehensive section devoted to the threats posed to waders.

There are plates by Damodar Lal, normally a botanical artist, but most of the plates are of a good quality (below left)

showing the most important field characters, although one or two have been printed well. Accompanying the plates are brief notes about the species depicted pointing out the ID features and differences in plumages.

Following the plates section come the Species Accounts that include a lot of detail about each species, including alternative names and a taxonomy summary. The range of each species is discussed (accompanied by clear well drawn and easy to decipher maps) and makes clear the distribution within the region. If the species is a rarity it gives the records for each part of the region concerned.

In the descriptive notes all plumage characteristics and racial differences are described and information is given on its habits and the species' natural history also giving a summary of the conservation status and population trends.



In the species accounts section there are many wonderful photographs, including some species that are hard to source photographs of, like the Wood Snipe for example.

Overall it is an attractive book, which hopefully will soon be available in the UK. This is a book that has been a long time in the making (first conceived on 2004), but it is, in my opinion, well worth the wait. If you are a wader lover and collector of books on the subject, this one is, in my estimation, definitely worth getting to adorn your shelves; you can never have too much information nor too many images of beautiful waders to look at. I'm sure I will be referring to it time and time again.



# Wader news from around the world - in brief

Russia - In memory of Dr. Evgeny Syroechkovskyi, Representative of the Russian Federation to EAAFP and Chair of Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force (18 May 1968 – 25 January 2022)

It is with deep sadness that the EAAFP Secretariat received the news that Dr. Evgeny Syroechkovskyi, Representative of the Russian Federation to EAAFP and Chair of Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force passed away on 25th January, 2022, after fighting against recent illness.



Evgeny was a passionate and dedicated scientist and conservationist actively promoting the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the Flyway. Russia is a critically important country in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway, supporting the breeding populations of so many migratory waterbirds. Evgeny was unceasing in his efforts to encourage and support international cooperation to save these species throughout their migratory ranges.



Dr. Evgeny Syroechkovskyi - Eugene Cheah/EAAFP

#### Read full EAAFP article

#### Peru - Massive oil spill contaminates beaches and rocky outcrops.

An oil spill north of Lima in Peru, estimated to be 6,000 barrels of crude oil, has wrought devastation to an area that officials say is some 18,000 km², involving 21 beaches.

An oil tanker called Mare Doricum was unloading crude oil for delivery to the La Pampilla finery on the 15th of January when, it is purported, it was hit by unusually high waves. These waves were supposed to have been initiated by the Tongan volcano eruption and the company involved claims there had been no warning of the potential hazard. An investigation is under way.

Whatever the cause an environmental emergency has been declared.

The sandy beaches of that region are potentially inhabited by numerous north American breeding species at this time of year, such as Semipalmated Plovers, Charadrius semipalmatus, Grey Plovers Pluvialis squatarola, Sanderling Calidris alba, and, as the spill is likely to affect seabirds this could potentially impact pelagic species such as Grey Phalaropus fulicaria and Red-necked P. lobatus Phalaropes. There are resident species to consider too including Snowy Plovers Charadrius nivosus and American Oystercatchers Haematopus palliatus. In addition some rocky areas are also affected, which may impact species like Ruddy Turnstone, Arenaria interpres Hudsonian Whimbrel Numenius hudsonicus and Surfbird Calidris virgata as well as the resident Blackish Oystercatchers Haematopus ater. These rock dwelling birds will be affected directly by the oiling hazard and also the ongoing pollution of their food source i.e. crustaceans.



Surfbirds — Elis Simpson

### USA - Piping Plovers Monty and Rose take separate winter holidays.

Following Bob Dolgan's interesting article about Monty and Rose on page 17 of this newsletter we thought it was exciting to note that they have both been located in their separate wintering quarters. As reported in the October edition (V8 Issue 3 in this column) of the Wader Quest newsletter, Monty returned to his wintering area in Texas in August being seen there an incredible two days after leaving Chicago. But Rose's whereabouts at that stage were unknown until, in October, the intrepid Mia Majetschak sailed out to Anclote Key, three miles off the Florida coast, and found her there.

