



WADER QUEST

THE NEWSLETTER Volume 9; Issue 2: Summer 2022



Bristle-thighed Curlew *Numenius tahitiensis* - George Armistead

Inside this issue

2: Wader Quest information.

3-6: Wader Quest news.

7-13: Wader Quest Brasil news.

14-16 Global Birdfair summary.

17: Wing Threads update.

18-19: Road construction disturbance to nesting Little Ringed Plovers.

19: Photo essay: The case for protecting Schaste Bay, Russia.

20: Book review: A Quest for Waders.

21: Shorebird Northward Migration Through Bohai Bay, China, April – June 2022.

Meet the man guarding endangered New Zealand

Dotterels - A video link.

From the library.

22: News from Margarita Island, Venezuela.

23-25: The Sands Of Change: Series 2 Episode 11

26-29: Wader news from around the world - in brief.

30-34: Cover picture Bristle-thighed Curlew.

34: The Wader Guru.

35: Birds in art - Trudi Clarke.

36-42: Wader Quest shop.

43: Guidelines for applications for Wader Quest grants & disbursements made.



THE NATURAL HOME FOR WADER LOVERS

Email: info@waderquest.net
Website: www.waderquest.net
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/waderquest>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WaderQuest?fref=ts>
Instagram: [@wader_quest](https://www.instagram.com/wader_quest)
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/wader-quest-b6a968101/>

Registered Charity England and Wales; 1193674

Board of Trustees:

Rick Simpson (Chair)
Phil Hadley (Secretary)
Elizabeth Anderson (Charity Liaison)
Ray Heaton (Grants Chair)
Elis Simpson
John Beaumont

Executive Committee:

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

Grants Panel:

Rob Clay
Jannik Hansen
Ray Heaton (Chair)
Andrew MacGarvey
Rick Simpson

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

Next meeting:

Trustees: 11th September 2022

Exec. Comm: 10th October 2022

AGM: 23rd October 2022

Friends of Wader Quest fees:

Individual £10.00
Family £15.00
Life £200.00

Sponsorship fees:

Club £20.00
Corporate £50.00

General enquiries:

info@waderquest.net

Wader Conservation World Watch enquiries:

wcww@waderquest.net

Grant applications and information:

applications@waderquest.net

Merchandising enquiries:

sales@waderquest.net

Membership enquiries:

membership@waderquest.net

Wader Quest's aims

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

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

Our mission:

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

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

Wader Quest is an entirely voluntary organisation.

CORPORATE AND CLUB SPONSORS



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

Please seek permission from the copyright owner before using them.

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

Edited by Rick Simpson

Wader Quest news

Trustee updates and news

No comings or goings to report but a Trustee meeting was held on the 11th of July.

Executive Committee updates and news

No personnel changes have taken place and a lively and successful meeting was held on the 8th of August. We are also very pleased to welcome Sophie Ellis who has agreed to step in to help with creating blog content for the website in a non-ExCo. role. We look forward to reading more of her ideas about waders in the future.

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

The Wader Quest Grants Panel, has reviewed a number of requests for funding, encouragingly from overseas, for local community projects in important habitats.

Some applications do not fit the strict criteria we have on use of our funds and on reporting back to us on the success or problems they encounter in their work on the projects. Where applicants follow our guidance and set criteria we are often able to make further grants to the same or an evolving project.

We consider all applications and we are open to looking at projects that have a future start date as well as ones that are already in progress but looking for funding.

Events planned:

Our annual visit to Martin Mere will be happening this year on the 15th and 16th of October, we hope to see many of our old friends from the region at this wonderful and friendly event.

Of course we will also be holding our annual Wader Conservation World Watch event which will take place on the 5th and 6th of November. We hope to be able to surpass last year's totals and have many more participants.

Events attended:

Global Birdfair 15th to 17th July 2022. See full report on page 14

Talks:

Since the last newsletter Rick and Elis have carried out 8 talks (2 of which were via Zoom) to clubs and societies with a combined audience of around 200 people. The income from those talks came to £888.68. This includes 8 sign-ups as Friends of Wader Quest, one of which was a Club Sponsor and another a Life Friend. Also, at the Global Birdfair, a talk was given on both Saturday and Sunday (same talk 'Wader Passion - 10 years of caring') over the two days around 110 people attended the talks.

Live/Zoom	Date	Group	Talk title
2022			
Live (14.00)	27/09/2022	Gravesend RSPB local group (3rd visit)	A Quest for Waders - Wader Quest on Safari
Live (19.30)	01/10/2022	Gwent Ornithological Society	Wader Quest - Ten years of supporting shorebird conservation
Live (19.45)	06/10/2022	Oxford RSPB local group	Wader Quest - Ten years of supporting shorebird conservation
Live (19.30)	21/11/2022	Aylesbury RSPB local group	Wader Quest - Ten years of supporting shorebird conservation
Live (19.30)	01/12/2022	Swillington Ings Bird Group	Wader Quest - Ten years of supporting shorebird conservation
Live (19.30)	05/12/2022	Blackburn Bird Club	Wader Quest - Ten years of supporting shorebird conservation
2023			
Live (19.45)	13/01/2023	Bexley RSPB local group (2nd visit)	Confessions of a Bird Guide
Live (19.30)	23/01/2023	The Preston Society	Wader Quest - Ten years of supporting shorebird conservation
Live (19.45)	14/02/2023	Wigan RSPB local group (4th visit)	A Quest for Waders - Wader Quest on Safari
Live (19.30)	23/02/2023	North East Norfolk Bird Club	Wader Quest - Ten years of supporting shorebird conservation
Live (19.30)	06/04/2023	Wirral RSPB local group	Wader Quest - Ten years of supporting shorebird conservation
Live (19.30)	11/04/2023	Shoreham Dist. Ornithological Society	Wader Quest - Ten years of supporting shorebird conservation
Live (19.30)	19/04/2023	Tonbridge RSPB local group (6th visit)	A Quest for Waders - Wader Quest on Safari
Live (19.45)	21/04/2023	Southport RSPB local group (6th visit)	A Quest for Waders - Wader Quest on Safari
Live (19.30)	16/06/2022	Potters Bar & Barnet RSPB l.g.(5th visit)	Marathons, slides and leapfrogs – A Fascinating Diversity of Wader Migration strategies

Wader Conservation World Watch 9

**November
5th &/or 6th
2022**

**Wherever you happen
to be in the world.**

[Click here for details of how to take part.](#)

Opticron

COMPETITION

Our friends at Opticron have announced in their [latest newsletter](#), a competition to win one of six copies of

A Quest for Waders by Rick and Elis Simpson



All you have to do is identify the wader above from the four options given.

[Click here to enter the competition](#)

Wader Quest news - cont'd

ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL ARTISTS

ASSOCIATION OF  ANIMAL ARTISTS

Charity Art Auction

Proudly raising funds for



WADER QUEST

Follow our socials or sign up to our mailing list to bid on some amazing original artwork from our members!

Bidding opens on the 15th August!



www.associationofanimalartists.com

Avocet by Karen Bruce [Lot 14] see all entries here; [Auction 15th - 31st August](#)

The AAA are currently preparing for their next stage of fundraising for Wader Quest as we are their nominated charity for 2022.

This next part involves a charity auction of postcard artworks that have been done by members of the association. The proceeds from this auction will be added to the donations from the earlier exhibition, and the next to occur later in the year, at the year's end. Liselle-Fae Jackson, AAA Chairperson writes:

'We've had lots of lovely donations from our members, featuring all kinds of wading birds, and are primed to launch the auction on the 15th August; it will run until the 31st August.

We run our annual charity postcard auction over on [Jumblebee](#); the links to the auction page will be posted on the AAA's [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages, and also sent out in an email to our mailing list subscribers too. We have had 20+ pieces of 6x4" original art created and donated by our members, featuring a plethora of wading birds depicted in all kinds of styles and art mediums. All proceeds from the auction are added to the total raised through exhibition sales and donated to Wader Quest our chosen charity for 2022 at the end of the year. We'll be promoting it through our social media, and linking up with Wader Quests' social media too; it would be great if you could share some of the posts to reach a wider audience.

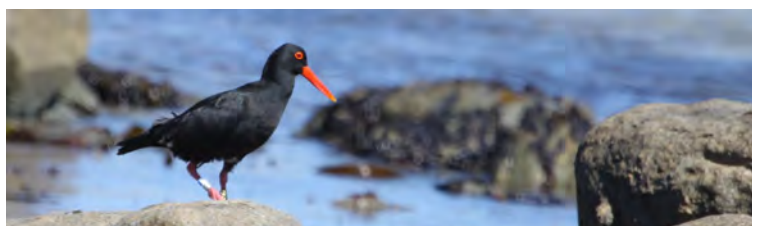
There will another exhibition if you missed the last one at Granary Art Gallery, [Weston Park](#), [Weston-under-Lizard](#), [Shifnal](#), [TF11 8LE](#) - 29th October - 30th November



Wader Quest South Africa news



No news from South Africa this issue but the team is hoping to visit the Overberg region of South Africa, east of Cape Town in early September. The focus on the trip will be to get any updates on the Fynbos Buttonquail *Turnix hottentotus* monitoring project, but I dare say they'll take the chance to look at the glorious African Oystercatchers *Haematopus moquini* whilst they are there.



African Oystercatchers - Elis Simpson



Wader Quest Brasil news

- Karina Ávila and Bruno Lima



Peruíbe celebra o Dia Municipal das Aves Limícolas.

Uma pequena cidade no litoral sul do Estado de São Paulo se tornou conhecida por ser a primeira cidade do Brasil a decretar um 'Dia Municipal das Aves Limícolas'. A data faz parte de um Projeto de Lei que foi criado pela Wader Quest Brasil, Projeto Aves Limícolas e o Conselho de Bem Estar e Proteção Animal de Peruíbe.

O Projeto de Lei, intitulado 'Lei de Recepção e Boas Vindas às Aves Limícolas' foi criado para estimular festivais de aves e eventos educativos durante o período em que as aves limícolas migratórias neárticas se encontram no município (setembro a maio). A ideia principal é aproximar pessoas e aves limícolas e ressaltar que elas podem conviver juntas nas praias.

Para celebrar, realizamos uma tenda de educação ambiental na região com maior movimentação de pessoas do município e ali explicamos sobre as aves que frequentam a região, os perigos que elas enfrentam e como nossa atuação local tem tornado as praias do município mais seguras para as aves.

Cães na praia são um dos maiores problemas que as

Peruíbe celebrates Municipal Wader Day.

A small town on the southern coast of the State of São Paulo became known for being the first city in Brazil to declare a 'Municipal Day of Wading Birds'. The date is part of a Bill that was created by Wader Quest Brasil, Projeto Aves Limícolas and the Council for Animal Welfare and Protection of Peruíbe.

The Bill, entitled 'Law of Reception and Welcome to Wading Birds' was created to encourage bird festivals and educational events during the period when Nearctic migratory shorebirds are in the municipality (September to May). The main idea is to bring people and shorebirds together and emphasize that they can live together on the beaches.

To celebrate, we held an environmental education tent in the region with the greatest movement of people in the municipality and there we explained about the birds that frequent the region, the dangers they face and how our local action has made the beaches of the municipality safer for birds.

Dogs on the beach are one of the biggest problems



Bruno Lima e Karina Ávila com a barraca de educação ambiental em Peruíbe — Karina Ávila

Bruno Lima and Karina Ávila with the environmental education tent in Peruíbe — Karina Ávila



Karina conversando com o público — Karina Ávila

Karina talking to members of the public — Karina Ávila



Wader Quest Brasil news - cont'd



aves encontram no litoral do Brasil, por isso a Wader Quest Brasil e Projeto Aves Limícolas fizeram uma parceria com o Centro de Controle de Zoonoses e com a inestimável ajuda dos protetores locais como a 'Ludicão Bem Estar'. Durante o evento, fizemos uma feira de adoção de animais, onde conseguimos dar um novo lar a três cãesinhos, que de outra forma estariam na praia.

O evento contou com a cobertura da tv local e o apoio de observadores de aves, ambientalistas, moradores e turistas.

that birds encounter on the coast of Brazil, so Wader Quest Brasil and Projeto Aves Limícolas have partnered with the Zoonosis Control Centre and with the invaluable help of local protectors such as 'Ludicão Bem Estar'. During the event, we held an animal adoption fair, where we managed to give a new home to three puppies, who would otherwise be on the beach.

The event was covered by local TV and was supported by bird watchers, environmentalists, residents and tourists.



Filhotes para adoção — Karina Ávila

Puppies up for adoption — Karina Ávila

'1 Festival das Aves Migratórias na Ilha Comprida'

Após o evento do Peruíbe fomos 100 quilômetros para o sul, até o município de Ilha Comprida, participar do '1 Festival de Aves Migratórias da Ilha Comprida', o qual, junto do clube de observadores de aves local, ajudamos a organizar. Visitamos escolas, grupos de escoteiros e fizemos saídas de campo com

'The 1st Migratory Bird Day on Ilha Comprida (Long Island).'

