



WADER QUEST

THE NEWSLETTER Volume 9; Issue 3 Autumn 2022



Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* - Pedro Sanchez

Inside this issue

2: Wader Quest information.

3-7: Wader Quest news.

8: Wader Quest Team Global Big Day.

9: Wader Guru launched / Wader Conservation World Watch.

10-14: Wader Quest Brasil news.

15: Wader Quest South Africa regional roundup.

16-19: Mitigating for Waders on Construction Sites.

19: Linnaeus' sense of humour? *Ornithogalum*.

20: AJD the Bar-tailed Godwit's life history becomes a book.

21: Waders in Poetry - Christian Kouroumihalis.

22-23: Island Harbour Ball Field Welcomes Shorebirds.

24: Wader Soduku.

25-27: Cover picture Curlew Sandpiper.

27: From the library.

28-31: Waders in art - Nicolas Dillon.

32-34: Sands of Change Series 3 Episode 1

35-36: Wader news from around the world - in brief.

37: Two Toes the Hooded Plover.

38-43: Wader Quest shop.

44: 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)
 Aberdeen Powell
 Elis Simpson
 Rick Simpson (Membership)
 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: TBA January 2023

Exec. Comm: TBA December 2022

AGM: 27th November 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 .

Executive Committee updates and news

Three members have left the committee and we thank Ellie Wise, Luke Mariner and Dylan Parry-Davies for their help in shaping Wader Quest thus far.

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:

We will 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.

The new AGM date is 27th November. It will be a virtual meeting and invites will be sent out soon.

Events attended:

Sadly the Martin Mere Birdwatching Festival was cancelled due to Avian Flu. We hope the collection does not suffer too badly and that the staff are all safe. Hopefully we will be able to attend next year.

Talks:

Since the last newsletter Rick and Elis have carried out a further 6 talks (1 of which was via Zoom) to clubs and societies with a combined audience of around 200 people. The income from those talks came to £543. This includes 4 sign-ups as Friends of Wader Quest. Total raise this financial year from talks is £1,553.18, and the number people reached is 459.

	Date	Group	Talk title
2022			
(19.30)	21/11/2022	Aylesbury RSPB	Wader Quest - Ten years of supporting shorebird conservation
(19.30)	01/12/2022	Swillington Ings Bird Group	Wader Quest - Ten years of supporting shorebird conservation
2023			
(19.45)	13/01/2023	Bexley RSPB (2nd visit)	Confessions of a Bird Guide
(19.30)	23/01/2023	The Preston Society	Wader Quest - Ten years of supporting shorebird conservation
(19.30)	01/02/2023	Shropshire Ornithological Society	TBC
(19.45)	14/02/2023	Wigan RSPB local group (4th visit)	A Quest for Waders - Wader Quest on Safari
(19.30)	23/02/2023	North East Norfolk Bird Club	Wader Quest - Ten years of supporting shorebird conservation
(19.30)	05/04/2023	Richmond and Twickenham RSPB (2nd)	For the Love of Waders
(19.30)	06/04/2023	Wirral RSPB	Wader Quest - Ten years of supporting shorebird conservation
(19.30)	11/04/2023	Shoreham Dist. Ornithological Society	Wader Quest - Ten years of supporting shorebird conservation
(19.30)	19/04/2023	Tonbridge RSPB (2nd visit)	A Quest for Waders - Wader Quest on Safari
(19.45)	21/04/2023	Southport RSPB (6th visit)	A Quest for Waders - Wader Quest on Safari
(19.15)	25/04/2023	Shrewsbury RSPB (2nd visit)	An Inspiration of Waders
(19.30)	15/05/2023	Sutton Coldfield RSPB (3rd)	A Quest for Waders - Wader Quest on Safari
(19.30)	16/06/2023	Potters Bar & Barnet RSPB (5th visit)	Marathons, slides and leapfrogs – A Fascinating Diversity of Wader Migration strategies
(19.30)	17/08/2023	Wensum Valley Birdwatching Soc. (2nd)	A Quest for Waders - Wader Quest on Safari
(19.30)	19/10/2023	Nuneaton Bird Club	Marathons, slides and leapfrogs – A Fascinating Diversity of Wader Migration strategies
(19.30)	25/10/2023	Huntingdonshire RSPB (2nd visit)	New Moon on the Wane - The Curse of the Curlews

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.](#)

Wader Quest news - cont'd

ASSOCIATION OF  ANIMAL ARTISTS

Autumn Exhibition

29th October - 30th November

Granary Art Gallery
Weston Park
Weston-Under-Lizard
Shifnal
TF11 8LE

11am-4pm Daily

FREE ENTRY

Preview

29th October
12pm - 2pm

Proudly Supporting



Artwork: 'Red' by Su Melville

www.associationofanimalartists.com

Wader Quest news - cont'd

A big thank you to the Association of Animal Artists.

On Saturday 29th of November Elis and Rick Simpson headed to Weston Park to attend the opening of the Association of Animal Artists Autumn Exhibition (see previous page). The reason for attending was to show support for an organisation that had been fundraising for Wader Quest all year.

Each year the Association picks a wildlife charity to raise funds for with donations from the members on sales at two exhibitions, one in spring and the other in the autumn and also a postcard auction that takes place in the summer.

So it was an unsuspecting Rick and Elis who were presented with an enormous cheque during the proceedings. Not only was the cheque physically huge, as is the norm at such presentations, but the value of it was large too.

The surprise was that it had been expected that the proceeds would be handed over at the end of the year, but, as Rick and Elis were going to be attending the opening of the exhibition, the committee of the Association decided to estimate the takings from the Autumn Exhibition, add it to the other amounts already raised and then round it up. Wader Quest was, as a result, awarded a donation from the members of this wonderful group of talented and generous artists the grand and significant sum of £1,000.

The level of skills and the variety of techniques is breath taking in the exhibition. As always there were some prizes awarded. The Chair of the Association Liselle-Fae Jackson made the awards., they were for the Chair's award chosen by her and the Best in Show chosen by a panel of judges. The Chair's prize went to an artist who goes by the name of Squorn who painted a magnificent Lion entitled 'King of the Pride' in oils and the Best in Show went to Sophie Parkhill who used pastels to produce a Lemur portrait called 'Things are looking up'. Both thoroughly deserving winners.

There were two interesting artworks depicting a Northern Lapwing and also an American Avocet landing. They were created by Tracy Escolme and involved a fascination technique called Cyanotype print, which, she explained, is the exposing of UV sensitive paper to light using papercut masks to vary the exposure time. The longer the exposure the darker the cyan becomes, much like black-and-white photographic printing but a much slower process.

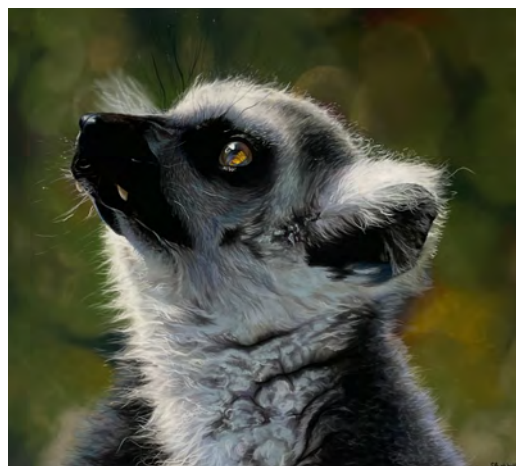
If you are in the vicinity of the exhibition, it is well worth a visit to spend some time admiring the talent of the artists and the beauty of the wildlife that they have chosen to depict.



Liselle-Fae Jackson presenting the cheque to Rick and Elis Simpson



Chair's Prize: King of the Pride - Squorn



Best in Show prize: Things are looking up - Sophie Parkhill



American Avocet cyanotype artwork - Tracy Escolme

Wader Quest news - cont'd

Applications are invited for the Wader Quest 10th Anniversary Grant.