In addition to finding Rose there she also found Nish, one of the offspring of Monty and Rose from 2020 who made history himself last year when he paired with Nellie, a Plover hatched in Pennsylvania, in Ohio which hadn't had a Piping Plover nest in more than 80 years. Surprisingly, also as reported in the October newsletter, on their first attempt at breeding, these birds raised all four of their chicks.



Piping Plover — Elis Simpson

# Wader news from around the world - cont'd

French Polynesia - Introduced predator eradication reaps benefits for endemic birds.

Introduced predators are the scourge of island dwelling endemic species such as the Endangered Tuamotu Sandpiper *Prosobinia* parvirostris.

In 2015, BirdLife, SOP Manu (BirdLife in French Polynesia) and Island Conservation took on the task of restoring habitat and removing introduced species from six islands (Vahanga, Tenania, Temoe, Kamaka, Makaroa and Manui) in French Polynesia with a view to protecting the threatened indigenous and endemic species.

In 2017 they found they had been successful in eradicating these introduced predators from five out of the six islands but it was too early to tell if this would lead to recoveries in the bird populations despite hopeful signs that they would.

In November 2020, SOP Manu and BirdLife returned and were more able to assess the recovery, finding that species such as the Polynesian Ground Dove



Tuamotu Sandpiper — Steve Smith Birding Poole Harbour and Beyond

Gallicolumba erythroptera had recovered very well recovering territory previously lost to them.

Happily the Tuamotu Sandpiper is also making a comeback, albeit at a slower pace than the Polynesian Ground Doves and the Near Threatened Atoll Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus coralensis*, which is now very common, but it is benefitting from the freedom from the attentions of introduced predators.

# Kenya - Influx of Red-necked Phalarope records in Kenya February 2020.

Red-necked Phalaropes *Phalaropus lobatus* are one of those unusual species that fit into two different categories, it is a wader and, outside the breeding season, predominantly a seabird spending its time at sea feeding on the sea's surface. As a result they are not often recorded inland or on the coast of Africa although they do move closer to the coast in late winter. In February 2020 there was a series of closer than usual sightings along the Kenyan coast and in estuaries.

A Rocha investigated this phenomenon where as many as 3,000 were seen in close proximity just 2-3km from the coast on the 9th of February 2020. Later a number of individuals were reported elsewhere.

Normally these birds feed where plankton is at the surface due to upwellings, but, at the time of the mass sighting an Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event was occurring. An IOD is a natural variation in sea temperature when the sea around



Red-necked Phalarope — Julian Bhalerao

the African coast is warmer, and the eastern ocean cooler than usual, often resulting in heavy rain and flooding in Africa and drought in Australia.

When these IOD's happen the upwellings are disrupted and the Phalaropes cannot find food forcing them to move closer to the continent, especially at estuaries, where food is more readily available.

# Wader news from around the world - cont'd

#### China - National wetland parks expanding.

China is demonstrating a new understanding of the need for healthy wetlands.

Wetlands in general, including the vital coastlines for waders, are under increasing pressure and are one of the most threatened environments on earth.

China hosts 10% of the world's wetlands, the fourth largest in the world. With nearly 66 million hectares China is home to 10 percent of the world's wetlands, making their conservation hugely important for birds, both for breeding resident species and for migratory species to feed and rest.

In 2021 China opened 44 new wetland parks bringing the countries total to 899 in addition to the 1,600 wetland parks at provincial, city or county level. All of these have opened since the first was established in 2005, the Xixi Wetland National Park in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province.



Xixi Wetland PArk - Yoshi Canopus CC BY-SA 3.0

The administration seems keen to promote wetlands and applies the same rigorous levels of expected achievement to them as it does to other walks of life, such as industry and science. It decrees that high quality and sustainable development should be applied along with public education about environmental protection.

Chinas first wetland protection law, which aims to strengthen their protection, was passed at a recent session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. It will come into effect on June the 1st 2022.