After the Peruíbe event, we travelled 100 kilometres to the south, to the municipality of Ilha Comprida, to participate in the '1st Migratory Bird Day on Ilha Comprida', which, together with the local birdwatchers club, we helped to organise. We visited schools, scout groups and went on field



Passaporte das Aves Ilha Comprida — Karina Ávila

Bird Passport for Ilha Comprida — Karina Ávila



Wader Quest Brasil news - cont'd



os jovens, que puderam conhecer mais sobre as aves limícolas e nossa atuação para protegê-las no Brasil. Durante o evento, foi lançado o 'Passaporte das Aves', um didático material de educação ambiental com dados sobre as aves da Ilha Comprida e informações sobre as aves limícolas e atuação da Wader Quest Brasil e Projeto Aves Limícolas na região. O Festival terminou com música de artistas locais ressaltando a natureza.

trips with young people, who were able to learn more about shorebirds and our work to protect them in Brazil. During the event, the 'Bird Passport' was launched, didactic environmental education material with data about the birds of Ilha Comprida and information on waders and the actions of Wader Quest Brasil and Projeto Aves Limícolas in the region. The Festival ended with music by local artists highlighting nature.



Bruno explicando como funcionam os binóculos — Karina Ávila

Bruno explaining how binoculars work — Karina Ávila



Visita escolar / School visit — Karina Ávila



Um passeio com os escoteiros / An outing with the scouts — Karina Ávila



Wader Quest Brasil news - cont'd



Red Knot, de volta à natureza

O forte vento norte fazia ondular o capim e empurrava pequenas ondas de areia contra nós, que pedalávamos de volta para casa após uma manhã de buscas infrutíferas nas praias do litoral sul do Estado de São Paulo. Havíamos sido informados por observadores de aves locais que alguns Red Knots *Calidris canutus* debilitados tinham sido avistados nas praias da região. Sabíamos que o vento norte era um agravante na dura jornada que esses bravos viajantes enfrentam todos os anos de volta à América do Norte, e que eles preferiam esperar nas praias uma mudança favorável nos ventos. Estávamos atentos, pois a bióloga Patrícia Gonzalez, da Argentina, havia informado que um grupo de Red Knots estava com a migração atrasada, tendo permanecido na Argentina quando a maior parte da população já havia partido. Exaustos, cobertos de areia e com o vento uivando em nossos ouvidos, mal pudemos escutar uma chamada telefônica.

‘Estamos com um Red Knot! Estamos com um Red Knot!’ – foi o que conseguimos escutar da bióloga do Instituto Gremar.

Red Knot, returned to nature

The strong north wind rippled the grass and pushed small waves of sand against us, as we pedalled back home after a morning of fruitless searching on the beaches of the south coast of the State of São Paulo. We had been told by local bird watchers that some weakened Red Knots *Calidris canutus* had been spotted on the beaches in the area. We knew that the north wind was an aggravating factor in the hard journey these brave travellers face each year back to North America, and that they preferred to wait on the beaches for a favourable change in the winds. We were attentive, as biologist Patrícia Gonzalez, from Argentina, had reported that a group of Red Knots had delayed migration, having remained in Argentina when most of the population had already left. Exhausted, covered in sand and with the wind howling in our ears, we could barely hear the phone call we received.

‘We have a Red Knot! We have a Red Knot!’ – that's what we were able to hear from the biologist at the Gremar Institute.

The Gremar Institute monitors the beaches of the



O primeiro Red Knot no Instituto Gremar— Karina Ávila

The first Red Knot at the Gremar Institute — Karina Ávila

O Instituto Gremar realiza o monitoramento das praias da Baía de Santos, resgatando os animais debilitados para receberem tratamento e, quando possível, devolvidos à natureza. O Red Knot havia sido recolhido pela equipe de campo e enviado ao Centro de Reabilitação e Despetrolização de Animais Marinhos.

Tomados pela emoção e diante das péssimas condições de clima, só pudemos pedir que colocassem um espelho junto à ave para que ela não se sentisse tão só - sendo uma espécie gregária - e que entraríamos em contato assim que saíssemos da “tempestade de areia”.

Santos Basin, rescuing weakened animals for treatment and, when possible, returning them to the wild. The Red Knot had been picked up by the field team and sent to the Marine Animal Rehabilitation and De-oiling Centre.

Taken by emotion, and in view of the bad weather conditions, we could only ask them to put a mirror next to the bird so that it would not feel so alone - being a gregarious species - and that we would get in touch as soon as we left the “sand storm”.

It didn't take long before we got another call. Again, between gusts of wind, we heard:



Dois nós vermelhos com espelhos para companhia — Karina Ávila

Two Red Knots with with mirrors for company — Karina Ávila

Não tardou muito tempo, e recebemos uma nova chamada. Novamente, entre rajadas de vento, escutamos:

‘O espelho funcionou...a ave está ativa...o espelho funcionou...até que recebemos outro Red Knot!’

Dois Red Knots! Você pode imaginar como estávamos exaltados, pois as populações de Red Knot da subespécie *Calidris canutus rufa* estão em acelerado declínio. De fato, no Brasil é considerada Critically Endangered. Desse modo, cada indivíduo conta. Não podíamos deixar esses dois Red Knots morrerem.

Os dias que se seguiram foram de muita preocupação e muitas ligações para o Instituto Gremar, e a equipe da Wader Quest Brasil e Projeto Aves Limícolas foi chamada a dar uma palestra sobre a espécie para os veterinários e biólogos do instituto, pois não era nada comum que eles tivessem contato com Red Knot.

A causa maior de nossa insônia é que nenhuma das aves estava se alimentando. Entramos então em contato com Patrícia Gonzalez, que por sua vez contactou a diversos pesquisadores de outros países, como Holanda e Estados Unidos. Também contamos com os conselhos do ornitólogo e veterinário Pedro Lima, que havia trabalhado com essa espécie no Sul do Brasil. Espalhamos pedidos de ajuda em inglês, espanhol e português. Não sabíamos se as aves não estavam comendo por estarem em período migratório – e portanto com o estômago reduzido – ou se haviam ingerido substâncias como algas tóxicas no Sul da América do Sul.

Foram feitos exames e para nosso alívio, foi comprovado que as aves não estavam intoxicadas. Juntamos todas as informações disponíveis sobre Red Knot em cativeiro e oferecemos todo o tipo de alimento existente na literatura: de pão com ervas a vôngole, camarões, ovas de peixe, ração para truta, mexilhão, artemia, meal worms entre outros.

Para garantir uma maior chance de sobrevivência na soltura, foram feitas diversas estratégias para ofertar alimento vivo para as aves, estimulando que elas se

‘The mirror worked...the bird is active...the mirror worked...and we’ve even got another Red Knot!’

Two Red Knots! You can imagine how excited we were, as Red Knot populations of the subspecies *Calidris canutus rufa* are in rapid decline. In fact, in Brazil it is considered Critically Endangered. In this way, each individual counts. We couldn't let these two Red Knots die.

The days that followed were of great concern involving many calls to the Gremar Institute, and the team from Wader Quest Brasil and Projeto Aves Limícolas was asked to give a lecture on the species to the institute's veterinarians and biologists, as it was not at all common for them to have contact with Red Knots.

The biggest cause of our insomnia is that none of the birds were eating. We then got in touch with Patrícia Gonzalez, who in turn contacted several researchers from other countries, such as the Netherlands and the United States. We also had the advice of the ornithologist and veterinarian Pedro Lima, who had worked with this species in southern Brazil. We spread requests for help in English, Spanish and Portuguese. We did not know if the birds were not eating because they were migrating – and therefore with a reduced stomach – or if they had ingested substances such as toxic algae in the south of South America.

Tests were carried out and to our relief, it was proved that the birds were not carrying toxins. We gathered all the available information about Red Knots in captivity and offered all types of food found in the literature: from bread with herbs to clams, shrimp, fish roe, food for trout, mussels, brine shrimp and meal worms, among others.

To ensure a greater chance of survival on release, several strategies were developed to offer live food to the birds, encouraging them to feed on their own, in the same way they would in the wild. Then one cold afternoon we got a call:

‘The birds are eating live brine shrimp by themselves!’

A daily routine of physical therapy exercises for



Wader Quest Brasil news - cont'd



alimentassem sozinhas, da mesma maneira que na natureza. Então, numa tarde fria recebemos uma chamada: - As aves estão comendo artemia viva, por si só!

Iniciou-se então uma rotina diária de exercícios de fisioterapia para fortalecimento muscular, suplementação vitamínica e alimentação balanceada. Com o passar dos dias, as duas aves começaram a se sentir muito confortáveis na companhia uma da outra, vocalizando entre elas, comendo e dormindo juntas. Passaram ainda por uma bateria de exames clínicos e biometria.

Durante todo o processo de reabilitação, ajudamos ativamente o Instituto Gremer, que estava bastante agradecido pela ajuda e informações que fornecíamos.

As aves estavam bem, mas então começaram a perder peso. Não lhes faltava alimento, então provavelmente estavam perdendo massa muscular, o que é bastante claro, pois são aves nascidas para voar bastante. Além disso, em suas tentativas de voo dentro do recinto, as aves estavam começando a machucar a ponta das asas. Ficou claro para nós que se aproximava o momento de os Red Knot serem soltos.

muscle strengthening, vitamin supplementation and balanced diet began. As the days passed, the two birds began to feel very comfortable in each other's company, vocalizing between themselves, eating and sleeping together. They also underwent a battery of clinical exams and biometrics.

Throughout the rehabilitation process, we actively supported the Gremer Institute, who were very grateful for the help and information we provided.

The birds were fine, but then they started to lose weight. They didn't lack for food, so they were probably losing muscle mass, which is pretty clear as they're birds born to fly a lot. Also, in their attempts to fly inside the enclosure, the birds were starting to hurt their wing tips. It was clear to us that the time for the Red Knots to be released was approaching.

As it is an endangered species in Brazil, the team from the Gremer Institute chose to perform a sexing test (DNA) to expand the collection of data on individuals. From the blood samples sent to a specialized laboratory, a PCR (Polymer Chain Reaction) test was carried out and to everyone's total joy, it was discovered that they were a couple, a female and



Praia de Itaguaré, local de soltura proposto— Karina Ávila

Itaguaré beach, the proposed release site — Karina Ávila

Por se tratar de uma espécie ameaçada no Brasil, a equipe do Instituto Gremer optou por realizar um teste de sexagem (DNA), para ampliar a coleta de dados sobre os indivíduos. A partir das amostras de sangue enviadas para laboratório especializado, foi realizado um exame de PCR (Reação em Cadeia da Polímeros) e para total alegria de todos, descobriu-se que se tratava-se de um casal, uma fêmea e um macho!

O dia e local da soltura foram exaustivamente estudados. Teria que ser um dia sem vento norte, sem chuva

a male!

The day and place of release were exhaustively researched. It would have to be a day with no north wind, no rain and in a safe place. The place chosen was Praia do Itaguaré, in the municipality of Bertioga, a place of refuge for coastal birds, with little presence of dogs and no night time artificial lighting.

On June 10th, we were at the release site, our eyes fixed on the open door of the shipping crate. One of them got out first and immediately began to feed on small animals



Wader Quest Brasil news - cont'd



e em um local seguro. O local escolhido foi a Praia do Itaguaré, no município de Bertioga, um local de refúgio de aves costeiras, com pouca presença de cães e sem iluminação noturna.

No dia 10 de junho, estávamos no local da soltura, os olhos fixos na porta aberta da caixa de transporte. Um deles saiu primeiro e imediatamente começou a se alimentar de pequenos animais que encontrou na areia. O outro saiu em seguida, e juntos voaram para o norte! Alguns dias depois a equipe do Instituto Gremar os registrou alimentando-se em uma praia a poucos quilômetros do local de soltura. Estavam espertos e saudáveis.

Esperamos que assim continuem e que prossigam em sua longa migração para procriar no alto ártico, a fim de garantir a perpetuação da espécie.

it found in the sand. The other left then, and together they flew north! A few days later, the team from the Gremar Institute recorded them feeding on a beach a few kilometres from the release site. They were smart and healthy.



Um dos bRed Knots lançados, de volta onde deveria estar — Karina Ávila

One of the released Red Knots, back where it should be — Karina Ávila

Global Birdfair 2022 - Rick Simpson

Somehow, I had contrived to be working on the day we were due to go to Rutland to set up the Wader Quest stand for the Global Birdfair. As this was a new event we were not sure exactly what to expect. As a result of my double booking myself we arrived late in the afternoon, but still had time to set up the stand despite having to work from scratch.

Fortunately, to one side we had our old friend Manoj Vardhan of VIGT India, he had been our neighbour in the old incarnation of the Birdfair, so having a familiar, friendly and ever helpful neighbour to turn to was a blessing.

Despite the stand not quite being what I had expected (my fault again, not theirs) we soon had a plan in place, covers on the tables and the posters attached to the trellising. The rest we would have to complete in the morning.