£1,000

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



Wader Quest is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the charity commission of England and Wales No. 1193674

Taking part in the Global Big Day - Rick Simpson

It seems there are as many world and global commemorative days as there are days in the year. We can't get involved in all of them of course but the biannual Global Big Day organised by [Global Birding](#), our friends, and Patrons of Wader Quest, Tim Appleton and Penny Robinson are events we cannot miss. These are a celebration of birds everywhere, not just waders and of course the idea is to raise money for [BirdLife International](#) to protect the world's birds, and heaven alone knows how much they all need help.

In the last event we excelled ourselves by coming 7th out of 150 odd teams around the world, this autumn however, we slipped in the rankings to number 20. Not that we are competitive,



Grey (Black-bellied) Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* on Anguilla - Jacky Cestero

or anything, but when you consider the number of teams we still didn't do badly. Over the three days of the event the WaderQuestTeam (our eBird account name) managed to see 298 species and on the big day itself 284, not bad at all.

As usual we had support from South Africa via Wader Quest South Africa and Sue Oertli; Brazil via [Wader Quest Brasil](#) and partners [Projeto Aves Limícolas](#) Karina Ávila, Bruno Lima, Marcio Motta, Thales Pinheiro and Allan Porto; UK with myself and Elis and in Anguilla our constant supporter Jackie Cestero of [Nature Explorers Anguilla](#) with team members Elizabeth Bell and Baylee Connor-McClean boosting our species numbers. The Anguilla team did an [interesting blog](#) about their day with an accompanying video to add flavour. We will endeavour to get team members from all continents next time. To boost our ranking... as I say, not competitive at all! The most important thing though is the funds raised for bird conservation that results from the event.



Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* in Brazil - Karin Ávila

A poster for Global Bird Weekend. On the left is an illustration of a bird in flight over a wave. The text on the right lists the following statistics: Totals 7717 in 3 Days, 7453 species in 1 Day, 34,670 Contributors, 80,000 Checklists, 188 Countries & Territories, and Birds Unite Our World. At the bottom left are logos for BirdLife International, The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and the 2022 Global Big Day (October 8, 2022). At the bottom right is the Swarovski Optik logo. The Global Bird Weekend logo is in the top right corner.

Totals
7717 in 3 Days
7453 species in 1 Day
34,670 Contributors
80,000 Checklists
188 Countries & Territories
Birds Unite Our World

GLOBAL BIRD WEEKEND

BirdLife International
The Cornell Lab of Ornithology
OCTOBER BIG DAY
8 OCT 2022

SWAROVSKI OPTIK

Wader Guru is now live on our 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, just published on the Wader Quest website is the [Wader Guru page](#).

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 [FAQs](#) and also the opportunity to [Submit a question](#) 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.](#)

If you have no questions of your own, you can see some of the [Recent Questions](#) that have been asked by others and the Guru's answer.

NEW FEATURE: [A-Z of the people in wader nomenclature.](#)

Who was Baird after whom Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* was named and who named it? (It was [Elliott Ladd Coues](#) in 1861.)

If you have ever wondered who all these people who have named waders are, or thought about the people behind the names given in honour of someone, then this is the place to look for your answers.



Going birding



on the 5th and or 6th of November?

If so, no matter where you are in the world, let us know what waders or shorebirds you see on those days and stand up to say I CARE about wader conservation.

Simply email the list to; wcww@waderquest.net

Or

Share you eBird list with WaderQuestTeam.

Tell us what you saw, where and with whom.

Caring is the first step to conservation!



Wader Quest Brasil news

- Karina Ávila and Bruno Lima



O sucesso do “II Festival de Aves Costeiras do Litoral Paulista” - [English Text](#)

No litoral do estado de São Paulo, Sudeste do Brasil, o mês de setembro é tido como um mês de baixa temporada e péssimo para o comércio local, com poucos turistas e ainda sofrendo a influência das frentes frias vindas da Antártida. Por coincidência, de acordo com os estudos da bióloga Karina Ávila, é o mês em que começam a chegar as aves limícolas do Hemisfério Norte. As praias se enchem de pequenas bolinhas emplumadas que são as batuínas-de-bando *Charadrius semipalmatus* e de graciosos maçaricos-brancos *Calidris alba* correndo pela beira-mar.



Maçarico branco (mais perto) com batuínas-do-bando correndo pela beira-mar — Karina Ávila

Pensando em conciliar a presença das aves limícolas na região com o comércio e cultura local, a Wader Quest Brasil e Projeto Aves Limícolas uniram forças aos sempre parceiros de luta (Combem, MoCAN e Projeto Trinta-Réis) para realizar o “II Festival de Aves Costeiras do Litoral Paulista”. Com o patrocínio da Wader Quest, realizamos esse festival durante os dias 15, 16 e 17 de setembro, onde contamos com a presença de entidades ambientais de grande importância estadual e nacional, como o Zoológico de São Paulo, Aquário de Santos, SAVE Brasil/Programa de Aves Limícolas, Instituto Biopesca, Instituto Gremar, Fundação Florestal. Também contamos com observadores de aves locais que realizam belos trabalhos de divulgação das aves e conscientização, como a ornitóloga Milena Corbo (Quintal da Passarada), Willian Wallace (COAP), Professora Lesley (Escola Estadual Ottoniel), Vando Silva (Fotografia de Natureza).

Durante o Festival tivemos a presença de 25 artesãos locais e comércio de alimentos, que durante as semanas anteriores se dedicaram apaixonadamente a fazer material relacionado às aves costeiras. O resultado não poderia ser outro: em pouco tempo venderam quase tudo o que haviam produzido.

“Nunca tínhamos vendido tanto em tão pouco tempo!” – nos disseram alguns emocionados.

“Podem contar com nossa presença para o próximo Festival” – diziam outros, ao virem nos abraçar.



Belos trabalhos de divulgação das aves — Karina Ávila



Recebemos diversas escolas do município — Karina Ávila

Para ressaltar a campanha “Meu cachorro Herói das Aves”, foi de suma importância a parceria com o Adestradom – Parque Hotel, que veio conscientizar as pessoas sobre a importância de não se levar cães à praia (para os cães e para as aves!), mostrando que toda a forma de vida importa. E para coroar essa campanha, trouxeram os próprios cães heróis das aves.

Além da presença dos moradores locais e dos turistas, recebemos diversas escolas do município, onde os jovens puderam visitar os estandes e aprender mais sobre aves costeiras e como protegê-las.

Nos momentos com maior presença de visitantes realizamos dois teatros com o tema “A



Wader Quest Brasil news - cont'd



Teatro "A viagem do maçarico" — Karina Ávila

viagem do maçarico". Com a narração de Mari Polachini (MoCAN) e participação de Edmar (Ecovilla Bom Lugar) e Adestradom o teatro explicou sobre as dificuldades da migração e como a presença de cães na praia é prejudicial às aves.

Durante todo o Festival tivemos apresentações de grupos culturais e musicais, com temas sempre voltados ao meio ambiente e às aves limícolas. Contamos com o apoio da Prefeitura Municipal de Peruíbe, da Secretaria de Meio Ambiente e Secretaria de Cultura e estamos imensamente gratos ao grupo de voluntários que estiveram conosco desde o princípio, e sem os quais esse Festival não teria sido possível: Victoria Nascimento, Rodrigo Passos, Rodrigo Passos, Rafaella Jurkfitz, Allan Clé e Eveline Palhoto.

Em resumo, o Festival foi um sucesso maior do que esperávamos e cumpriu a missão de aproximar as aves costeiras à população e estimular o comércio local. Tanto sucesso culminou na decisão da Prefeitura Municipal de incluir o "Festival de Aves Costeiras" no Calendário Municipal, para que o evento ocorra duas vezes ao ano: em setembro (quando as aves limícolas

migratórias neárticas estão chegando) e em maio (quando elas estão de partida). O Festival culminou com uma menção honrosa que recebemos da Prefeitura, pelos serviços prestados em prol das aves limícolas e do município.