#### The Americas - Different populations of Hudsonian Whimbrel use different migration strategies.

You would expect, perhaps, that all Hudsonian Whimbrels *Numenius hudsonicus* would have the same migration strategy, since they all breed and migrate within the Americas.

But a recent study published shows that the Hudsonian Whimbrels (simply referred to as Whimbrels *N. phaeopus* in the study) in the population that breeds in the Hudson bay area and the population that breeds in Mackenzie Delta region on the Beaufort Sea coast have adopted very different migration strategies.

34 Hudsonian Whimbrels were fitted with satellite transmitters across the two populations and the results showed that the Mackenzie Delta birds used different routes on their north and south migrations forming a loop migration covering 22,800km On the other hand, the Hudson Bay birds made shorter, linear migrations which utilised one route north and south and only travelled 17,500 km..

Although, for the most part the two populations did not share migration routes (only one staging area on the northward journey was utilised by both populations), their wintering grounds overlapped.

The northward journey was faster in both cases as is often the case with migrant Arctic breeding waders, occasioned by fewer and shorter stop overs and crucially all birds showed a 98% fidelity to the stop over sites, over a number of years. This demonstrates how important the conservation and preservation of these sites are to the survival of migratory birds such as these.

Read the full report with maps here.



Hudsonian Whimbrel — Elis Simpson

# Wader news from around the world - cont'd

# India - Feral dogs and Asian Dowitchers

During his visit to where he often goes to watch and photograph waders, Neel Sureja became aware of two feral dogs. As he observed them they approached the water and then entered, heading straight for the feeding waders. The vast majority of the birds sensed the potential danger these dogs presented. However the Asian Dowitchers remained in the water and continued feeding and, as the dogs approached, showed very little sign of unease.

The dogs approached the feeding birds slowly and Neel feared they would catch one of them. It took a further 15 minutes for the dogs to get very close to the birds and Neel started to take photographs expecting to see the lead dog take a bird. However, at the very last minute the Dowitcher took flight and left the dog frustrated.

Even though, in this case, the birds got away Neel felt that his photos highlighted the menace that feral dogs pose. They are a major threat to native wildlife in India as indeed they are in virtually all parts of the world and a cause for concern when it comes to the protection of native avifauna.



Dowitcher takes flight, leaving the dog frustrated - Neel Sureja

# Waders in poetry - Lóan er komin; Páll Ólafsson

Lóa is the Icelandic name for European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*. Here is a poem that we could easily have included in our book *An Inspiration of Waders* (available in our shop) where we considered the different ways in which wader species have inspired people and human culture through the years; principally in literature, poetry, music, myths and legends. Here is a fine example of this from Iceland by 19th-century poet Páll Ólafsson, perhaps the most famous work the lóa or Golden Plover, has inspired.

Lóan er komin að kveða burt snjóinn kveða burt leiðindin, það getur hún. Hún hefur sagt mér að senn komi spóinn, sólskin í dali og blómstur í tún. Hún hefur sagt mér til syndanna minna, ég sofi of mikið og vinni ekki hót. Hún hefur sagt mér að vaka og vinna vonglaður taka nú sumrinu mót.

The golden plover has arrived to banish the snow To banish the boredom, that it can do. It has told me the whimbrel will arrive soon, sunshine in the valley and blooms in the meadow. It has told me of my sins, I sleep too much and don't do any work. It has told me to wake up and work and full of hope welcome the summer.

In Iceland the return of the Golden Plovers is taken as a sign that spring has sprung. As with so many of our birds that appear in folklore the Golden Plover has a romantic name attached to it in Iceland; "vorboðinn ljúfi" or "sweet spring



European Golden Plover - Phillip Edwards

herald". Traditionally the birds arrive in middle to late of March, the average date being the 23rd. In 2021 the first was on the 28th of March with previous years being; 2020 15th; 2019 28th; 2018 28th; 2017 27th;

In 2021 The Golden Plover was voted Iceland's 'Bird of the Year' beating the Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* into silver medal position and Rock Ptarmigan into bronze. Surely a future candidate for this title has to be the Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* which didn't even make the top ten (see page 12) although the Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* came in at number seven.