The regular B&B was still up and running in Empingham, run by John and Anne, who have become firm friends over the years. This B&B is shared with another friend Peter, who is also a fixture during Birdfair. Peter has some amazing ideas about attaching mini cameras of tags to perhaps help with identifying the culprits on illegal raptor killing.

So the Friday morning dawned, we ate an early breakfast and headed for the showground. Access was easy and swift and parking near to the marquee (Robin - stand 15). We soon had all our wares set up on the ample table space we had arranged.



The Wader Quest stand in Robin marquee 2022 Global Birdfair - Elis Simpson

We didn't have a talk on the first day of the Birdfair so Elis and I stayed on the stand all day, except for comfort breaks of course. Unlike previous years the attendance at the stand wasn't the boom and bust affair of the past, being overwhelmed one minute and twiddling our thumbs the next. There was a steady and easily manageable flow of people almost constantly making the whole day much less frenetic and tiring, we being able to remain seated most of the time. At the end of the day we had done pretty well with takings and also talking to people about what we do, and the added bonus was that we were not weary after a harrowing day. A beer or two at the exhibitor's dinner, some time to chat with old friends and we were ready for a good sleep when we retired to our digs.

There had been grievous forebodings about the weather during the preceding week, stories of record temperatures and there we were committed spending it in a stifling tent. In addition the upsurge in COVID cases was also at the forefront of our mind. Happily the marquee was bright and airy and the fear of COVID subsided quite quickly. Thankfully too the dire warnings of dangerous heat got shifted from Saturday to Sunday and then later into the week, finally hitting us on the Tuesday.

Saturday was much the same as Friday with the exception of a talk that we gave called 'Wader Passion - 10 years of caring'. It summarised why we were so passionate about our waders and why they need our help. In it we emphasised that having a love for someone or something, as we do our waders, means that you can't just have the good bits, for better or worse and all that, and nowadays, the worse greatly outweighs the better when it comes to our beloved waders. It must have gone down well among the 80 odd people present as we got 6



Title slide of the GBf 2022 Wader Quest talk - Wader Quest

Global Birdfair 2022 - cont'd

sign-ups as Friends of Wader Quest immediately afterwards, along with kind words about the talk. Saturday, like Friday, was easily manageable, but made even more relaxing for Elis and me due to the presence of Phil and Karen Hadley who came as volunteers to help on the stand. Both Phil and Karen had joined us at Martin Mere last year and so were *au fait* with how it all works and their lively personalities and friendly countenance meant that we seemed to do even better than Friday in both information dissemination and sales.

The day was rounded off with another visit to the beer tent and a very enjoyable rest and relaxation session in the company of these good friends.

Sunday was supposed to be the really hot day, and I think the forecasters may have put some people off as it was very quiet. That said, Sunday is always the least busy day, but this seemed even more so than before, due in part to the smaller scale of the event. We gave another talk (the same talk actually), which was appreciated by the audience, whose numbers were much diminished from the previous day, reflecting the overall attendance that day. As always it was sad to end the weekend, pack up our stuff and depart for home but we did so knowing we had had a good weekend that was unexpectedly relaxing and fun as well as productive.

Naturally, there are a number of people to whom we owe a debt of gratitude and first and foremost among them is of course our own patrons Tim Appleton and Penny Robinson, who of course were also the organisers of this tremendous event. It was a big gamble for them, which they undertook with enthusiasm and skill and the results speak for themselves.

An event of this kind, however well designed and planned, is reliant on one group of people above all others, and that is the volunteers, who were magnificent as always, bringing truth to the adage '*volunteers are unpaid not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.*'

This was the first time we have been able to accept card payment at an event,, something that in itself was not without its challenges. However, the IT people on site were very attentive and helpful, often checking that all

was well and always responding when it wasn't. Having that card reader was a real boon and almost certainly helped us to the successful level of takings that we achieved.

One of the most enjoyable things about the bird fair events has always been the 'keeping in contact' aspect of some very long term friendships with people we would otherwise never see. This event was no different and it was great fun to see old friends and make new ones along the way. It is also an excellent opportunity to meet supporters, who are Friends and Sponsors without whom we wouldn't survive, on a face to face basis putting faces to familiar names; it was lovely to see so many of you all there.

Another aspect that struck me was the number of younger folk who attended. We old fogies have been anxious for some time about the future of conservation and the world at large. At this event however, judging by the number of younger people we saw passing the stand, those fears, which may have been true not all that long ago, are perhaps subsiding. This is largely due to the environment and its general state of health becoming much more mainstream, and talked about more widely, and not solely in the bird and wildlife clubs up and down the country.

We were especially pleased to meet one young man from India Neel Sureja who has come here to the UK to study at Cambridge. We have been corresponding with Neel since we published a small report by him in a previous newsletter about wild dogs in India attempting to catch waders and whose photo of two diminutive Black-winged Stilts flying against a vast polluting smoke stack we found particularly evocative See p16).



The Saturday team; Karen, Elis, Rick & Phil - Elis Simpson



Our hosts and patrons Penny and Tim (centre left and right) - Elis Simpson



Neel Sureja on one of his many visits to the stand - Elis Simpson

Global Birdfair 2022 - cont'd

Our Birdfair posters



Snowy Plover - Teresa Hedden



Asian Dowitcher - Yashodhan Bhatia



Red Knots - Elis Simpson



Red Knot - Damian Money



Spoon-billed Sandpipers - Ayuwat Jearwattananok

We also owe a great thank you to the photographers who generously allowed us to use their photos for our posters, which you can see left with the appropriate credit and we must also thank our Corporate Sponsors Opticron for their printing them especially for this event.

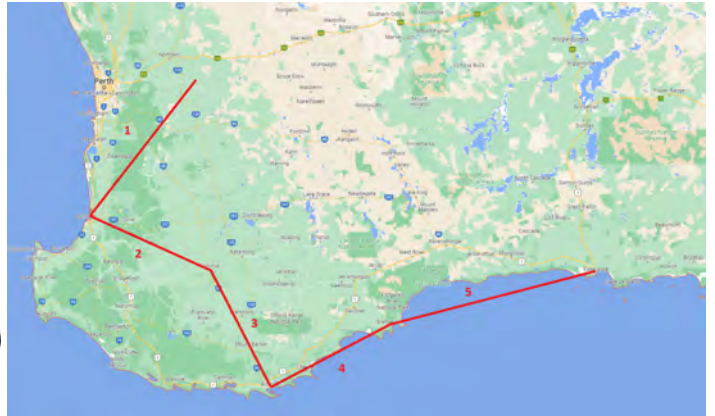
To sum up the weekend, after all the counting was done, in terms of finances we took about 80% of previous years' income at the old venue, which we were very happy with, and in addition we had great fun. Everyone we spoke to had the same experience as us and in the end there will be few who will not consider this first Global Birdfair a success and be looking forward to getting the dates for next year so we can all rush to book our accommodation.



Black-winged Stilts against a smoke stack- Neel Sureja



Wing Threads update



The journey so far (using Google Maps)

Wing Threads update

'I love birds – especially migratory shorebirds, which are the most endangered birds in the world. Their lives are so awe inspiring and amazing and I wanted to tell everyone why shorebirds are totally awesome so they would be inspired to protect them too. But how to get everyone's attention? While searching for answers, I came up with a plan – to follow our shorebirds on migration from Australia to Siberia. So I learned to fly a microlight! ' Milly Formby

In order to prepare for this incredible journey, Milly has decided to fly around the Australian coast to highlight the issue and promote her plan to fly the East-Asian Australasian Flyway in her microlight aircraft.

Since setting off from White Gum Farm on June 3rd Milly has travelled to Bunbury and from there to Kojonup in the second leg of the journey. Next was a flight to Albany and then on to Bremer Bay. The last flight was back on the 12th of June to Esperance where sadly the weather has kept her grounded, one of the drawbacks of the microlight aircraft. But she hopes to be on her way soon. From there it will be onto the Nullarbor Plain, a treeless expanse of arid country and heading into South Australia.

At this stage, it looks as though there will be a break in the weather around Thursday next week. Ideally, Milly would like a three day window to be able to make it from Esperance to Ceduna, on the South Australian coast.

Along the way Milly is visiting schools, doing interviews and giving presentations, all in the name of raising the profile of the plight that waders migrating between Australia and the Russian Arctic face. It is a brilliant project and a valuable cause so do please go to Milly's website and sign up to her newsletter to follow her journey (which you can do live via a livestream during her flights) and better still, make a donation.



LIVE FROM THE COCKPIT
WITH MICROLIGHT MILLY

WING THREADS: FLIGHT AROUND OZ

FLIGHT LEG 5

Bremer Bay to Esperance
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Click on image above for replay of leg 5 Bremer Bay to Esperance livestream.

Road construction disturbance to nesting Little Ringed Plovers *Charadrius dubius* - Paul Ellis

Kier Highways are constructing a new road east of Poulton-le-Fylde in Lancashire UK. Last year Kier dug out a series of shallow lagoons next to the road site, which were attractive to waders and gulls (see map right)

We of the Fylde Bird Club all assumed that this was some sort of habitat mitigation measure but it wasn't. The purpose of these lagoons was simply to provide mitigation against possible flooding of the construction site.

In the spring we predicted some interesting waders would turn up on the lagoons and really expected Little Ringed Plovers to show up as the bare scrapes were perfect habitat. We were proved right in this last respect when at least two pairs arrived and settled in, displaying and obviously intending to breed.



Fig. 1 site location showing proposed road and position of flood pools - from Google maps



Site of lagoons; dark earth is recently added in-fill material - Fylde Bird Club

On 20th May one of our club members reported that Kier had started infilling the lagoons! In the photograph to the left all of the black earth you can see is recently added in-fill material. After a lot of hurried emails to everyone I could imagine might be in a position to get the infilling stopped, Kier responded saying that the ponds north of Garstang Road are temporary flood attenuation ponds. The ponds were created on a temporary basis to reduce flood risk whilst we constructed the initial foundations of the new road. The current level of the road is above the flood plain level and following consultation with Environment Agency we are now reinstating the area to pre works levels. They continued that prior to works commencing to restore the flood attenuation ponds the areas have been subject to two separate visits by environmental specialists carrying out an ecological survey across all four ponds.

They have found no nesting birds or any other protected species as part of these visits and that consequently work has begun to reinstate the land to pre works condition.

We were not convinced that this process had been properly carried out since the following records of Little Ringed plover had been made by the members of the club and their presence, on each occasion the site was observed, is strongly indicative that were indeed nesting at this location.

- 08/05/2022 - 5 birds present; 2 Garstang Road; 3 on flood south of road
- 13/05/2022 - 2 birds present; Garstang Road East.
- 18/05/2022 - 2 birds present; Garstang Road East.

These records show that Little Ringed Plovers were present on the site through May up until the site was damaged. Given that it is extremely difficult to find the nests of this species and any serious attempt requires hours of observation to make a realistic determination, it would appear likely that their presence was overlooked by the 'environmental specialists'.

We further asked to know the details of dates, methodology and whether or not Little Ringed Plovers were recorded by the specialists and asked to have sight of their survey results. We also reiterated our wish that the work be halted until it could

Road construction disturbance to nesting Little Ringed Plovers *Charadrius dubius* - cont'd

be established if Little Ringed Plovers were nesting or not and preferably postponed until after the breeding season reminding Kier that Little Ringed Plover is a schedule 1 species and fully protected by UK law.

At this point the Environment Agency quickly stepped in and convinced Kier they must stop the infilling. Despite this Kier still continued to question the presence of breeding Little Ringed Plovers at the site, so our members went straight back and managed to get photographs of adults and chicks. See slides 3, 4 and 5.

The infilling has stopped for now and Kier claim to have hired someone to conduct a survey in July to confirm the plovers are no longer present. They also reiterated that their planning permission requires them to fill in the lagoons to 'restore' the land to its previous condition.