Menção de congratulações - Karina Ávila



Wader Quest Brasil news - cont'd



AdestraDom-Adestramente e Hotel Tematico-Meu Cachorro Herói das Aves - Karina Ávila



Confeções de mascaras - Karina Ávila



Muffins - Karina Ávila



Exposição fotografica de observadores de aves de Peruíbe - Karina Ávila



Mulheres de Maré - Karina Ávila



Atividades de educação ambiental-Wader Quest Brasil e projeto aves limícolas - Karina Ávila



Atividade educacional da SAVES limícolas - Karina Ávila



Artesanato de Gracinda - Karina Ávila



Exposição Aquario de Santos- Karina Ávila



Equipe do Festival das Aves Costeiras do Litoral Paulista - Karina Ávila



Wader Quest Brasil news - cont'd



Dia Mundial das Aves Migratórias: noites escuras, migrações seguras - [English text](#)

Estrelas, aves e planetas no céu noturno

O Dia Mundial das Aves Migratórias é uma campanha mundial e anual que celebra a migração das aves através de todos os países e continentes. Esse dia é celebrado tradicionalmente no segundo sábado de maio e de outubro.

Em 2022, a campanha está focada nos impactos da poluição luminosa sobre as aves migratórias. A luz artificial tem aumentado 2% ao ano em todo o mundo, o que significa um problema para as aves. A poluição luminosa que vem das casas, comércios e grandes construções atrai e desorienta as aves migratórias. Elas acabam pousando em áreas onde são mais vulneráveis a colisões e outros perigos.

Para celebrar esse dia e levar o tema da poluição luminosa à comunidade, a Wader Quest Brasil, Projeto Aves Limícolas e MoCAN realizaram um evento em Peruíbe, no litoral centro do estado de São Paulo, intitulado: “Estrelas, aves e planetas no céu noturno”. O local escolhido para o evento foi o Instituto Relfe, uma ONG que trabalha com jovens em situação de vulnerabilidade – muitos dos quais realizam observação de aves conosco.



Maçarico-grande-de-perna-amarela — Karina Ávila

Em uma noite privilegiadamente clara (algo raro no litoral paulista), recebemos o “Observatório Astronômico Albert Einstein” para se unir à nós em uma palestra sobre a poluição luminosa.

A equipe da Wader Quest Brasil/Projeto Aves Limícolas explicou sobre migrações noturnas e os riscos que as luzes artificiais oferecem às aves e o Prof. Astrônomo Antônio Carlos Tavares contou sobre como as luzes das cidades atrapalham a atividade de observação dos astros, especialmente das estrelas frias.



Palestra sobre a poluição luminosa — Karina Ávila

Além de ser um parceiro de longa data, o Instituto Relfe está localizado na rota de algumas aves limícolas e outras aves migratórias que chegam à região, sendo possível observar a chegada de Maçarico-grande-de-perna-amarela *Tringa melanoleuca*, andorinha-do-campo *Progne tapera*, tesourinha *Tyrannus savana*, andorinhão-do-temporal *Chaetura meridionalis*, suiriri *Tyrannus melancholicus* e outras migrantes tanto do Hemisfério Norte quanto da região amazônica. É um local próximo às terras indígenas e à quase selvagem Praia do Tanigwá e portanto, bastante livre da poluição noturna.



Wader Quest Brasil news - cont'd



Após a palestra, houve uma atividade de observação do céu noturno, sob as didáticas explicações de nossos parceiros do Observatório, lanche comunitário e a observação de algumas garças *Egrettas* e socós, cujas silhuetas inconfundíveis as denunciavam sob a luz do luar.

Estiveram presentes moradores da comunidade, alunos do Instituto Relfe, a equipe de escoteiros "Escoteiros da Juréia", e coletivos como "Guaraú Vivo" e "MoCAN - Movimento Contra as Agressões à Natureza".



Observação do céu noturno - Karina Ávila



Observatório Astronômico Albert Einstein
- Karina Ávila



O telescópio e a lua - Karina Ávila



A Lua— Karina Ávila



Prof. Astrônomo Antônio Carlos Tavares
com crianças - Karina Ávila



Saturno - Karina Ávila



Júpiter - Karina Ávila



Lanche comunitário - Karina Ávila



Southern African Regional Round-up – Peter & Jenny Sharland



It is springtime now in Southern Africa and from late August to early September, wader watchers throughout the sub-region are reporting the arrival of “our migrants”. Sightings of arriving waders are reported in many ways by birders in the sub-region. SABirdnet and the Provincial Rarities groups on WhatsApp are the particular media that have been used to put together the sightings in this regional round-up. The arriving migrants are listed below, area by area, but there is a caveat, namely that the lists are not exhaustive by any means, but merely indicative and for the interest of the reader. Photographs have been obtained from the photographers themselves, or via our personal contacts. We have also included some of the resident waders in the lists, because they are seen as regional rarities by the local wader watchers.

Mozambique

Pectoral Sandpiper, Steppe Whimbrel, African Oystercatcher, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Common Ringed Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, Chestnut-banded Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper.

Namibia

Caspian Plover, Three-banded Courser.

Zimbabwe

Green Sandpiper.

Limpopo province

Caspian Plover, Three-banded Courser, Golden Plover sp, White-fronted Plover, Ruff, Pectoral Sandpiper.

Gauteng province

Caspian Plover, Collared Pratincole, Ruddy Turnstone, Whimbrel.

Mpumalanga province

Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, Greater Painted Snipe, Chestnut-banded Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, Caspian Plover.

Kwa-Zulu Natal province

Caspian Plover, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Green Sandpiper,

Western Cape province

Eurasian Oystercatcher, African Jacana, Sanderling, Red-necked Phalarope, Fynbos Buttonquail.



Three-banded Courser - Christiane Maluche



Green Sandpiper - Charles Brightman



Caspian Plover - Christiane Maluche

Mitigating for Waders on Construction Sites

- Andrew Whitelee

Background

I am employed as an ecologist/environmental clerk of works on a large wind farm construction project in Shetland. I have environmental responsibilities for an 8km section of the project where a cable is being installed underground to link the substation to the shoreline. This cable will then join a subsea cable that links to Wick in mainland Scotland. When the project comes online it will bring renewable wind energy from Shetland, linking it into the main electricity grid in Scotland.

The cable route runs through areas of deep peat, ground water dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE), dry and wet heath and rough grassland used for sheep grazing. The route has to be dug up, ducts installed for the cables to be pulled through at a



European Starling in a vehicle exhaust pipe - Andrew Whitelee



Eurasian Oystercatcher displaying to itself in a vehicle wing mirror - Andrew Whitelee

The Challenges

For me, the key to a successful breeding bird season on a construction site comes from good planning and preparation. If an active nest is identified on site, then works in that area have to stop until the nest is no longer in use (i.e., either successful fledging or the breeding attempt fails). Any stoppages for bird nests could potentially add time and money to the construction budget, so it is important that we avoid any unnecessary delays. If a nest is found, my job is to mark out a suitably sized exclusion zone around the nest to prevent disturbance from construction work and then to monitor the progress of the nest.

Ahead of the start of breeding bird season I went around site identifying areas I thought could be potential nest sites for both ground-nesting birds and passerines. For example, holes in cable drums are a particular favourite of species such as Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba* and

later date and then reinstated so that the land can recover as quickly as possible. These habitats have good potential for ground-nesting birds such as waders so throughout the breeding season my work entails trying to keep both disturbance to breeding birds and disruption to the project to a minimum.

All bird nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) so if anyone on site disturbs, damages or destroys a nest then it is reportable to the police as a potential wildlife crime. My role is to keep everyone on site on the right side of environmental law. I hold a Schedule 1 bird survey licence issued by NatureScot to allow me to carry out my work and have over a decade's experience working on construction sites in remote and difficult terrain.