# Conservation through art; the story behind the amazing shorebird mural in Guatemala

# - Varinia Sagasume

Varinia Sagastume knew little about shorebirds or waders, until she started to look at them more closely and, as they do with practically everyone who starts to notice them, she became inspired by these amazing birds, learning about how to differentiate between them and discovering their incredible migrations.

She had the opportunity to visit Alaska and her passion grew. Returning to Guatemala, with a colleague she spotted a large empty wall and they imagined what it would look like with a mural on it. But they didn't want just a pretty picture, they wanted to tell a story and reach those for whom reading and writing and book learning were not a reality.

The idea of representing the migration of shorebirds along the Pacific Americas Flyway, of which Guatemala is a part, to inform local people of the importance of the area for migrating birds grew. A team was assembled and one of the most amazing stories in the world, that of bird migration, is now told in one of the most amazing murals in the world.

Read Virinia's story here.



Virinia Sagastume with the finished mural - Jorge Rodriguez

# From the library - Territory in Bird Life; Eliot Howard (1948)

'Again and again, day after day, the Snipe are attacked and driven off in a manner which would be fittingly described as persistent persecution, for the Snipe has neither the physical capacity nor apparently any instinctive tendency to retaliate. Thus a Lapwing may come suddenly upon a small party of Snipe hidden from view in a dyke where they are probing the ground for food; the Snipe immediately rise and fly away and there is a momentary confusion as the Lapwing darts first at this one, then at that; or espying a Snipe at rest on the opposite end of its territory it will first of all run rapidly towards it, and then fly after it, as, with twisting flight, it darts hither and thither a few feet above the ground; or again, it will attack and rapidly pursue solitary individuals as they skim across its territory and attempt to settle. Is this intolerance merely an exuberant expression of an instinct which is serviceable in another direction? The behaviour of the Lapwing justifies such a conclusion, for all its actions denote a striving towards some end which we can describe, and it seems to gain satisfaction only when the ejection of the intruder has been accomplished.'



# Cover photo; Wilson's Phalarope - Rick Simpson



Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (Vieillot, 1819)

Wilson's Phalarope - Bill Bouton

**IUCN Least Consern** 

Alternative names; None found in English, but within its normal range; Dutch, *Grote Franjepoot*; French, *Phalarope de Wilson*; Portuguese, *pisa-n'água*; Spanish, (Argentina, Uruguay) *Falaropo Común*, (Chile) *Pollito de mar tricolor*, (Costa Rica, Panama, Puerto Rico) *Falaropo Tricolor*, (Paraguay) *Falaropo tricolor*, (Peru) *Faláropo Tricolor*, (Ecuador) *Falaropo tricolor* (de Wilson), (Cuba) *Zarapico de Wilson*, (Dominican Republic) *Falaropo de Wilson*, (Mexico, Venezuela) *Falaropo Pico Largo*.

#### Taxonomy; Monotyic.

- Originally named by Gmelin in 1788 as Tringa glacialis.
   Although Linnaeus didn't name the Wilson's Phalarope he did use Tringa for the phalaropes; Tringa fulicarius for Grey Phalaope and Tringa lobata for the Red-necked Phalarope.
- It first received it's species name *tricolor* courtesy of Vieillot in 1819 who also gave it the genus *Steganopus*.
- It was Sabine in 1823 who first placed the species in *Phalaropus*. *Phalaropus* had first been used by Brisson in 1760 for both Grey and Red-necked Phalaropes.
- An attempt to honour Wilson, after whom the species common name is given was made by Sabine in 1823 as *Phalaropus wilsoni*.
- The genus Lobipes, which was first used by Cuvier in 1816, was here used by Jardine and Selby adding incanus as the specific name. in 1825.
- *Phalaropus* was reinstated by Temminck in 1825 adding the specific name *fimbriatus*.
- Vieillot revised his original name to *Phahalropus frontalis* in 1826.
- Cuvier had another go at using *Lobipes frenatus* in 1829.
- In 1831 Wagler stepped in with *Phalaropus stenodactylus*.
- Audubon, was not to be denied his chance to revise things again when in 1839 he revived Cuvier's *lobipes* and Sabine's wilsoni to name the bird.
- Yet another genus reared its head in 1856 when Bonaparte used *Holopodius wilsoni*.