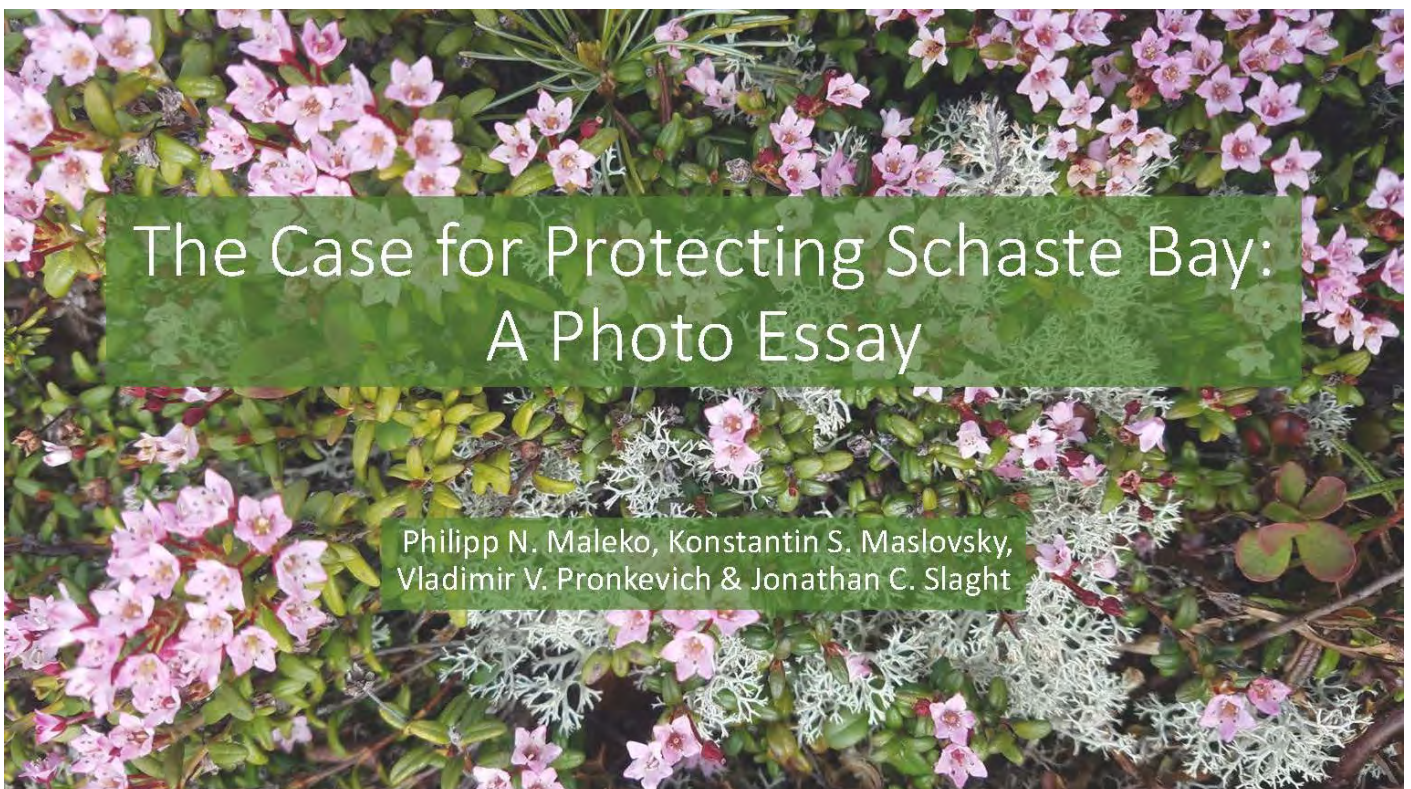


Little Ringed Plover adult and chick at the site - Fylde Bird Club

The case for protecting Schaste Bay - Philipp Maleko *et al.*

Philipp and his team have been the recipients of a recent grant from Wader Quest and an earlier provision of equipment to use in the field. They were very keen to show exactly why their work is so important, not that we needed persuading, so they produced this lovely short photo essay to explain their work and the wonder of Schaste Bay and its importance. Wonderfully the name Schaste Bay means 'Bay of Happiness' in Russian.

Click on the image below to enjoy the essay.



Book review; A Quest for Waders by Rick and Elis Simpson - Ken Sutton

Some ten years ago Rick and Elis Simpson arrived back in England following a sojourn in Brazil. It was not long after that they hatched a plan to spend a year travelling the world looking for waders. This book is the story of that quest. At first sight the adventure may seem a little self indulgent, but we learn from reading the book that the quest developed into something much more significant – a charity dedicated to the protection of waders around the world.

Waders are everywhere where there is suitable habitat on our planet. The book takes us on a journey to every continent except Antarctica as our two heroes attempt to achieve a target of seeing 180 species – and to raise £3,000 to help in the specific protection of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, which breeds in Russia and winters in Asia.

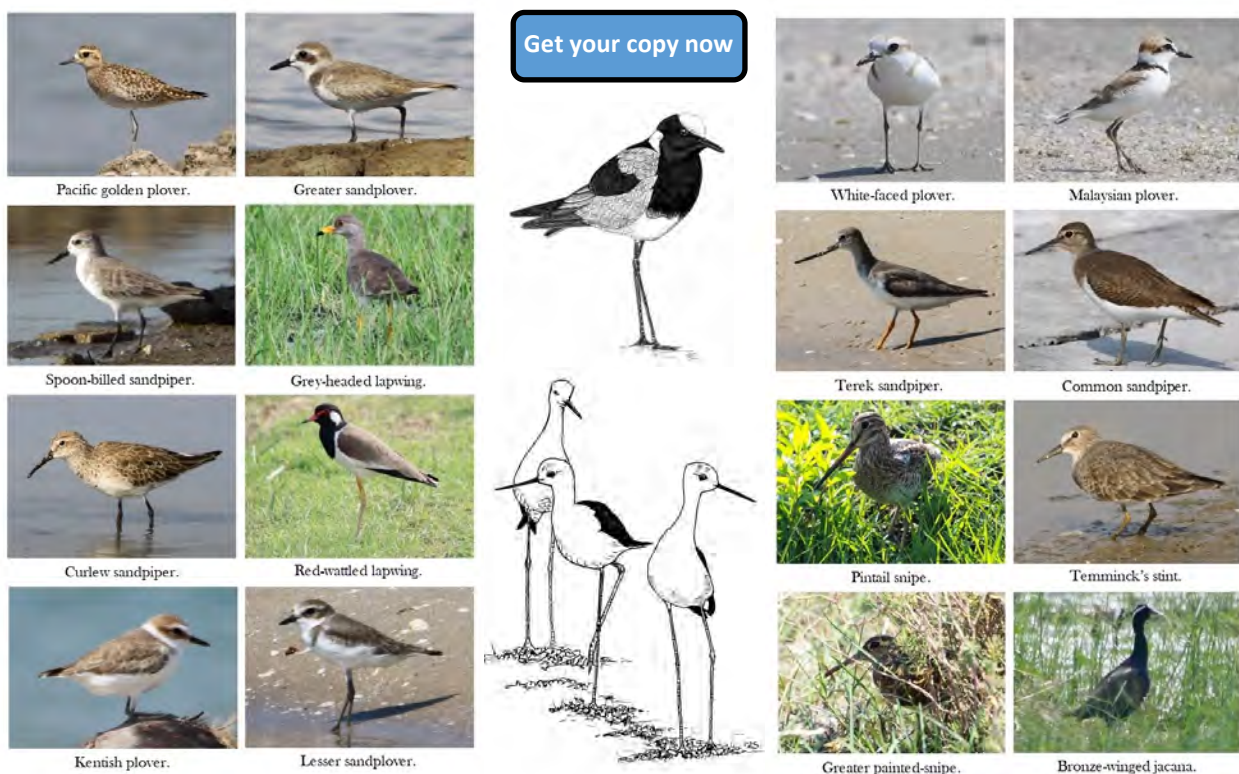
There are of course numerous books which follow obsessive birders around the world seeking to add to their lists. Some of them read little differently from those irritating tour company reports, which are not much more from a long list of species interspersed with comments about how wonderful everything was. Happily, this book is nothing like that. While we learn about the many waders our dynamic duo finds, we also laugh at the trials and tribulations of how they got to see them. Rick specialises in a self-deprecating sense of humour. Some hilarious incidents make the book great fun to read - the perils of a night sleeper on a train in India, trying to survive in a place where your only form of payment, a Visa card is not accepted, booking rental cars on the wrong day before driving the wrong way down a dual carriageway. And, despite the physical exertions of the trip, Rick does not claim to be a finely tuned athlete – it is exhausting just reading about him panting up a mountain in search of dotterels - while his attempts to clamber into a small vehicle are laugh out loud moments.

Among this levity there is a serious purpose. So many of the birds and the wetlands upon which they depend are in trouble. Rick and Elis are privileged to meet a whole range of conservationists who devote their lives to trying to ensure a future for their special species. Hooded Plovers in Australia, Black Stilts in New Zealand, Eurasian Curlews in Britain, Great Knots in Asia, Mountain Plover and Diademed Sandpiper Plover in the Americas. It is fascinating to learn about so many projects and the book does a great job in publicising ongoing conservation work, which will increase awareness and garner support. Despite the pressures of their jobs these local conservationists go out of their way to ensure Rick and Elis's visit is a success.

The book is well produced and each chapter opens with an illustration by Rick and ends with Elis's fine images of the birds she and Rick have seen (see below). These and the narrative celebrate all waders, not just the more endangered or charismatic ones. Elis is obviously an excellent birder, but I took with a small pinch of salt Rick's chivalrous impression that every desired bird was found not by him but by Elis, often when he was looking in another direction. Surely Rick must have seen some first! [Actually, there is no chivalry involved, it is all true! Ed.]

The end of the quest was also a beginning. In the intervening years, Wader Quest has become a registered charity and raises money by giving talks and producing for sale a range of products covering all things wader – among them of course this book. The more people who learn and care about the future of wetlands and their birds, the better their chances are. This book effectively and entertainingly spreads the word.

And did Rick and Ellis see 180 species and raise £3,000? To find out, you'll have to read the book.



Shorebird Northward Migration Through Bohai Bay, China, April – June 2022 - Chris Hassell

This Global Flyway Network Bohai Report for 2022 is a very different document to the years 2010 to 2021. We recommend readers to read this year's report in conjunction with the [2021 report](#) to gain a full insight of our work and the conservation importance of the Luannan Coast to shorebirds, in particular Red Knot *Calidris canutus*.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Global Flyway Network (GFN) researchers from Australia, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom were again unable to travel to China. Also our Chinese colleagues were restricted in their movements. This resulted in the field work being conducted by two local Nanpu people, Mr. Xiao Liu and Mr Liu.

[Read full article here.](#)



Red Knots arriving Nanpu mudflat, May 2019 - Rob Butier

Meet the man guarding endangered New Zealand Dotterels - A video link

New Zealand Dotterels are now considered two species; Northern Red-breasted Plover *Charadrius aquilonius* Near Threatened and Southern Red-breasted Plover *C. obscurus* Critically Endangered.

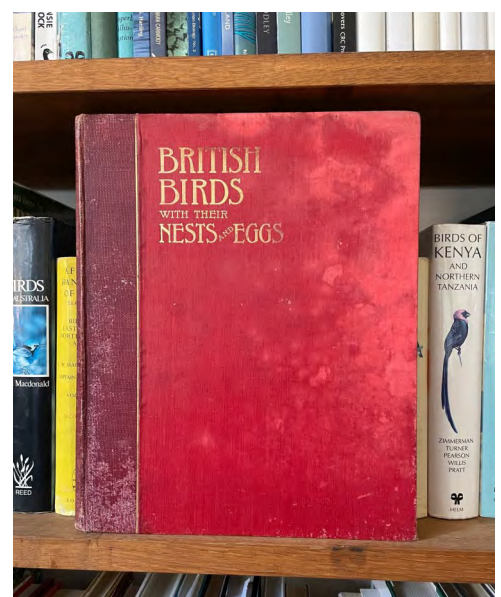
This short video produced by 1 News in New Zealand, highlights the work and dedication of Hilton Strongman who has been caring for the plovers on his Coromandel beach for eight years. [Watch video here.](#)



Northern Red-breasted Plover - Elis Simpson

From the library - British Birds With Their Nests and Eggs Vol V: Order Limicolæ - Rev. Henry H. Slater (1898)

'When mentioning [Kentish Plover] as "resident" anywhere, I do not wish to convey the impression that and individuals pass the whole year there. Birds are migratory to a much greater extent than most people are aware of. We all know that Swallows migrate, because in winter we have none. But we are apt to assume that, because we have certain species of birds - Hedge Sparrows for example - in our gardens all the year round, that this species is not migratory. But go to the north of its range - to Finmark, say - and you will find it to be a summer visitor only, as Swallows are with us. Then go to Southern Spain, and you will find it to be a winter visitor only, as Fieldfares are with us. It is reasonable to suppose, then, that all individual Hedge Sparrows move northwards in spring, southwards in autumn and that the individuals which breed with us winter further south, and Vice versa. And therein consists the real value of albino and partial albino birds, - to be carefully protected, observed, and timed, - not to be slaughtered at once and crammed into a cabinet, where they can teach us absolutely nothing. When will the English people learn this? But I desire to end by explaining the point of this digression, that when I use the word "resident" it is invariably with this reservation - that it is the species, and not the individual, which is resident - that the individual is probably migratory.'