Pied Wagtail - Elis Simpson

Mitigating for Waders on Construction Sites

- cont'd

European Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris*, so where possible these were blocked. For ground-nesting birds, the issues are slightly vaguer as nests could potentially be built anywhere on site that a bird feels is suitable. I have seen Eurasian Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus* nest on a quiet access track or on stockpiles of stone (one even nested right under a bird scarer on one site I was working on), so identifying potential nest sites comes largely from experience gained over the years of doing the job.

I never look to completely exclude ground-nesting birds from sites; experience has taught me this is often too difficult to achieve. Instead, I am trying to maintain a balance between construction work continuing unhindered and birds having opportunities to complete a successful breeding season. To facilitate this, I look to identify areas of the site where having a nest would cause issues for keeping the work going

and find other areas where we can happily let birds nest, knowing that we won't disturb them. Once I had carried out my analysis of this site, I conducted a full site inspection with the site supervisor to discuss critical locations such as joint bays, stockpiles and access tracks where we couldn't allow any nests and to identify "sacrifice" areas of the site where we could allow birds to nest. We use various bird scaring methods on site such as kites, spinning scarers and bird scare tape (this is reflective tape that rattles and can be useful for preventing passerines from nesting within machinery that is parked for any length of time). Not all of these methods work for all species, however. For example, Common Ringed Plovers *Charadrius hiaticula* seem oblivious to bird scarers, so the best way to prevent them nesting in an area is regular disturbance by walking the ground. This may seem harsh, but it is more a case of persuading the birds that a nearby location is quieter and more suitable.



Common Ringed Plover nest - Andrew Whitelee



Kite bird scaring device - Andrew Whitelee

Prior to works starting in a new area, I would carry out nest checks to see if there were any nests established there. If there were any nests, I worked out suitable mitigation measures. These can range from just making sure everyone is aware of the nest and avoiding the area, to marking out exclusion zones or, in the worst-case scenario, preventing any construction work from taking place until I am satisfied the nest has fledged. Normally on construction sites, nests are marked with an exclusion zone made of canes and marker tape. However, my feeling is that this gives predators somewhere to perch and draws unnecessary attention to the nests. If nests weren't anywhere that was in immediate danger of disturbance by site operatives, I would rather GPS their location and take a different route to monitor them each time to avoid trampling too much vegetation.

Finding and monitoring nests had the added complication of trying to minimise the chances of alerting the local hooded crows to the whereabouts of nests. One of the site safety

Mitigating for Waders on Construction Sites - cont'd

rules is that all personnel wear hi-vis PPE at all times, so I was pretty noticeable as I walked across the hillside. It didn't take the hooded crows long to notice me and to become interested in my movements. Taking different routes across the hills, checking nests at different times of day, waiting until the crows disappeared elsewhere to feed or just walking past a nest and completely ignoring it, were all tactics I used to try and outwit the locals.

Sometimes a tricky part of the job can be getting site operatives to buy into the idea of stopping work if they find a nest. On construction sites in the past there was definitely a mentality that it's "only a nest" so let's just carry on, and I am sure a lot of nests have been destroyed this way over the years. However, with more of an emphasis on sustainability and good working practices it does mean that more and more operatives are happy to tell you if they find a nest. In fact, some take great pride in finding a nest that "the professional" might have missed. The key is being open and friendly and ensuring that operatives realise I am there to help and not to get them into trouble. This project has been very positive and encouraged everyone to be on the lookout for birds and other wildlife and report sightings to me.



Eurasian Oystercatcher chick (note hi-vis apparel) - Andrew Whitelee

Outcomes



Northern Lapwings - Andrew Whitelee

Seven wader species nested in and around this particular construction site, consisting of Eurasian Oystercatcher, Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and Common Ringed Plover, although I only managed to find active nests for three of these species (Eurasian Oystercatcher, European Golden Plover and Common Ringed Plover). Juveniles of all of the above species were seen on site, indicating that all species had some breeding success. It is important to point out that my observations are anecdotal and not a scientific study with the associated academic rigour that would entail. However, I do have some observations from spending so much time with the waders this breeding season.

Oystercatchers were much more likely to nest close to active access tracks and construction works than the other wader species. Of course, they would alarm call and act stressed at times, but this is very much the way oystercatchers are at the best of times, so I didn't notice any additional stress caused by our works. The nests within the construction site boundary fared better, possibly due to the lack of sheep in this area. Of the seven nests I found and monitored, one was trampled by sheep and then predated by hooded crows, two were predated by crows, two fledged two chicks successfully and the other two fledged three chicks.

Ringed plovers were prone to trying to nest in areas of open ground such as hard-standing areas in compounds if those areas were not being used by plant and machinery for several days. This resulted in the need for me to carry out more walkovers and activity in these areas to prevent nesting. Of the two nests I found, one fledged one chick and I assume the other one failed as I never noted any juveniles in the area.

Lapwing, redshank and curlew all preferred the quieter parts of site with less disturbance. Some of this behaviour may also have been because the more suitable habitat was in the quieter areas where works had been completed the previous autumn. A very unscientific conclusion was that lapwings were managing two offspring, redshank and curlew seemed to only be managing one at best.



Common Redshank - Andrew Whitelee

Mitigating for Waders on Construction Sites - cont'd

In my view, most of the site wasn't suitable golden plover habitat, and only one golden plover nest was found on the higher ground above site, so it is hard to draw any conclusions. I didn't find any evidence of either predation or the nest fledging successfully.

Snipe were noted displaying over large areas of the site, but I was unable to locate any nests. I did track down one juvenile not long after fledging, though.

Without a control site that wasn't part of a construction project it is difficult to draw any conclusions as to whether birds fared better or worse than in other parts of Shetland. I did see farmers cutting meadows for silage at the same time I was still monitoring active nests, so there is potential that some nests were damaged by this activity, although the habitat in question may not have been as suitable for wader nests as the rough, upland grassland areas were. I know we didn't damage or disturb any nests across our site, so those birds that did choose to nest within the wayleave had as good a chance of survival as ones off site. Whether there would have been more nests across the area if we weren't there is impossible to say. It would be interesting to carry out further monitoring in future years. In real terms there will be little to no net habitat loss as the cable route will ultimately be a ducted system under reinstated habitat, so in theory you shouldn't be able to tell where we were. The local farmer has obtained planning permission to keep part of the access road we have created so there is a net loss of habitat there, but this may be offset by the creation of drier, grassy banks alongside the track that could offer potential nesting sites.



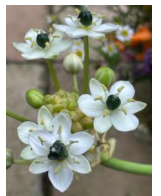
Common Snipe - Andrew Whitelee

Linnaeus' sense of humour? - Rick Simpson

Have you heard of *Ornithogalum*?

If you are not a gardener nor a floriculturist you may not have. I came across it at our local florist shop. *Ornithogalum* is a genus of flower named by Linnaeus in 1753. I was intrigued by the name seeing the reference to birds, so I checked the etymology. It comes from Ancient Greek: ὀρνιθόγαλον *ornithogalon*, deriving from ὄρνις *ornis* "bird" and γάλα *gala* "milk". 'Bird milk' is a pleasant name, and the ladies in the shop were charmed by it until they realised that 'bird milk' is a euphemism for bird droppings.

It seems that Linnaeus had a sense of humour as well as an ordered mind.



Ornithogalum sp. - Elis Simpson

AJD the Bar-tailed Godwit's life history becomes a book - Adrian Riegen

New Zealand Bar-tailed Godwits really are star birds, from the incredible E7 who finally showed that the birds in Alaska flew non stop to New Zealand, to the new long distance record holder 4BBRW and now, a male bird called AJD is hitting the headlines, Adrian Riegen tells the story:

Just three letters - AJD - can tell a fascinating story about a Godwit, with the help of some keen observers including Paul Gibson, a birder and photographer in Whanganui who has been instrumental in telling AJD's story. He has been so captivated by AJD that he has written and illustrated a book about this one male Bar-tailed Godwit (available through [Feats Beyond Amazing – Pūkoro Miramira Shorebird Centre Bookshop](#) (shorebirds.org.nz) online and at the centre shop in New Zealand).