Wilson's Phalarope - Elis Simpson

• Steganopus was resurrected in 1865 courtesy of Coues who continued with the wilsoni species name.

# Cover Photo; Wilson's Phalarope - cont'd



A flock of Wilson's Phalaropes with a Lesser Yellowlegs - Elis Simpson

In 1888 when Seebohm published his The Geographical Distribution of the Family Charadriidae, or, The Plovers, Sandpipers, Snipes and Their Allies he used Phalaropus wilsoni.

Since that time the species name seems to have reverted to tricolor and remained there but there has been some flipflopping, depending upon who you read, of the genus;

Steganopus 1895 - Daniel Giraud Elliot's North American Shorebirds and 1929 Bent's Life Histories of North American Shore Birds.

Phalaropus 1966 - Matthiessen in The Shorebirds of North America. This continued with Johnsgard in 1981 in The Plovers. Sandpipers and Snipes of the World and in the seminal work in - Shorebirds Hayman et al. of 1986.

Steganopus 1996 - Handbook of the Bird of the World Vol III del Hoyo et al. They added the proviso 'commonly placed in genus *Phalaropus* but genetically distinct; apparently quite close to *Tringa*.'

Phalaropus 2009 - Chandler 2009 shorebirds of North America.

There is still not consensus about the scientific name of this species. BirdLife international in its Datazone lists it a Steganopus, whereas the BTO, eBird and Cornell have it as Phalaropus.

#### **Details:**

The English name was given in honour of Alexander Wilson, (1766-1813) an American ornithologist. Before his time there were few English names for species, the naming of such things being mainly restricted to scientists and ornithologists who of course only used scientific nomenclature. What the settlers called them from their arrival in the late 17th century does not seem to be recorded.

First record of Wilson's Phalarope for Britain was in 1954 Rosyth in Fife Acotland, found on the 11th September. It was last seen on 5th October and, during its stay of three and a half weeks, was watched by at least 60 different people.

Prior to this three specimens have been reported as stuffed birds, but in none of them was the provenance proven. It has been fairly regularly seen since then with over 200 records and the BTO state that there are on average perhaps four records a year.

Phalaropes are known for their sex role reversal in their breeding habits and also for being largely pelagic outside the breeding season. This species however is not pelagic and can often be found in large flocks inland especially on saline lakes. They are not restricted to the lowlands either as we saw one (photograph right), at Laguna Chaxa an altiplano lagoon at 12,300m altitiude.

It also is not an Arctic breeder as the other Wilson's Phalarope - Elis Simpson



# Cover Photo; Wilson's Phalarope - cont'd

two species are, but can be found during the breeding season often with several breeding in an small area in the interior of southwestern Canada and the USA on Marshy wetlands in the prairies.



Wilson's Phalarope demonstrating it is equally at home on mud as it is the water - Elis Simpson



Wilson's Phalarope - Elis Simpson

# Help Alvaro Jaramillo raise money for Wilson's Phalarope study

During their incredible migrations, phalaropes depend upon saline lakes, one of the most threatened ecosystems on Earth due to water diversion and climate change.

Because very little is known about phalaropes, Oikonos has teamed up with partners across North and South America to coordinate comprehensive surveys, track their long migrations, and take actions.

Both the Wilson's *Phalaropus tricolor* and Red-necked Phalaropes *P. lobatus* use salt lakes in their migration in the Western United States, and for the Wilson's also in the non-breeding distribution. This unique habitat and details of phalarope ecology are very unclear, including reliable numbers on



Red-necked Phalarope - Alvaro Jaramillo

Alvaro in action

how many there are, how long they stop at lakes, and how much interchange there is between lakes. Some of these details are vital to learn now, as some of these shallow lakes are drying due to climatic change!