News from Margarita Island, Venezuela

- Rick Simpson

Earlier this year Wader Quest supported a project in northern Venezuela to study the population of Wilson's Plovers *Charadrius wilsonia* of the subspecies *cinnamominus* on Margarita Island. The study, which is part of the ELVONAL Shorebird initiative, concerns the effect of habitat on the breeding success of the Wilson's Plover on the Island and is led by Virginia Sanz of the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research. The aim of the project is to gather information on the variation of breeding success of the Wilson's Plover in two contrasting reproductive habitats; beaches and



Margarita Island - Virginia Sanz

mudflats. Margarita Island lies in the Caribbean Sea about 40 kilometres north of the mainland off the Araya peninsula. It is a popular holiday destination, comprising two peninsulas linked by the sand and mangroves of the Laguna de la Restinga National Park. [Read full article here.](#)

Wader Conservation World Watch 9 5th—6th November 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



Wader Conservation World Watch

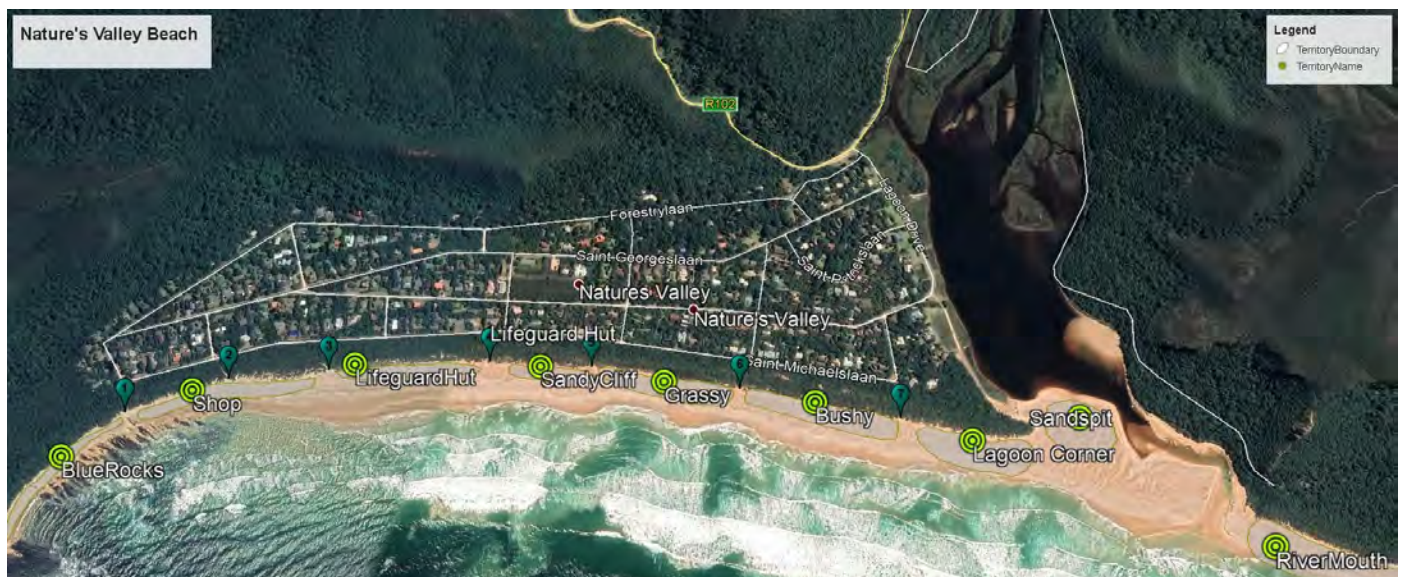
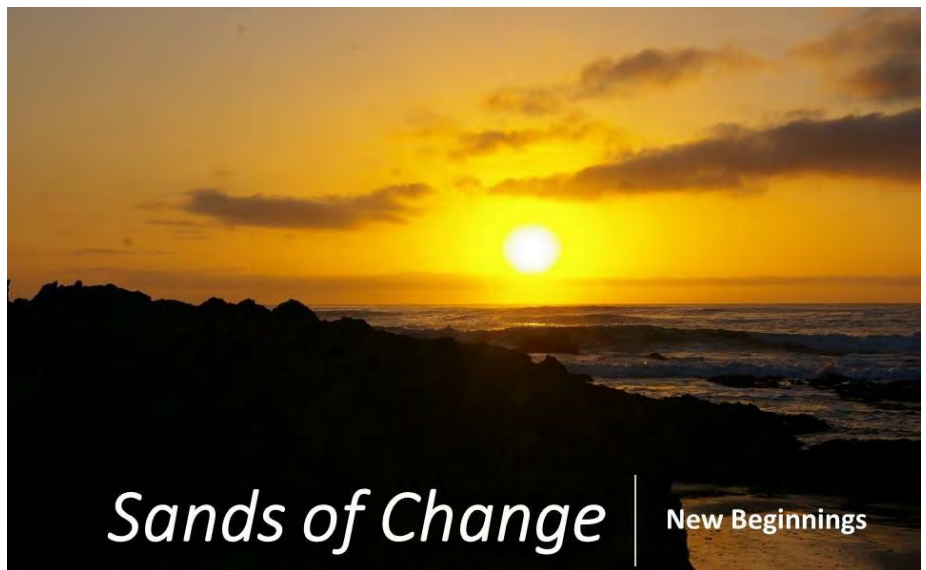
The Sands Of Change: Series 2 Episode 11

- 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.



Sometimes it's soft. We hear the pitter-patter through the night and feel excited at its presence. Sometimes it's loud, frightening us with its all-encompassing power, announcing its coming with magnificent grumbles, sure to alter our very being with its impressive might. It often conspires with the wind, bringing dark and ominous clouds which obscure our view of the sun for days. Do we fear this imposing force? Sometimes. This force which has the power to change small babbling brooks into mighty rumbling rapids, this force which can erode away paths without a second thought. However, most find solace and comfort when it comes down from the heavens once more. The rain. This wonderful liquid which engulfs the Valley, conceals Formosa from our view. It brings new hope, it brings promise of recovery.

This is exactly what the rains have brought to our wondrous Nature's Valley this week. Our beloved sands were in need of some recuperation these past few weeks. The breeding season has been tough and many a heart-break has been felt throughout. There was pretty Pearl mangled and abandoned by all. Little Ketchup who was torn limb from limb at Lookout



Wilma - NVT

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

beach. A few vicious and needless attacks. The list of troubles our gallant shorebird community has faced has been long.

However, after the rains we are in need of some relief, we are in need of a tale of redemption, a tale of rebuilding some of what has been lost. They became notorious when their scandalous union came to light, ruffling up the feathers of more conservative Plovers in the Valley when they commenced this affair right under the nose of Fred, an upstanding member of the shorebird community. Wilma and Eduardo. The reason why is clear. Not only had Fred barely been out of sight when Wilma took up with this young stud, but little Eduardo was hardly more than a yearling when this shocking affair was instigated.

It seemed this pair would have many an obstacle to overcome. The age gap was glaring, and few onlookers believed that this union would last for long. This whirlwind romance was soon to be complicated even further, when the capricious sands failed to conceal the one secret this illustrious pair would have liked to remain well hidden. The two little eggs were discovered in early December, just as the start of the peak holiday season was being heralded in. Soon these two little eggs disappeared as quickly as they had been discovered, erasing all evidence of the affair between wilful Wilma and young Eduardo. The news sent wings flapping and questions were rife as to what happened to these precious little gems. Could it have been one of the thousands of oblivious feet trudging up and down the beach each day who treaded on these delicate eggs? Perhaps it was one of those four-footed companions, illegally let off a leash without a second thought? Or was something more sinister afoot? Perhaps parenthood was just not on the cards yet for this new couple?

Whatever the case, it became clear that the pair had to accept that their little secret in the sand was no more. Researchers feared what would happen next. Would this setback cause the rift in their relationship? Would Wilma move on to yet another lover now that Eduardo's inexperience had come to light? With bated breath our intrepid and worried researchers waited, hoping for the best, anticipating the worst.

It seems that researchers needn't have worried. Clearly the love affair between Eduardo and Wilma had



Eduardo (left) and Wilma, seldom apart - NVT



The first nest doomed to failure - NVT



Eduardo incubating the new eggs - NVT

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

blossomed into something more tangible than a mere infatuation. It was on a routine survey that our researchers came across the pair once more. They saw little Eduardo first, darting up and down the dunes, desperate to divert their attention. Then they laid their eyes on Wilma. This devious little female was at it once more, frantically trying to cover something up in the capricious sand. Researchers approached with caution and there, nestled in the sands they saw them – the sands were conspiring with Wilma once more, trying its best to hide the two beautiful new eggs she had produced with pride.

Our researchers worked fast, cordoning off this section of beach, close to Blue rocks, optimistic that this time round this pair would be able to redeem themselves. What will happen in the weeks that follow? Will the pair be blessed with little ones of their own? Will Eduardo be up to the challenge of fatherhood? What about Wilma? Will this wilful little female prove to be as doting a mother as she is a lover? Only time can tell what will happen to this would-be family and our researchers are anxiously awaiting what will happen next in our shorebird-saga.

In the forest we hear the birds chirp with excitement, in the wetlands we listen to the frogs singing their praise and we become happy, knowing that the rain brings promise. Yes, this life-giving entity brings new hope even in situations when we whole-heartedly believe that all hope has been lost, it washes away what has passed and makes the plants grow once more. It allows us to start afresh, it allows us to forget our sins and affords us the opportunity for redemption.



Wilma inspecting the new rope enclosure - NVT



How you can help Wader Quest:

Help us raise awareness

Share our social media



Join [Wader Conservation World Watch](#) 5th/6th November 2022

Help us raise funds to support wader conservation

[Become a Friend of Wader Quest](#) (100% goes to conservation)

[Make a donation](#) (100% goes to conservation)

[Buy Wader Quest merchandising](#) (50% goes to conservation)

Wader news from around the world - in brief

EUROPE.

UK: As if Eurasian Curlews *Numenius arquata* didn't have enough to contend with in the UK a new possible development regarding their eggs has reared its ugly head.

Dr Nicola Hemmings, a researcher in the school of biosciences at the University of Sheffield, started working with the Curlew Recovery Partnership (CRP) conservation group last year and noticed that some of the eggs being laid, which had failed, had abnormally thin and crumbly shells. The initial findings were in a small study group, but the potential effect, should it prove to be a more widespread problem, is obvious to see. A population that is already in decline with many pressures on it hardly needs another problem coming its way.



Eurasian Curlew nest and eggs — Stephen Inglis

UK: This June saw the final release of Black-tailed Godwits from the Project Godwit joint team involving the RSPB and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

This has been a five year project with the aim of giving a boost to the UK population of breeding Black-tailed Godwits of the subspecies *Limosa limosa limosa*. During that five year period some 200 headstarted godwits, birds that have been bred in captivity from wild laid eggs and put back into the wild when fledged, have been released. The likely outcome of this is claimed to be a five-fold increase in the number of wild birds in the population. Many of the released birds have wintered elsewhere and returned to breed themselves and now account for some 40% of the breeding pairs having at least one of the headstarted population.

The project team have warned however that headstarting is not a silver bullet to solve population declines, but rather give breathing space for conservationists to find permanent solutions to their problems. In this case it is the habitat loss due to centuries of drainage, especially in the fens and continued diminishment of suitable meadow habitat for breeding.



Black-tailed Godwit - Elis Simpson

UK: The recent BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) does not make easy reading for wader lovers. In the preceding 25 years we have lost half of our breeding Common Redshanks *Tringa totanus* and Eurasian Curlews and around a quarter of our Common Sandpipers *Actitis hypoleucos* and Eurasian Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus*.

The biggest impact on these declines is undoubtedly loss of habitat and that can occur for a variety of reasons; drainage of wetlands, and agricultural land, crop choice on agricultural land, such as silage versus hay meadows, forestry reducing open landscapes, climate change altering river levels and predator levels being too high along with human disturbance. All of these things can be managed to be more wildlife friendly, but the will and the finance to make that happen do not appear to be on the horizon at the moment. As a result we will continue to see declines in these species across the board and our status of holding internationally important populations of some of these species will shamefully soon be lost.



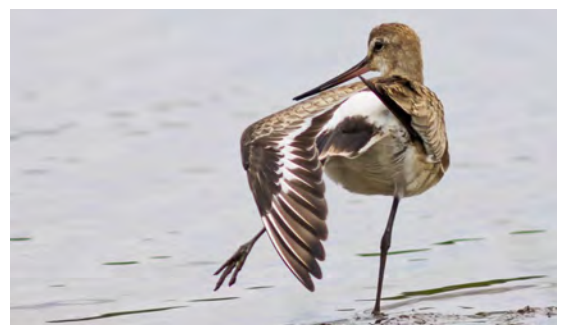
Common Sandpiper - Elis Simpson

NORTH AMERICA.

USA: The gloriously name Cheyenne Bottoms in Kansas USA is one of the top shorebird stopover points in the USA and is the largest interior wetland in the USA and is rightfully famous for just that reason. Some years are obviously better than others, but 2022 has turned out to be a bumper year. With the biggest count for many years, exceeding half a million birds. In that number was over 30% of the world's population of Hudsonian Godwits *Limosa haemastica* moving north to breed in Alaska.

The managements of the area has been key to making conditions just right for the birds and the weather conditions added to the mix by being just about perfect.