The leg flag with the letters AJD was put on an adult (3+ years old) male Bar-tailed Godwit at Foxton Beach on the Manawatu Estuary, New Zealand on the 30th October 2008 along with 53 others that day. By the 19th of December that year AJD had moved up to Whanganui Estuary where he was seen until the 22nd of February 2009. Presumably he migrated sometime after that. On the 4th of October 2009 he was back at Foxton Beach from Alaska. A month later he was back at Whanganui. This is a pattern that has been repeated most years. He arrives at Foxton Beach from Alaska and then moves to Whanganui for the summer. He has been reported over 100 times at both sites.

Godwits do seem to be very site faithful and stick to a routine to the extent that each individual Godwit appears to have its own preferred departure date from wherever it has spent the summer in New Zealand. Jesse Conklin, who studied the departures of marked birds from Foxton Beach over many years discovered this. Individuals depart on their northward migration within a narrow window of a few days each year. The winds at the time of departure usually determining the exact day of departure.

Paul has seen AJD depart on many occasions over the years since 2009 and it appears AJD's favoured departure date is the 25th of March.

He was not seen to depart in 2022 and was missing from Whanganui some days earlier. Had he departed ahead of schedule or had something else happened to him? We would not know for six months until his scheduled arrival back from Alaska. Paul was overjoyed to find AJD at Foxton Beach completely unaware of this celebrity status, on the 7th of October year.

A move to Whanganui is expected soon and if you are in Whanganui around the 25th of March next year look out for Paul with his camera trying to capture AJD's 15th departure since being banded and adding to his at least 400,000km of migration flights.



Bar-tailed Godwit AJD in flight - Jesse Conklin



Waders in Poetry - Christian Kouroumihalis



Shorebirds I hear, I feel, ocean I smell.
Feathers feel soft heartbeat fast as a train.
Fear not little one for all will be well.
Soon out of my hand you will fly again.

Your wings beat strongly on your life journey
Between the times of white snow and warm sun
Goal to fly not too late not too early
So life begins for your daughter and son.

Life is a song sung by you and your flock
Together you feed, you rest and wait
For the time will come, to follow the clock
Fly back to the Arctic to find your mate.

For thousands of years the story not changed
But fate will descend as Earth will turn strange.

CK

Christian holding Great Knot 'Kali' (see below) - Grace Maglio

This poem was written by Christian Kouroumihalis who has lived in Broome, Western Australia since January 2020. Christian is 15 years old, and he is also blind - which explains the first verse of the poem.

Before moving to Broome he lived in Melbourne, Victoria and he participated in a number of cannon netting catches working with the late Clive Minton. Christian has now participated in two North West Australia Expeditions at Eighty Mile Beach.

In his hand in the photo above he is holding a Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*. This particular Great Knot was given the moniker Kali.

Kali is an adult bird (3 years or more), possibly recently returned from its Russian breeding grounds. Kali was found near Crab Creek on the northern shores of Roebuck Bay with signs of exhaustion and some myopathy type symptoms, unable to use its legs or flap its wings. It was however able to hold its head up. Luckily a kind member of public found Kali and took the time and trouble to get Kali to a vet.

Following five days in the care of Grace Maglio and getting a little stronger each day, Kali was eventually able to stand again. After a few more days Kali put on some weight and was able to exercise his or her legs and those vital wings that would hopefully carry him or her back to the breeding grounds in north-eastern Siberia in the Arctic next year.

Kali the Great Knot recovered well and was released back into the wild on the 8th of October, which happens to be World Migratory Bird Day. To help track the success rate of rehabilitation, Kali was marked with an engraved leg flag with the hope of a sighting or two while overwintering on Roebuck Bay. Given a second chance, it is hoped that the effort put into his recovery will result in many more epic flights.



Great Knot 'Kali' in care- Grace Maglio

Island Harbour Ball Field Welcomes Shorebirds

- Jackie Cestero

Several years ago, the low lying area next to the Island Harbour basketball court was infilled in an attempt to stop flooding of the road and surrounding properties during periods of intense rain. Storms like Hurricane Lenny in 1999, rendered the road impassable.

Since then, the area has been used as a Cricket Pitch and parking for local festivals. Unfortunately, it is also often used as a dump spot for debris.

Although the concept was an interesting one at the time, it never totally stopped the accumulation of water at this location. Recently, I witnessed a young man trying to retrieve a wayward basketball from these waters without getting his shoes wet. It took time, but he managed it!

With the passing of two tropical storms over the last few weeks, the area has accumulated a large amount of water attracting a wide variety of birds. With the Fall Migration at its peak, shorebirds and waterbirds are arriving hungry and tired after their long journey along the Atlantic Flyway. This spot must be a site for sore eyes (and tired wings) as the birds arrive in Anguilla.

A quick stop in the early hours of September 23rd, yielded interesting results. The usual Fall cast of characters was present including Lesser *Tringa flavipes* and Greater Yellowlegs *T. melanoleuca*, Least *Calidris minutilla* Semipalmated *C. pusilla* and Spotted *Actitis maculatus* Sandpipers, and Semipalmated Plovers *Charadrius semipalmatus*. With its close proximity to the Island Harbour dock, a few seabirds flew over on their way to a tasty fish meal.

There are some species that we tend to see only during the Fall Migration, like White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*. It was showing nicely as it fed along the edge of the water close to the road.



Island Harbour ball field. — Jackie Cestero



Greater Yellowlegs. — Jackie Cestero



White-rumped Sandpiper. — Jackie Cestero

And it really wouldn't be Fall in Anguilla without the arrival of our stunning Pectoral Sandpipers *Calidris melanotos*. Their visits are generally brief, but they add nice variety to our wetlands at this time of the year. On this morning, three were seen feeding in the grass.

The real action was happening at the back of the pond up against the trees. This is really no surprise, as the bush provides nice cover for birds. On any given day, this area is filled with Zenaida *Zenaida aurita*, White-winged *Z. asiatica* and Common-Ground Doves *Columbina passerina*. This day was no exception.

While trying to avoid the gushy parts of the area, I manoeuvred into the back and came upon a group of birds feeding feverishly among some felled tree branches and debris. Of course they were facing right into the sun, but I got a few snaps and decided to call it a morning.



Pectoral Sandpipers. — Jackie Cestero

Island Harbour Ball Field Welcomes Shorebirds - cont'd

In the interest of full disclosure, it wasn't until I was home processing photographs, that I realized that I had come across an amazing discovery. Two grainy photos showed a bird that was comparable in size to a nearby Lesser Yellowlegs, yet much smaller than the Greater Yellowlegs. It had a long bill, bold white eye ring, greenish-yellow legs and spotted wings. WOW!

I quickly sent the photos off to my eBird reviewer colleague in the USA, who confirmed what I suspected. This was in fact a Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*!

The one and only time I recorded this bird on Anguilla was in 2011, and I was jealous of colleagues who reported them in St. Martin last year.

A review of eBird data revealed records in 2005 and 2006 by trusted sources. The most recent record was in Katouche in 2016 with no description or photograph. It would not be surprising to find one there, due to the remote location and habitat.

I returned to Island Harbour the next morning to see if I could get a better look. On that visit, I was lucky to find not one, but three, chasing each other and foraging. It was a great opportunity to observe this rare visitor. I settled in to enjoy their antics and interactions with the other species present. For the most part, they seemed pretty aggressive with each other, and all three were vocalizing constantly.