For more information and to donate.



Wilson's Phalaropes - Walter E. Cejas.

# Wilson's Phalarope artwork by Szabolcs Kókay for sale - £95.00 (30% donation to Wader Quest)



Female Wilson's Phalaropes are truly beautiful birds, here one is depicted by Hungarian artist Szabolcs Kókay.

This original artwork is available through Wader Quest.

For each of Szabolc's paintings sold through Wader Quest we will receive a donation (30% of the value) from the artist.

The price includes post and packing.

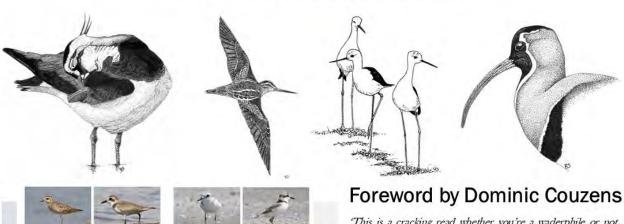
To see this and many more of Szabolc's originals for sale through Wader Quest go to his <u>artwork page in our shop.</u>

(Size 14 x 26 cm.)

# 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.







'This is a cracking read whether you're a waderphile or not. Ticking, dipping, ducking, diving, it's all here as Rick and Elis go through their version of a mid-life crisis to set up Wader Quest. A must-read for all birders.'

- Iolo Williams: Naturalist and  $T.\,V.$  presenter.

Rick and Elis' enthusiasm ripples through this book, what they have achieved, bringing waders to the forefront of peoples minds alongside their conservation is second to none. A brilliant read which, like their beloved waders, will have you probing deeper into this amazing family.'

 - Tim Appleton MBE: Founder of Birdfair Rutland Water and Creator of Rutland Water Nature Reserve.

I was hooked by the prologue. The tragedy of extinction was brought home to me on seeing, in Morocco in 1990, three of the last few slender-billed curlews to exist. Thanks to the commitment of conservation organisations from around the world and support of people like Rick and Elis the spoon-billed sandpiper has a fighting chance of making it.'

- Debbie Pain: Conservationist and scientist.

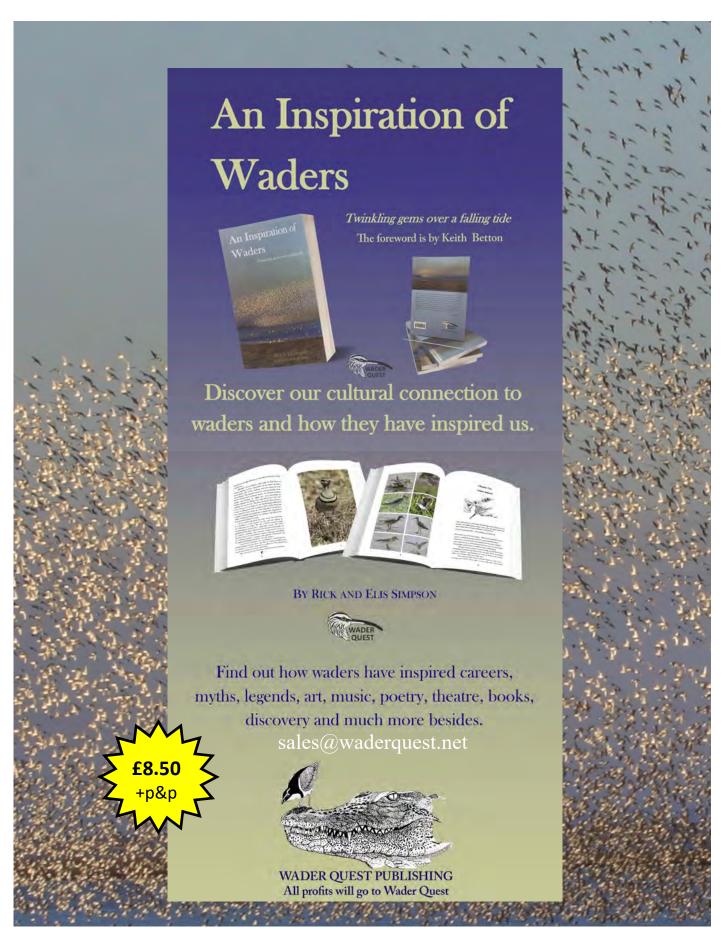
'Waders are one of the most threatened groups of birds, with several species on the brink of extinction and many more suffering serious declines. This makes Rick and Elis Simpson's Wader Quest – a charity dedicated to protecting waders and highlighting their plight – important and necessary. This fascinating book tells the story of how the organisation grew from their quest to see all the world's waders, before it was too late.'