[Read full article here.](#)



Hudsonian Godwit - Elis Simpson

Wader news from around the world - cont'd

USA. Sad news from Montrose Beach in Chicago where both Monty and Rose, the Piping Plovers *Charadrius melodus* who did so much to endear the people of the city to their cause, when they were the first of their kind to breed in nearly 60 years in Chicago in 2019, have now probably both passed away. Monty's end was witnessed by a volunteer when he simply collapsed on the beach, and it later transpired he had a respiratory infection. However, it is still unknown if Rose has succumbed or not, but she did not return to her breeding beach this year giving rise to the prospect that she did not make it through the winter.

To temper the loss of these birds the Great Lakes Piping Plover Conservation Team have said that this has been a record breaking breeding season. They have seen a massive 149 wild raised chicks fledge this year, the highest since records began in 1984, in 2020 that figure was 87 chicks.

In addition to these wild birds there is a further 10 captive reared chicks that are expected to fledge or have already done so.

Congratulations to all concerned for a marvellous job well done. [Chicago Tribune full season run down here.](#)



Chicago
Piping
Plovers



USA. The Kōlea Count citizen science project for the 2021-2022 in Hawai'i ran from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. [Summary of data.](#)

In March and April 2022 a tagging study was initiated. Dr Wally Johnson and volunteers from the Hawaii Audubon Society caught and colour ringed 30 Pacific Golden-Plovers *Pluvialis dominica*, called Kōlea in Hawaiian, using mist nets and net guns.

10 of the birds were fitted with live Argos satellite tags, 10 birds got dummy tags that did not transmit, and 10 birds were ringed only.

Of the 10 live satellite-tagged birds, two never transmitted. Either the tags malfunctioned or a cat or mongoose killed the birds in Hawai'i and destroyed the 2 tags. Eight, however, flew to Alaska, one making a brief flight to Russia first, and then settling in Alaska for the summer.

A team of plover enthusiasts are on the daily lookout for the study birds' return in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (also called Punchbowl Cemetery because it's in an ancient volcanic crater of that name). As of August 6th, only one bird, with leg bands only, has returned.

It is expected that all the study birds that have survived will have returned by October. The plan then is to recapture as many of the 20 birds with backpack tags as possible. Because Pacific-Golden Plovers are reliably site specific in their winter foraging grounds, the team know where to look for each of the 30 study birds.

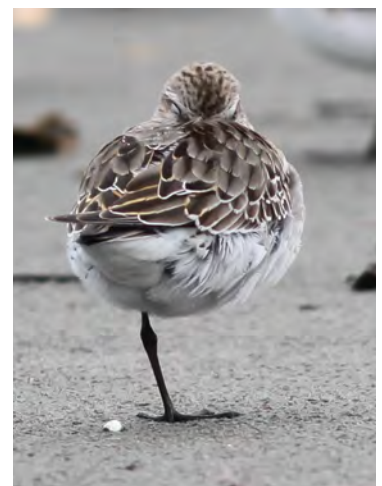


Kōlea with a Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* and Sanderlings *Calidris alba* - Ann Tanimoto-Johnson

SOUTH AMERICA.

Argentina : On June 30, 2022, the Argentine government approved the declaration of Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) site Laguna Mar Chiquita, a huge, permanent, saline lagoon, with brackish marshes, as Ansenusa National Park and National Reserve.

This has been a WHSRN site of hemispheric importance since 1989. One of the outstanding migratory shorebird species there in terms of numbers is the Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*. In this species alone the numbers are estimated to be around 500,000 and in addition to them there are 30 other shorebird species present during the Boreal winter, notable among these are 15,000 Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*, 15,000 White-rumped Sandpipers *Calidris fuscicollis*, 20,000 American Golden Plovers *Pluvialis dominica*, 1,200 Hudsonian Godwits *Limosa haemastica*, 700 Pectoral Sandpipers *Calidris melanoleuca* and 200 Stilt Sandpipers *Calidris himantopus*. The area is also important for some Austral shorebirds. Two-banded Plover *Charadrius falklandicus* breeds there and the Rufous-chested Dotterel *Charadrius modestus* is an Austral winter visitor. It is also the home of three species of flamingo; Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis*, Andean Flamingo *P. andinus* and Puna Flamingo *P. jamesi*.



White-rumped Sandpiper - Elis Simpson

Wader news from around the world - cont'd

ASIA.

China: News from the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Taskforce; During a heavy rainstorm a local villager picked up a struggling Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmaea* on the mudflats of Quanzhou, Fujian, China. The bird was so wet that it couldn't fly but as the villager could not identify the bird, he posted it on social media. Due to the good work done by the organisations of the East-Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership trying to save the Spoon-billed Sandpiper in China, it was soon identified by local people showing the value of the outreach programme that has been carried out, not only in that they were able to identify the bird but also recognise that it was important to save a single individual if possible. Once the bird was identified as being the Critically Endangered species it was taken to the Jinjiang Rescue Centre and kept under observation.

Luckily the bird's drenching had not caused a lasting effect and no injuries were detected in the bird. It was decided to release the bird as soon as possible. The bird was taken to Weitou Bay, where nine Spoon-billed Sandpipers wintered in early 2022, where it immediately started to feed as it left the release box and touched the mud (see photo above), and then after feeding for a while flew off.



Spoon-billed Sandpiper leaving its release box - Mr. Huang Baotong

Uzbekistan: The Critically Endangered and beleaguered Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius* has an uncertain future due to some of the difficult places it has to migrate through. Fortunately one of those places, in Uzbekistan, has recently become a lot less challenging for them.

One of their important stopover sites in the country called the Talimarzhan reservoir is where over 26% of the global population of the Sociable Lapwing stop to refuel and rest during its autumn migration. Peak numbers during the migration reached 4,200 at the reservoir making it the most important stopover site in Central Asia and one of the most important globally.

The reservoir is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) and in December 2021 a new protected area of 4,142ha of the Talimarzhan sanctuary was designated as a protected area.



Sociable Lapwing - Elis Simpson

Israel: We often talk about the tough deal that chicks get as they are susceptible to predation by so many other life forms, both natural and introduced, terrestrial and avian. However I am willing to bet this chick wasn't expecting to fall foul of a member of its own species!

An adult Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* was spotted in the act of taking and killing a chick from another pair, which had inadvertently found its way onto the adults breeding territory. Many species of Lapwing are known for their aggression and the Spur-winged Lapwing is certainly no exception and it is actually not uncommon to see one showing aggression towards chicks from another brood. However, actually taking and killing a chick is unusual. Once the adult had killed the chick it was like it was trying to hide the evidence as it took the chick and removed it from the scene of the crime.



Spur-winged Lapwing removing the evidence from the crime scene — Leonid Finkelstein

Wader news from around the world - cont'd

AUSTRALASIA.

Australia: More good news about the Plains Wanderer, which is, by all accounts, having an amazing breeding season.

There are thought to be fewer than 1,000 of these birds left in the wild. Surveys have been carried out since 2010 to monitor the population and this year they found that 85% of the potential habitat sites were occupied, the highest ever recorded, and the total number of adults was a new high total of 60. Added to this there were nearly 40 chicks found being protected by the males, typical of this sex role reversal species.

The previous high total was in 2018 when 30 adults and 17 chicks were found, so this is really an exceptional total and, it is thought connected to the *La Niña* event that resulted in higher rainfall in the eastern part of Australia than normal. This high rainfall has the effect of creating an environment suitable for successful breeding where plenty of food is available.



Plains-wanderer - [Nik Borrow](#)

EAST-ASIAN AUSTRALIAN FLYWAY

Satellite and GPS tracking technology continues to reveal new migration patterns of birds, which enables comparative studies of migration strategies and distributional information useful for conservation. Bar-tailed Godwits in the East Asian–Australasian Flyway *Limosa lapponica baueri* and *L. l. menzbieri* are known for their long, non-stop flights, however, these populations are in steep decline. A third subspecies in this flyway, *L. l. anadyrensis*, breeds in the Anadyr River basin, Chukotka, Russia, and is morphologically distinct from *menzbieri* and *baueri* based on comparison of museum specimens collected from breeding areas. However, the non-breeding distribution, migration route and population size of *anadyrensis* were entirely unknown.

This study described the first complete migrations of the *anadyrensis* subspecies. Highlighting the uniqueness of their migration patterns by contrasting them with that of the *menzbieri* subspecies tagged at the same non-breeding location.

During post-breeding migration, birds of the two subspecies shared similar routes and showed similar migration timing, and both used the Yellow Sea as their main staging area. In the pre-breeding migration *anadyrensis* made only one stop, in the Yellow Sea, from northwest Australia to its breeding areas, while some pre-breeding *menzbieri* stopped at sites in Southeast Asia and southern China before staging in the Yellow Sea. [Read full paper here.](#)



A gathering of Bar-tailed Godwits and other species on an Australian beach — Elis Simpson

AFRICA

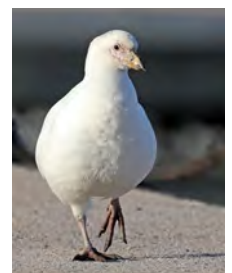
South Africa: From time to time Snowy Sheathbills *Chionis albus* end up in South Africa. It is unlikely that these birds fly from their Subantarctic home but instead settle on a north-bound ship that brings them to South Africa.

This individual in False Bay in the Western Cape Province earlier this year, seems to have an affinity for boats as it has been seen travelling around the bay on more than one vessel.

For a bold white bird it has reportedly been difficult to find at times but guides and photographers [Trevor and Margaret Hardaker](#) caught up with it and took this picture in Kalk Harbour.

The Afrikaans name for the bird is *Grootstekdebek* which means big scabbard or sheath in a clear reference to that odd looking bill, mirroring the English name.

[Thanks to Sue Oertli of wader Quest South Africa for the translation.]



Snowy Sheathbill — Trevor Hardaker

Cover photo; Bristle-thighed Curlew - George Armistead



Bristle-thighed Curlew *Numenius tahitiensis* - George Armistead

Having guided trips annually to Alaska from 2002-2012, I was quite nervous about my return and whether we'd see this iconic species, while guiding my first tour here in a decade (June, 2022). Coffee Dome in remote and marvellous Nome, is the spot to seek them, but you do not see them without clearing a few hurdles first.

While the prospect of running into a grizzly bear here is not likely, we did carry bear spray just in case, but a bigger more imminent threat was the terrain and the mosquitos. Before I ever hiked the tundra here it was described to me as though, 'walking around on bowling balls, mounted on bedsprings, but in about a foot of water', and I've come to find that this isn't too far off. The mosquitos can be essentially absent or utterly savage, and the curlews too can be absent or conspicuous, depending on the weather, their mood, and surely other variables. So it is not without a little uncertainty and trepidation that one sets out after these birds, and all this after a 70 mile drive over a gravel road into a really remote area.

But what a stunningly beautiful area it is, and one of the best birding roads in all of North America. While this year the mosquitos were fierce indeed, thankfully the curlews were only a short hike up the hill. Only about a mile up through the tundra, I spotted this bird resting on the ground. Whimbrel are here too, but the rather spangled back and the contrast between the chest and the underparts gave me hope that this was likely a Bristle-thighed. After only a minute of wondering while observing it through a scope, it began to sing its diagnostic song and soon we heard another calling further away. Apparently reacting to the other bird, ours lifted off, flying right towards us allowing me to capture this image. One of the great quest birds in North America, and a shorebird of truly remote places, we all felt exceptionally fortunate.

George Armistead formed [Hillstar Nature](#) and has authored two books on birds; [Better Birding: Tips, Tools, and Concepts for the Field \(2015\)](#) and [The ABA Field Guide to the Birds of Pennsylvania \(2016\)](#).

Bristle-thighed Curlew - Rick Simpson

Bristle-thighed Curlew *Numenius tahitiensis* Gmelin 1789

IUCN Near Threatened

Name explained:

- *Numenius* - Greek: *noumenios*. This was a species of bird with a crescent shaped bill mentioned by Hesychius, the compiler of an ancient Greek lexicon. The word comes from two Greek words *νέος* = *neos* meaning young; *μήνη* = *mene* meaning moon after the 'young moon', which is crescent shaped and follows the all dark the 'new moon'.
- *tahitiensis* - Tahiti, an island in the Society Islands of French Polynesia, where the bird was discovered in 1769 on Cook's first voyage. Toponym for type locality; type specimen lost .

Bristle-thighed Curlew - cont'd

Alternative names; Pacific-Island Whimbrel, Bristly-thighed Curlew, Otaheite Curlew .

Oceanic Island traditional names;

Kau'a (Mangaia), *Kauwe* (Pukapuka, Nassau) *Keuhe* (Hiva oa, Ua Huka), *Kihi* (Manihiki, Rakahanga), *Kioi* (Nuku Hiva) *Kiovi* (Mitiaro), *Kivi* (Tuamotu, Mangareva), *kivivi* (Mangareva), *Kiwi* (Society Islands), *Te'ue* (Tahitian), *teu'e*, *teue* (Atiu, Mauke), *teuē*, (Rarotonga), *Teuea* (Aitutaki), *Tohea* (Tatakoto), *tuli* (Samoan - a name shared with other waders including plovers, sandpipers godwits; whimbrel and small shorebirds)

(Reportedly *Kioea* on Hawai'i - presumably an error as this refers to *Chaetoptila angustipluma*, a Hawaiian passerine that became extinct around 1859?).