Content with the scene before me, a familiar sound came from behind my position. A beautiful Green Heron *Butorides virescens* flew in and landed on a dead branch. After finding a suitable spot, it proceeded to hunt for prey with great success for about 15 minutes. Judging the size of its catch, it had a long day ahead.

Over the two visits to the Island Harbour Ball Field, I recorded 17 species. Not a bad number for a small seasonal spot.

The moral of the story is, never underestimate an impromptu stop at a seasonal wetland. It can yield big rewards in the birding world!

To see more of the live action, take a look at my YouTube Companion Reel at the following link: [Island Harbour Ball Field Welcomes Shorebirds Companion Reel - YouTube](#)



Solitary Sandpiper — Jackie Cestero



Green Heron. — Jackie Cestero

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)

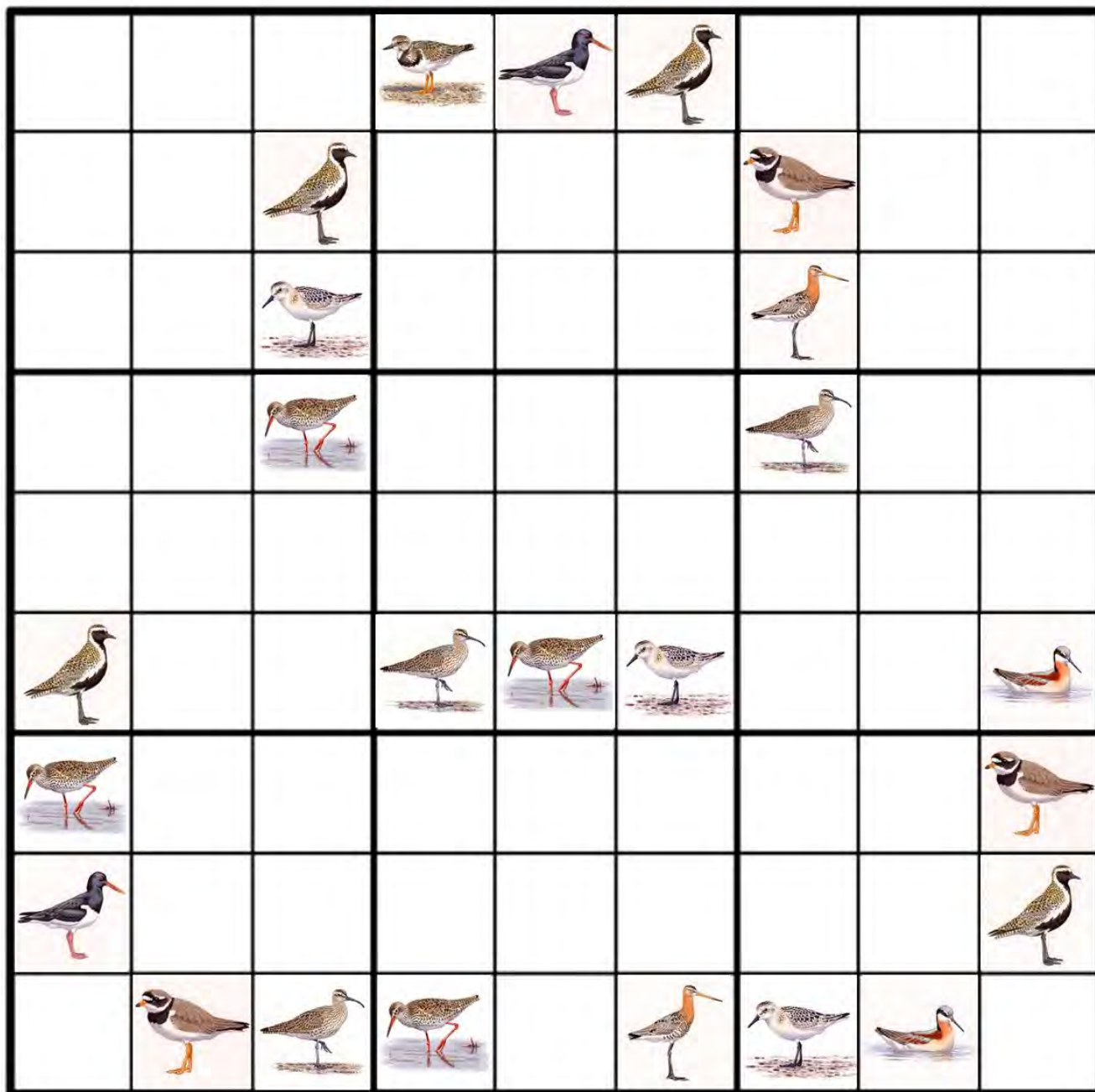
Wader Sudoku - Steve West

Wader Sudoku instructions - Click on the sudoku puzzle image below and download the puzzle. Enable editing and then follow the instructions on the document.

This wader Sudoku was brought to you with the inspiration and assistance of Steve West of Birding In Spain.

www.Birdinginspain.com

All the artworks are by Szabolcs Kóky, the originals of which are for sale in the [Wader Quest shop](#).



Cover photo; Curlew Sandpiper - Pedro Sanchez



Adult breeding Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* - Pedro Sanchez

Most of my photos of waders are taken in the Doñana Natural Space, in the Southwest of Spain, near the mouth of the Guadalquivir River. There, and for just a few days in April, the Curlew sandpipers *Calidris ferruginea* pass by on their way to their breeding grounds in northern Europe in their prettiest plumage.

This photo is taken lying down and covered with a camouflage net and a lot of patience.

If you are interested, this is the [link to my wader gallery on flickr](#)

Curlew Sandpiper - Rick Simpson

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* Pontoppidan 1763

IUCN Near Threatened

Scientific name explained:

- *Calidris* - Greek: *kalidris* / *skalidris* mentioned by Aristotle as being a grey-coloured waterside bird.
- *ferruginea* - Latin: *ferrugineus* meaning rusty-coloured or ferruginous - from *ferrugo*, *ferruginis* meaning iron rust,

Alternative English names; Curlew Tringa

Spanish: *Correlimos Zarapatin* - For more variants in other languages see [Avibase](#).

Taxonomy; monotypic.

Taxonomic history;

Family Scolopacidae, subfamily Calidrinae.

The genus name of the small sandpipers has had many manifestations over the years, so this species has been *Tringa*, *Ereunetes*, *Scolopax*, *Numenius*, *Erolia*, *Falcinellus*, *Trynga*, *Ancylocheilus*, *Pelidna*, *Ærolia*, *Schoeniclus* and finally *Calidris* (see list of synonyms below).

The specific name was originally accepted as *testacea* coined by Pallas in 1764, this coming from the Latin *testa* meaning brick or tile, with the meaning brick-coloured.

Other names refer to the fact that this resembles a Curlew with its decurved bill. The scientific name for the Eurasian

Curlew Sandpiper - cont'd

Curlew is *Numenius arquata* so referencing that in the name with a nod to the much smaller size the specific names *subarquata* or *subarquatus* were sometimes applied.

The size was also reflected in the *pygmeus* where Latham had the taxon in the *Numenius* genus so calling it a small curlew. Subsequently Cuvier had it in the genus *Falcinellus*, which refers to ibises, so a small ibis and finally *pygmæa* where Gmelin had it in the genus *Scolopax* which refers to snipes and woodcocks.

Some referred to the location that the bird had been collected or observed, such as *africanus* or *chinensis*.

A couple of people have named the species after other scientists namely; Detharding by Siemssen and Cuvier by Bonaparte.



Juvenile Curlew Sandpiper - Elis Simpson



Adult non-breeding Curlew Sandpiper - Elis Simpson

The changing seasonal plumage, or perhaps the variety of plumages seen while the species is in moult, has led to *variabilis* by Bechstein, *variegata* by Vieillot and *varia* also by Vieillot being suggested.