- Rebecca Armstrong: Editor of Birdwatch magazine.

orders - sales@waderquest.net

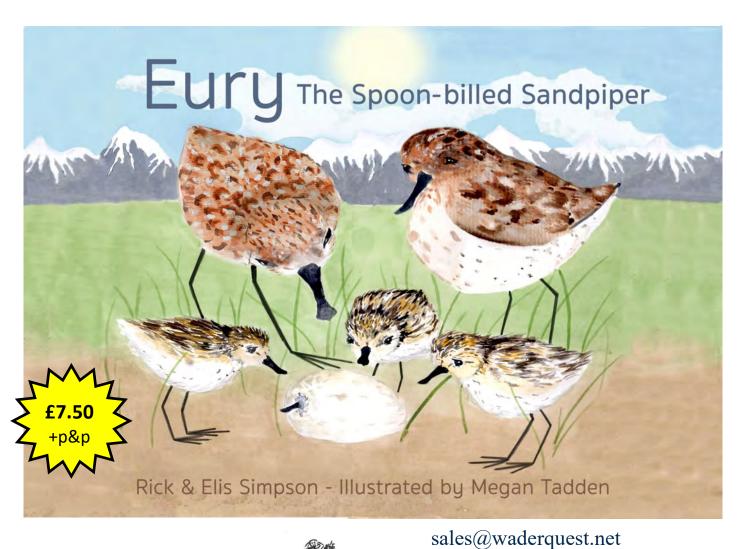
'Breathtakingly excellent - like a birding Michael Palin. The photographs and drawings are fantastic, and the text is fast-moving and endlessly entertaining and amusing.' Jim Wright.

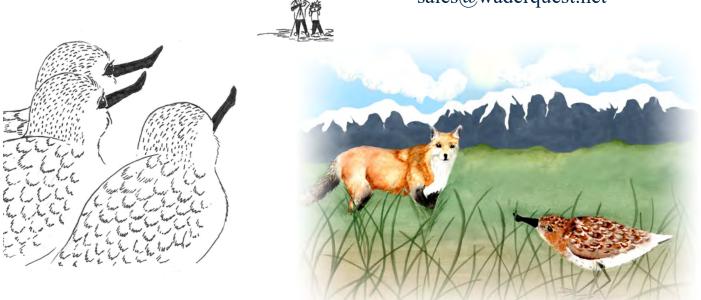
An Inspiration of Waders - A Wader Quest Publishing book By Rick and Elis Simpson



# **Eury The Spoon-billed Sandpiper**

A Wader Quest Publishing book By Rick and Elis Simpson
Children 6 -11 years





# **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



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- 25. Banded Stilt
- 26. Sociable lapwing
- 27. Collared Pratincole



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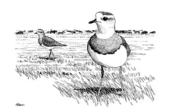
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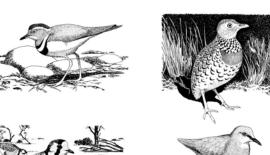


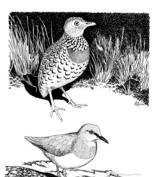




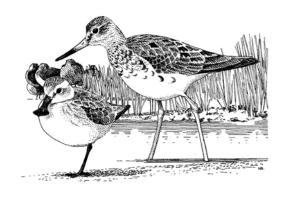








# sales@waderquest.net











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.