For more variants in other languages see

[Avibase](#).



Bristle-thighed Curlew - Alex Wang

Taxonomy; monotypic.

Taxonomic history;

Family Scolopacidae, subfamily Scolopacinae, tribe Numeniini.

Originally described by Gmelin as *Scolopax tahitiensis* in 1789 from a specimen taken in 1785 by Latham in Tahiti. Latham named this bird Otaheite Curlew. It was redescribed by Peale from a specimen taken on the island of Vinennes in the Paumotu Archipelago. It was this description that first highlighted the peculiar bristles which are elongated shafts of thigh feathers, from which the bird gets its English name, and the function of which is still undiscovered.

Synonyms;

- *Scolopax tahitiensis* Gmelin 1789 (Protonym)
- *Phaeopus tahitiensis* Gmelin 1789
- *Numenius femoralis* Peale 1848
- *Numenius tibialis* Peale 1882

Details:

Near threatened: in 2020 a review downgraded the species from Vulnerable to Near Threatened.

Suitable breeding habitat surveys estimated fewer than 3,500 breeding pairs. Including subadults that over-summer in Oceania, the total population probably does not exceed 10,000 birds and is possibly around 7,000 individuals. However, although the small population is thought to be declining, possibly due to continued predation and hunting on its wintering grounds, the intensity of such hunting has decreased recently, and there are signs that the species is recovering in parts of its range.



Bristle-thighed Curlew - Ian Davies

Breeds in Alaska and is the only wader to winter exclusively on the scattered islands in the Pacific making huge long distance and non-stop flights from the breeding grounds to wintering quarters. To achieve this it takes on fat and reduces its digestive organs, but, unlike other waders, it builds its fat over the winter and not quickly just before departure. The minimum flight distance is around 4,000 km but birds wintering further south do not seem to stage in Hawai'i but fly direct, meaning their journeys could be as long as 8,500km.

A rare and thinly spread species resulted in this bird's biology and habits to be slow to appear. Before 1986 there had been few studies made. Indeed following its discovery in 1785 it was not until the end of the 19th century that the idea of them

Bristle-thighed Curlew - cont'd



Bristle-thighed Curlew - Dominic Sherony

breeding in Alaska took root and from their first discovery it took 163 years, until 1948, before the first description of the nest, eggs, and downy young occurred. Thus the Bristle-thighed Curlew became one of the last North American birds to have its nest and eggs described.

The fact that the bird was mainly seen in the Oceanic Islands, where it winters resulted in the first records in Alaska, where it breeds, to be considered vagrants. In 1895 Daniel Giraud Eliot in his *North American Shore Birds* wrote:

'Its appearance on any part of our shores can only be regarded as purely accidental, its native islands lying several thousand miles from our western coast.'

Rarely seen as a vagrant away from its oceanic route. First record in Asia was 21 May 1989 on Chukotka Peninsula, Russia about 500 km west of breeding grounds. Severe storms with easterly winds thought to be the reason for this record. Vagrants have

occurred on other islands where they do not regularly winter, including Japan and on the Ecuadorian coast and an unverified record from Cairns in Queensland, Australia.

The urge to migrate is very strong in this species as demonstrated by an injured bird that was unable to fly on Laysan Island walking across the island to the normal staging areas, a walk of some 3 miles. The injury was some 1.5 years old but the bird still put on fat and moved. It staged with the uninjured when they gathered for their northward migration. The fact that the bird deposited fat and 'migrated,' indicates that spring migration is determined by an inbuilt annually reoccurring cycle.

Related to these migrations is the fact that the Bristle-thighed Curlew is the only wader (apart from African Jacana *Actophilornis africana*) known to become flightless during its moult. Around half of adults studied on Laysan Island. become flightless for at least 2 weeks during the September to November period.

Before human habitation of the islands they were largely predator free, however the arrival of man and his companions (dogs, cats, pigs, rats) changed all that. Although it has not been studied in detail and few, if any, records exist, it is likely that this period of being grounded will give opportunities to terrestrial predators to capture these birds.

Another interesting fact about these birds is their diet and methods of obtaining food. In Alaska they eat mainly insects and spiders, as well as fruit such as crowberry and blueberry and the flowers of dwarf shrubs.

On the wintering grounds, where this sort of food is more difficult to find they resort to some interesting tactics and are much more opportunistic. Although the main source is invertebrates found in the intertidal zone, crabs for example, they will also eat other birds' eggs and chicks as well as carrion and fruit. They have also been recorded eating the regurgitated food provided for the chicks of other species and stolen at the point of delivery.

This opportunistic habit has lead to many birds ingesting plastics found on the beach and one particular bird



Bristle-thighed Curlew - Alex Wang

Bristle-thighed Curlew - cont'd

was observed trying to swallow a white plastic ball, which presumably it thought was an egg.

In addition, the Bristle-thighed Curlew is also the only wader to display the habitual use of tools during foraging. Eggs may be dashed against coral, rocks or other hard surfaces and stones and rocks have been used to batter eggs to break them, either by banging the egg with the stone in the bill or by dropping the stone on the egg.

The longest living example of this bird was ringed in the Hawaiian Islands in September 1967 and collected on Laysan Island in April 1991, at which time it was at least 23 years 10 months old making Bristle-thighed Curlew among the species with the greatest longevity within the North American waders.

Hunting pressure is inconsistent, it was banned long ago in Hawai'i for example and not a major threat among the indigenous people of Alaska it is supposed. Over the rest of the wintering grounds they are still shot, and captured by hand when flightless, and some are caught with fishing line and hook baited with coconut flesh. It is thought however that hunting is less prevalent on the islands than in the past.

The breeding biology has been studied well enough to state that incubation period is around 24 days from the laying of the last (4th) egg, the range of hatching time being 22-26 days. The young leave the nest about 12 hours after the last egg has hatched. The fledging time is between 21 and 24 days although full independence may take 10 or more days after that. Both parents actively and aggressively care for the chicks for 3 - 4 weeks when they abandon them leaving for the coast in preparation for their migration. Unusually among waders, the young are left in groups formed with other offspring from other pairs and in the care of one or more adults. The last adult to leave the chicks is a male, and his offspring will always be a part of

the group he has inherited from his neighbours. Eventually he will leave and the chicks remain until they too leave without guidance from their parents.

The entire population exists in two distinct breeding groups., one more northerly than the other by some 300 miles. The northerly group is smaller in number, breeds later, are slightly larger and winter further south than those in the southern group.

Fossils of Bristle-thighed Curlew are fairly common in the Holocene deposits on main Hawaiian Islands of Moloka'i and Kaua'i and also known from American Samoa and the Solomon, Cook, Society, Marquesas, Gambier and Pitcairn Islands.



Bristle-thighed Curlew; note amount of plastic on the sand - Forest & Kim Starr



Bristle-thighed Curlew - Alex Wang

Bristle-thighed Curlew - cont'd

Bibliography

Wader/shorebird specific books

Bent, Arthur Cleveland: *Life Histories of North American Shore Birds - Part Two* (1962).
Elliot, Daniel Giraud: *North American Shore Birds* (1893).
Hayman, Peter, John Marchant & Tony Prater: *Shorebirds* (1986).
Johnsgard, Paul A.: *The Plovers, Sandpipers and Snipes of the World* (1981).
Paulson Dennis: *Shorebirds of North America* (2013).
Paulson Dennis: *Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest* (1998).
Seebohm, Henry: *The Geographical Distribution of the Family Charadriidae, or, The Plovers, Sandpipers Snipes and Their Allies* (1888)

Non wader/shorebird specific books

Adams, Alexander B.: *John James Audubon* (1967).
del Hoyo, Josep, Andrew Elliot & Jordi Sargatal: *Handbook of the Birds of the World – Vol. 3* (1996).
Jobling, James A.: *Helm Dictionary of Scientific Bird Names* (2010).
Mayr, Ernst: *The Birds of the Southwest Pacific* (1945).
Pearse, Theed: *Birds of the Early Explorers in the Northern Pacific* (1968).
Terres, John K.: *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds* (1980).

Coming soon to the Wader Quest website:



Do you have an unanswered question about some aspect of wader or shorebird life, biology, history, etc. but have no place to find that information? Well look no further, coming soon the Wader Quest website will be the **Wader Guru**. This is a panel of experts from around the world who have agreed to join the team in attempting to give people the answers they seek regarding the waders of the world.

There will be an expanding series of FAQ's and also the opportunity to send in questions should the FAQs not provide you with the answer you need. So, look out for imminent announcements promoting this new awareness raising tool in the Wader Quest tool kit.

Example FAQ 'What is the difference between waders and shorebirds?' [Sample answer here.](#)

Waders in art - Trudi Clarke

The Loneliness of Rarity.

Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris*

pygmaea

IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered

Medium: Charcoal on 160gsm paper

Size: A3, unmounted, unframed

There are only about 800 individuals of this species in existence, and that is only thanks to captive breeding in a concerted effort to save it from extinction.

Do we ever think about the lived experience of a creature whose species is facing extinction? The sheer loneliness that each individual must endure, as their fellows disappear like popping bubbles year by year?

I wanted to convey that loneliness by depicting one individual of this tiny sandpiper species diminutive in a blank space. The winter plumage of the spoon-billed sandpiper is very monochromatic too, so I created a simple picture in black, grey and white, further underlining the bleakness of looming extinction.

This is a new artwork completed in 2022 for the Sketch for Survival Art Competition. I did not make the long list, unfortunately!

My art and writing are inspired by my work and travels. I have worked in nature conservation and field biology for over 15 years and been a Travel & Nature Photographer & Artist for 22 years. I have recently taken up sculpture too.

I use my art and writing to convey my intense love of the natural world.



The Loneliness of Rarity- Trudi Clarke

Forthcoming wader related events worldwide

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 6-7 August | -- 3rd Training Workshop of Youth Think Tank Competition for EAA Flyway |
| 6 September | -- World Shorebirds Day |
| 22 September | -- ÉLVONAL symposium 2022 in Szeged, Hungary. |
| 22-25 September | -- International Wader Study Group Conference, Szeged, Hungary |
| 25 September | -- World Rivers Day |
| 3 October | -- World Habitat Day |
| 4 October | -- World Animal Day |
| 8 October | -- World Migratory Bird Day |
| 15-16 October | -- Martin Mere Northwest Birdwatching Festival |
| 23 October | -- Wader Quest AGM |
| 29-30 October | -- Australasian Shorebird Conference 2022 |
| 5-6 November | -- Wader Conservation World Watch 9 |

**Far Eastern Curlew artwork by Szabolcs Kókay
for sale - £120.00 (30% donation to Wader Quest)**



Far Eastern Curlews have suffered greatly due to the intertidal zone depletion in the Yellow Sea region.

Here is one depicted by Hungarian artist Szabolcs Kókay.

The original of this artwork is available through Wader Quest. For each of Szabolcs'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 Szabolcs's originals for sale through Wader Quest go to his [artwork page in our shop](#).

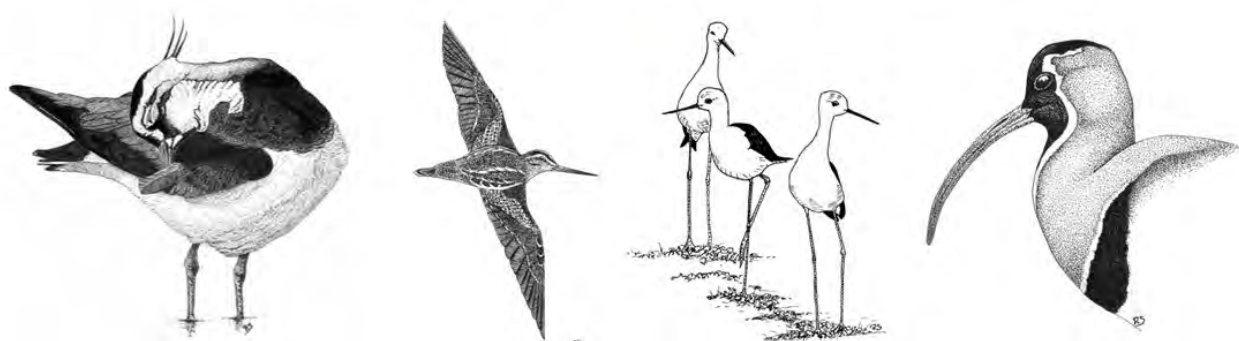
(Size 17 x 25cm.)

[ENQUIRE NOW](#)

Wader Quest merchandising

New Wader Quest book - *A Quest for Waders* by Rick and Elis Simpson

A new book from Wader Quest Publishing by Rick and Elis Simpson.
This book chronicles the journeys they made to see waders around the world,
and the parallel journey of Wader Quest from fundraiser to Registered
Charity - all proceeds go to Wader Quest.