Others include Brehm's *macrorhyncha* referring to the long bill, Pallas' *falcinella*, once again referring to the bill being similar to an ibis, Temminck's *cursorius* which means runner.

Finally the name was changed permanently to *ferruginea*, which takes us full circle back to the colour of the breeding plumage, this coming from the Latin referring to rusty iron. The interesting thing is that this name is given as it precedes all the others and has only recently been recognised as being given by Pontoppidan (as *Tringa ferrugineus*). It is curious that such a widespread bird had not come to the attention of Linnaeus.

Synonyms:

- *Tringa Ferrugineus* Pontoppidan 1763 Protonym
- *Ereunetes ferrugineus* Pontoppidan 1763
- *Scolopax testacea* Pallas 1764
- *Scolopax subarquata* Gldenstdt 1775
- *Numenius pygmæus* Latham 1787
- *Scolopax africana* Gmelin 1788
- *Scolopax pygmæa* Gmelin 1788
- *Numenius africanus* Latham 1790
- *Scolopax dethardingii* Siemssen 1794
- *Numenius subarquata* Bechstein 1803
- *Numenius variabilis* Bechstein 1809
- *Numenius ferrugineus* Meyer 1810
- *Tringa subarquata* Temminck 1815
- *Tringa pygmæa* Leach 1816
- *Erolia variegata* Vieillot 1816
- *Falcinellus pygmæus* Cuvier 1817
- *Tringa macrorhyncha* Brehm 1822
- *Trynga falcinella* Pallas 1826
- *Ancylocheilus subarquatus* Kaup 1829
- *Falcinellus cursorius* Temminck 1830
- *Pelidna subarquata* Brehm 1831
- *Tringa (Pelidna) chinensis* Gray 1831
- *Ærolia varia* Vieillot 1834
- *Falcinellus cuvieri* Bonaparte 1838
- *Schœniclus subarquatus* Gray 1844
- *Pelidna arquata* Brehm 1855
- *Tringa ferruginea* Brnnich 1886
- *Erolia ferruginea wilsoni* Mathews 1917
- *Pelidna subarquata vera* Hartert 1920
- *Erolia testacea* Peters 1939

Details:

Near threatened: in 2015 a review upgraded the species from Least Concern to Near Threatened.

The global population is estimated to number c.1,085,000-1,285,000 individuals. Although the species has a large population and a large range, it is declining at a rate that causes concern.

Curlew Sandpiper - cont'd

Breeds across Arctic Siberia from the Chosa Bay to Kolyuchinskaya Gulf and winters from sub-Saharan Africa through the Middle East and south and south-east Asia to Australasia.

The Curlew Sandpiper has been known to hybridise with other *Calidris* waders, in two cases giving rise to what were thought to be two entirely new species.

The first of these was described by Baird in 1853 as *Tringa* (*Calidris*) *cooperi* from a specimen obtained by W. Cooper at Raynor South on Long Island, New York, USA on 24th May 1833 and in 1981 a similar bird was obtained in Stockton, New South Wales, Australia. At the time some thought it a new species as described, but for so long the type specimen remained the only specimen in existence. This led to speculation about its affinities and, eventually, when similar birds were seen in Australia that were thought



Cox's Sandpiper - [Matt Wright Faunagraphic](#)

to be hybrids between Curlew Sandpiper and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*, the true identity of the Cooper's Sandpiper was thought to have been found although not DNA analysis has been done thus far.

The hybrid question really came to life because of another 'new species' known as Cox's Sandpiper *Calidris paramelanotus* that was described by Parker in 1982 from two specimens collected in Saint Vincent's Gulf, South Australia, Australia. This taxon was even accepted as such and was listed in Shorebirds and other guides. Eventually in 1996 morphological, protein allozyme and DNA and testing was carried out on Cox's Sandpiper specimens by Christidis *et al* and it became clear that one of the parents was a Curlew Sandpiper. Mitochondrial DNA is inherited through the female line and so the almost identical match showed that the female parent of the Cox's Sandpiper was Curlew Sandpiper. This left the male's identity to be determined. There were four possibilities White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*, Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Ruff *Calidris pugnax*. The study was able to rule out all but the Pectoral Sandpiper leading to the conclusion that the specimens were hybrids between female Curlew Sandpipers and most probably male Pectoral Sandpipers. Examples of Cox's Sandpiper are known from over 20 sightings since the 1950s, almost all of which are from Australia, with one record from Massachusetts and another from Japan.

From the library - Mudie's British Birds Vol II (1842; 3rd Edition) - Robert Mudie.

'The Curlew *Tringa*. (*Tringa subarquata*.) This is rather a rare species ; and from several of its characters, it is more of a sea-side bird than some others of the genus. Though it has often been described as only an occasional visitant, there is no doubt that it sometimes breeds in England, as young have been found in the month of July, which is perfectly incompatible with the notion that they could be stragglers, hatched in another part of the world, and wafted to our shores by the winds. It does not, from the accounts, appear to be very numerous any where, though more abundant on the continent of Europe than with us ; but still we have so unequivocal evidence of the fact, that we cannot for a moment doubt that it is at least occasionally hatched in the country.'



Waders in art - Nicolas Dillon



Bar-tailed Godwits - Nicolas Dillon

It's mid-September and it's spring as I write this from my studio here in New Zealand, where the first migrant waders have been arriving over the past few weeks. We live at the end of the flyway, almost as far as you can be from the Arctic, and it never ceases to amaze me that these tiny shorebirds find their way here from breeding grounds on the vast tundra of the North.

The smallest of them all, the Red-necked Stints *Calidris ruficollis*, weighing just 30 grams, are often the first to arrive. Propelled by an eternal force they hop their way south through key staging sites in East Asia. Most extraordinary of all however, are the Bar-tailed Godwits *Limosa lapponica*. Their migration south is staggering, flinging their way out on the back end of low-pressure systems to fly direct over the vast belly of the Pacific Ocean to New Zealand in nine days, nonstop.

A couple of years ago I witnessed 18 Juvenile Bar-tailed Godwits make a first landing right in front of me. They came in from the north-east out of a leaden sky, swinging in low across a pewter sea to pitch-in on the beach, right in front of me. Thinned in the breast, wings drooping, they staggered about feeding voraciously. Immediately I sat down with my scope, took out my watercolours and made a study of one of the birds, in the hope of capturing something of their indomitable spirit.



'Thinned in the breast, wings drooping, they staggered about feeding voraciously' recently arrived migrant godwit - Nicolas Dillon

Waders in art - cont'd



Double banded Plover - Nicolas Dillon

I have painted birds all my life, my first drawings were in coloured pencil around the age of six. One of my earliest efforts being a male Banded Dotterel (Double-banded Plover) *Charadrius bicinctus* in breeding plumage. Dotterels continue to breed in my local riverbed right near the studio. I know them as well as I know any bird and never fail to be inspired. I can spend a whole day hunkered down amongst the river boulders, sketchbook and paintbrush in hand, trying to decipher their personality.

Like many bird artists I work through a high-powered spotting scope direct into the sketchbook. I spend countless hours in the field, in need of first-hand contact with my subjects, constant observation is a prerequisite for my ability to see.

The act of drawing from life is like inhaling what is in front of me and the knowledge gained falls like a sediment to the soul. Painting and drawing direct in nature, helps to imprint the minds-eye, etching it with memory.

Back in the studio the sketchbooks pile up forming a visual record for the larger more finished paintings that I make in both oil and watercolour. These paintings are informed by my experiences in the wild and the sketches reawaken the memory as if delving into an internal hard drive. Inevitably I spend more time in the studio than out painting in the field, I wish it was the other way around.