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



Eurasian Oystercatchers © Julia Page



Common Snipe © Julia Page



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



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

# Designs by Julia Page

sales@waderquest.net

# Guidelines for applications for Wader Quest grants

### Projects should ideally be directed to one or more of the following funding priorities:

- · Investigating the status of Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near-threatened wader species
- · Attempting to further the knowledge of current Important Bird Areas (IBAs) of significant importance to waders, through breeding surveys and conducting systematic counts
- · Investigating potential new IBAs or ornithologically little known areas for waders
- · Conducting ecological studies of little-known wader species

£1.316.33

£1,199.38

· Educational programmes, especially aimed at school children and youth to conserve and protect waders and their habitat

#### Priority will be given to projects:

Total Raised for Spoon-billed Sandpipers: £3,526,06

Total Raised for Hooded Plovers:

Appeals total: £6,041.77

Total raised for Magellanic Plover Fund:

- · 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 com-
- · Providing an improvement in the understand of the conservation needs of a under studied wader species through research The Wader Quest Grants Committee decision will be final and, unless initiated by Wader Quest, no further correspondence will be entered into regarding the decision.

Download Application form here and send to applications@waderquest.net

# Total funds raised and donated since 12/09/2012 (Includes reserve funds in hand) £36,952.03

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)  $04/10/2017: £582.02 - Donated to Humber Ringing Group for 'Phutt' net development. \\ 01/05/2018: £1,000.00 - Donated to the world's largest bird table - emergency food aid for the Endangered Great Knot for the Enda$ 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 Peruíbe to purchase signs prohibiting dogs and cars from the beach in Peruíbe, 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 Khazakhstan. 30/01/2022 £185.00 (US\$250.00) – Donated to Alvaro Jaramillo for his 'Big Walk' to raise money to study Phalaropes and salt lakes in the Americas.

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 10×50 Discovery binoculars for monitoring human disturbance on South African beaches sent to Nature's Valley Trust, Western Cape, 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 Charadriiforms project along the Brazilian coast. 01/05/2018: £1,000.00 (£1111.80) 5th Anniversary Grant; Conservation of Waders in the Ciénaga de San Juan de los Cayos, Venezuela (additional donation from Opticron of £500 optics). 26/04/2019: £1,296.00 Geolocators (Light level recorders); Icelandic breeding Purple Sandpipers, Highland Ringing Group/Research Centre for Environmental Science, Raufarhöfn, Melrakkaslétta, Icelandi.

16/07/2019: £1,000.00 to the Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation, Nepal for studying of Wood Snipe in the Himalayas. 15/09/2019: £132.00 to Wirral Wader Festival for leaflets.

25/11/2019: £1,000.00 6th Anniversary Grant; Shorebirds Peninsular Malaysia Project, Nature Camp Programme, Teluk Air Tawar – Kuala Muda, Malaysia.

15/01/2020: £158.40 Opticron car window mount and Velbon Tripod, to study WHSRN sites for Snowy and Wilson's Plovers – Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research 28/02/2020: £703.74 – Kowa Scope and Velbon tripod sent to Élvonal Shorebird Science for use by field operatives in Eastern Europe – Debrecen University, Hungary.

26/01/2021: £513.17 – Vortex telescope, 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 Peruíbe, São Paulo, Brazil. 19/03/2021: £1,500 – Electric fencing to protect Eurasian Curlew nests – Shropshire Ornithological Society 'Save our Curlews'.

19/03/2021: £1,790 – Opticron telescope and binoculars, Velbon tripod and cages to protect ground nesting species – Élvonal Shorebird Science Turov Meadow project, Belarus.

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

10/12/21: £950.00 - Opticron telescope and binoculars - Save Shoebill Conservation Project (SSCP)

Total disbursements from Grants Fund: £13,818.10