Foreword by Dominic Couzens

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

- Iolo Williams: Naturalist and T. V. presenter.

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

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

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

- Debbie Pain: Conservationist and scientist.

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

- Rebecca Armstrong: Editor of Birdwatch magazine.

orders - sales@waderquest.net

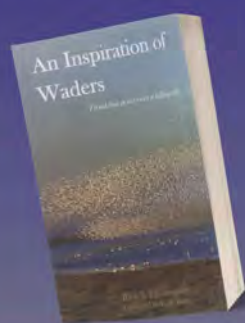
'Breathtakingly excellent - like a birding Michael Palin. The photographs and drawings are fantastic, and the text is fast-moving and endlessly entertaining and amusing.' Jim Wright.

BUY NOW!

Wader Quest merchandising

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

An Inspiration of Waders



Twinkling gems over a falling tide

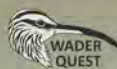
The foreword is by Keith Betton



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



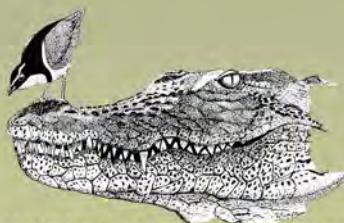
BY RICK AND ELIS SIMPSON



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

sales@waderquest.net

£8.50
+p&p



WADER QUEST PUBLISHING
All profits will go to Wader Quest

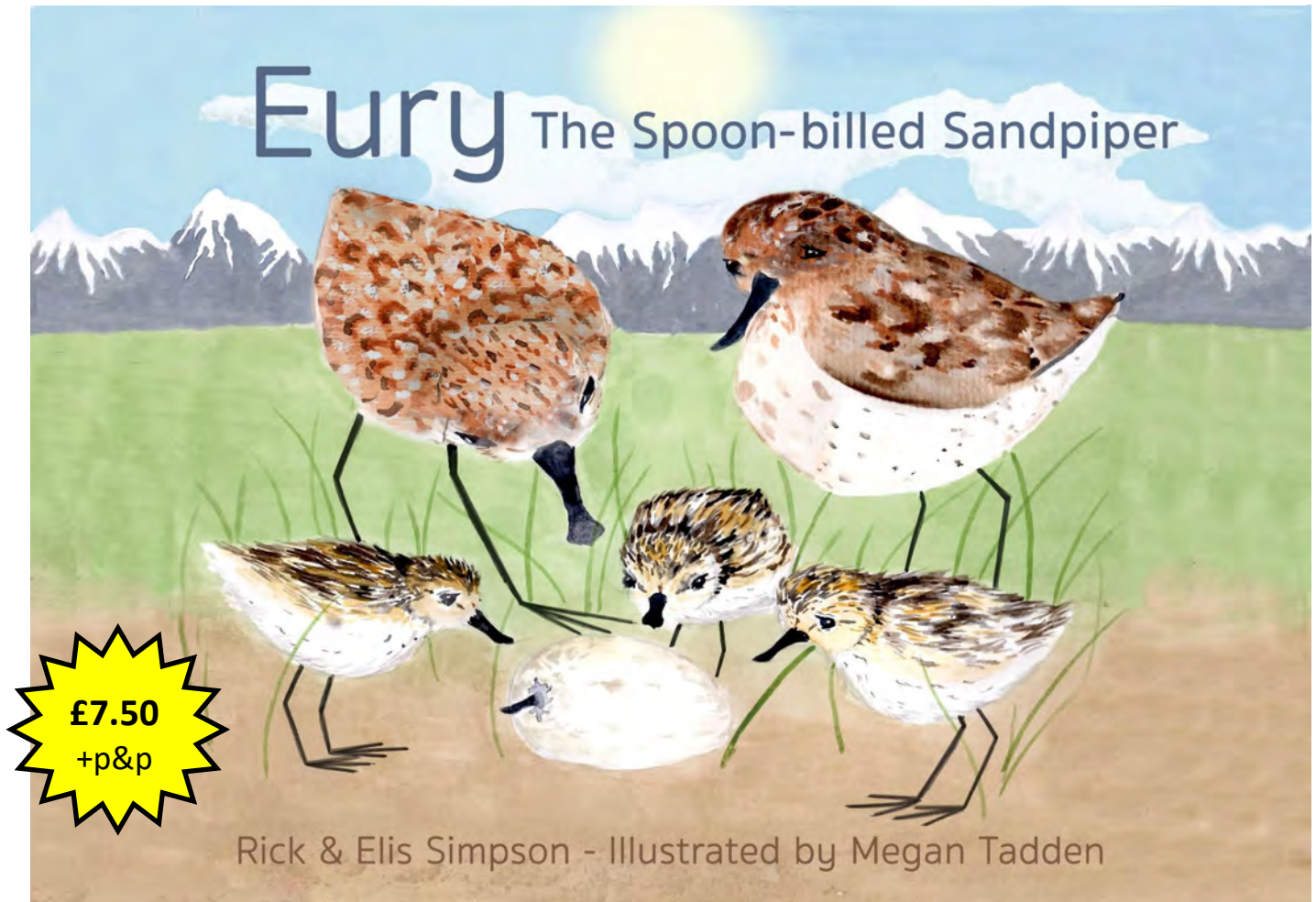
BUY NOW!

Wader Quest merchandising

Eury The Spoon-billed Sandpiper

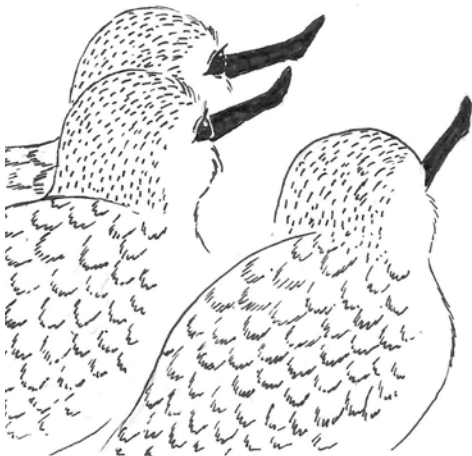
A Wader Quest Publishing book By Rick and Elis Simpson

Children 6 -11 years



BUY NOW!

sales@waderquest.net



Wader Quest merchandising

Wader Quest Collectables - Pin Badges

0. Wader Quest logo
1. Diademed Sandpiper-Plover
2. Ruddy Turnstone
3. Hooded Plover
4. Sanderling
5. Egyptian Plover
7. Dunlin
8. Black Stilt
9. Ibisbill
10. Northern Lapwing
11. River Lapwing
12. Common Ringed plover
13. Black-fronted Dotterel
14. Eurasian Curlew
15. Spoon-billed Sandpiper



16. Common Greenshank
17. Cream-coloured Courser
18. Grey Plover
19. Eurasian Dotterel
20. Great Thick-knee
21. Common Sandpiper
22. Crab Plover
23. Two-banded Plover

0-23 DESIGNS STILL

£2.00 each
+p&p

2021 DESIGNS

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



28. 2021 FOWQ exclusive badge - £2.00 members only



2022 DESIGNS

29. Blacksmith Lapwing
30. Purple Sandpiper
31. Red-capped Plover
32. Eurasian Oystercatcher



PLUS NEW FOWQ 10 Year Anniversary



ORDERS FOR ALL WADER QUEST
MERCHANDISING
sales@waderquest.net

Wader Quest Collectables - Enamelled



Earrings

Wader Quest merchandising

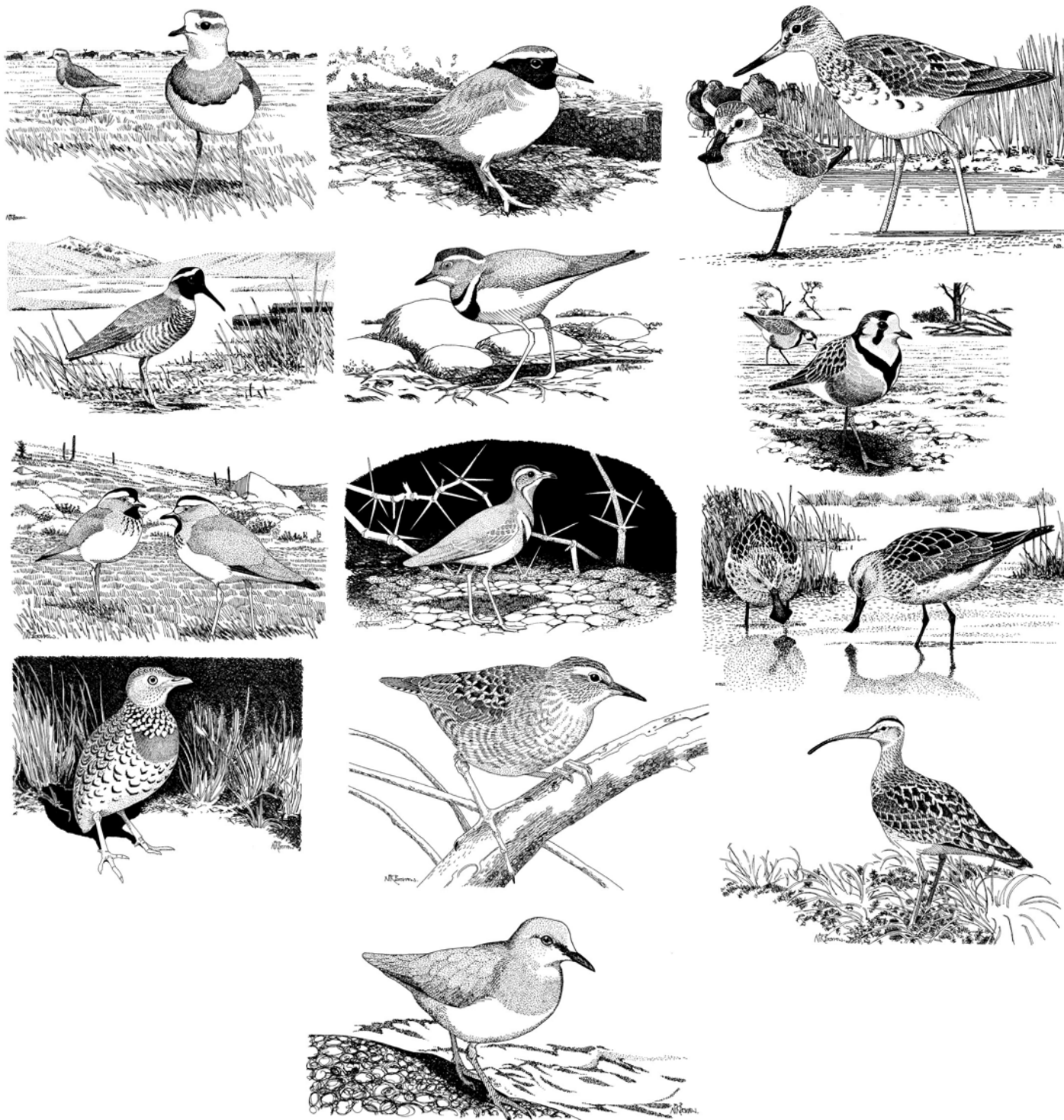


**NIK BORROW DESIGNED WADER
GREETING CARDS**

100 X 150 MM

PACK OF 12 + 1 FREE £10.00

sales@waderquest.net



Wader Quest merchandising



Pied Avocets over Titchwell RSPB reserve © Julia Page

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



Common Snipe © Julia Page



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

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



Eurasian Oystercatchers © 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
- Educational programmes, especially aimed at school children and youth to conserve and protect waders and their habitat

Priority will be given to projects:

- Conducted by Nationals of the country where the activity will take place
 - Containing an educational element, that engage with local communities and/or have an element of long-term sustainability of the project, such as training of local counterparts or raising awareness of wader conservation within the wider community
 - Providing an improvement in the understand of the conservation needs of a under studied wader species through research
- The Wader Quest Grants Committee decision will be final and, unless initiated by Wader Quest, no further correspondence will be entered into regarding the decision.

Download Application form [here](#) and send to applications@waderquest.net

Total funds raised and donated since 12/09/2012 (Includes reserve funds in hand)

£44,326.07

Species supported

African Oystercatcher
American Oystercatcher
Collared Plover
Eurasian Curlew
Great Knot
Hooded Plover
Javan Plover
Magellanic Plover
Nordmann's Greenshank
Purple Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope
St Helena Plover
Snowy Plover
Sociable Lapwing
Spoon-billed Sandpiper
White-faced Plover
White-headed Stilt
Wilson's Phalarope
Wilson's Plover
Wood Snipe

Countries supported

Australia	Nepal
Azerbaijan	New Zealand
Belarus	Peru
Brazil	Russia
Chile	South Africa
China	St Helena
Hungary	Thailand
Iceland	Uganda
Indonesia	UK
Kazakhstan	USA:
Malaysia	Venezuela



White-headed Stilt - Elis Simpson