Finished artwork in oil; Pied Avocets *Recurvirostra avosetta* - Nicolas Dillon

Waders in art - cont'd



Wrybills - Nicolas Dillon

Waders have long held a special place in my heart. An Arctic migrant, a Bar-tailed Godwit or Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* moulting into breeding plumage can stimulate the mind in a way that's hard to define in words. The expression of the wilderness, the wild tundra that is so poetically echoed and encoded in plumage, can truly get the synapses racing. Equally so with my own local waders a sporty looking Banded Dotterel in full breeding plumage, or an elegant and subtle Wrybill *Anarhynchus frontalis* with its beak curiously bent to the right. All I can do is paint!



Bar-tailed Godwit and Pacific Golden Plover in breeding plumage - Nicolas Dillon



Waders in art - cont'd



Pacific Golden Plover - Nicolas Dillon



Double-banded Plover - Nicolas Dillon



Wrybill - Nicolas Dillon



Above and below; Bar-tailed Godwits - Nicolas Dillon

To see more of Nicolas' art go to;
www.nicolasdillon.co.nz



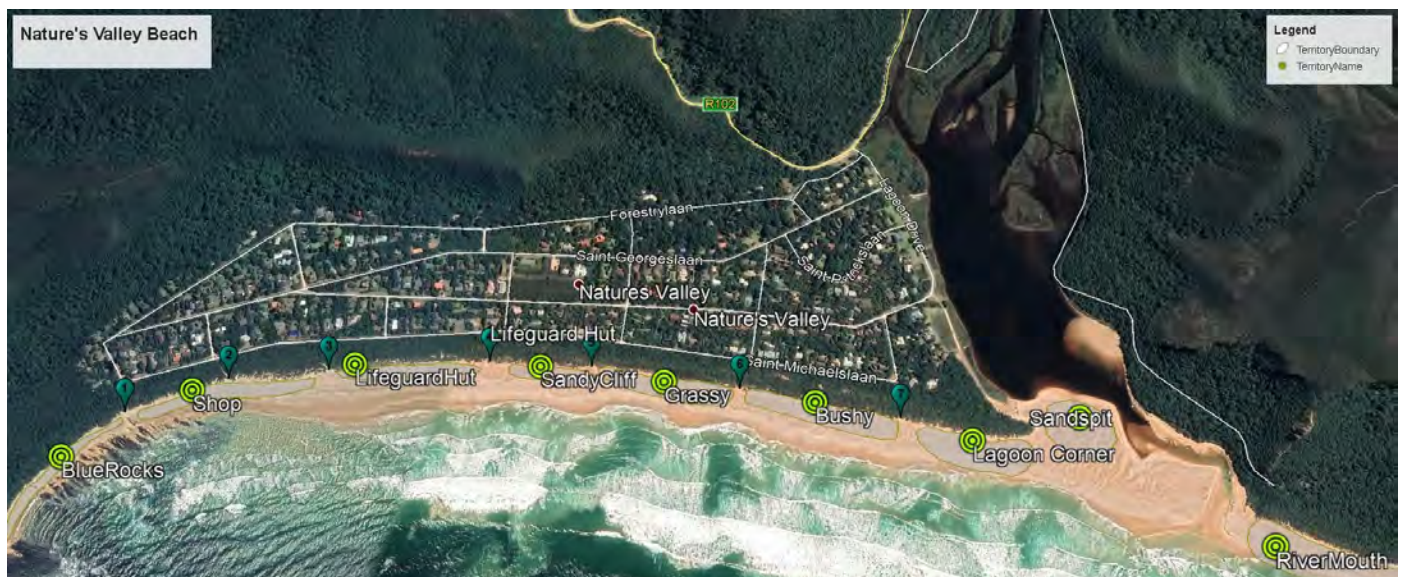
The Sands Of Change: Series 3 Episode 1

- 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.



'This is the start of a great breeding season', Betty told herself as she and her husband and best friend Barney landed on the shores of Nature's Valley. This year they decided to get to their sea view accommodation a bit earlier to settle in and enjoy the beach before they try for some young ones.

Living here has treated them well. Although the start was a bit rocky, they were able to fledge three beautiful chicks over the last two years. When they lost their first two eggs, it was accompanied with so much heartache... such a deep-seated pain Betty and Barney never thought possible. This grief and misery followed them for months and months; they will never get over this loss. But they still had each other and with time the pain dulled, life got better and more bearable and the coming of the new season brought good tidings.

After their loss they decided together on a plan that few other plovers attempted: they invested their whole breeding season on just one nest. Instead of trying to have as many young as possible in the six months they spent more time and effort on their two little eggs. This paid off; the



Betty and Barney - NVT

The Sands of Change: Series 3 Episode 1 - cont'd

little eggs were kept safe and warm with Betty and Barney being on a strict schedule, sharing and alternating parental care time; never leaving their little eggs alone.

Hatch day came, and they were overjoyed with their two little ones. Soon running about the dunes, daddy showing little Bam-Bam how to make the perfect nest, one no mate can refuse and mommy teaching Pebbles how to fish for tiny insects along the shore. Life was simple but a happy one for this little family. But then like all good things this too came to an end. Little Pebbles was taken in the night! To his day no-one is quite sure what happened. She was just gone... Betty was in a state, suffering from a broken heart and Barney was particularly hard on himself, as the protector of the family he had failed at his task. Bam-Bam was alone, feeling that he had lost his other half. But Betty and Barney's love remained strong and they decided to pull together and lean on each other through the storm.

Soon came the time for Bam-Bam to leave home and go on his own path of discovery to find himself and perhaps a love of his own. 'Something like my parents have', he chirped. So, he left and once more Betty and Barney were left to drown in the resounding silence, void of the laughter and continuous chirping they have grown so accustomed to. The decision to leave and travel the coast once more came easy and so they set off.

The sun rose again on the golden shores of Nature's Valley as it does every spring. So full of promise and virtue for a new beginning, mused Betty and Barney. What else is a bird to do? There is but one unmistakable and true purpose in their lives: to raise a happy family. This time they will do it better and so they did; they raised two beautiful young birds, who stayed with them for the whole breeding season, never leaving their sides until the day came where they had to find their own way and leave the loving embrace of their parents. This was a bitter sweet farewell as like before they were sad to see their children leave but unlike before there was no guilt or heartache attached to this farewell only cheerfulness and excitement as they knew they would see Marylou and Salty again.

Through all of this it finally seemed that they have figured out what so many have not been able to. How to overcome the capricious nature of the sands they



Home with a view - NVT



Betty incubating - NVT



Betty protecting Bam Bam and Pebbles - NVT

The Sands of Change: Series 3 Episode 1 - cont'd

have tied their lives to, to ebb with the tides and flow with the wind. Before, when they were young and still learning of the fickle and often volatile environment the fates tied them to, there was always this invisible force lending an extra hand. It often seemed that there was some kind of agreement, a contract perhaps, between them and the humans. The two-legged beast and their four-legged companions did not often venture into their breeding area always passing their nest at a safe distance. This was a good treaty for both them and the safety of the humans for both Betty and Barney would surely attack anyone who threatened their home and young. What came next they did not see coming.

On a chilly day in August 2018, when the sun appeared to be too lazy to kiss the sands with its warm rays, someone entered the nesting area, dragging a stick behind them. Betty who was trying to keep her eggs warm on this chilly morning saw them enter her home and ran off to distract them. This was futile as they barely even noticed her, she tried to attack but although this was a young human he still towered over her and his stick did not look too friendly either. She rushed off to get Barney to help her... and found him feeding on the water's edge. They made haste to vanquish this fiend from their land together. Upon their return the human was gone and all that remained were footprints trailed by the zig-zag pattern of the stick being dragged behind. Thank Neptune, the footprints passed close by the nest but never entered - the stick, however, was dragged straight through Barney's beautifully made nest bowl and one egg was missing. They searched high and low on the beach and finally found the battered egg had rolled down the slope laying at the foot of the dune. Unfortunately, there was no saving the egg; the crack was too severe. This sent Betty in a downwards spiral; past heartache returned in full force and she flew off not being able to deal with the trauma of another loss.

Barney was left to incubate the remaining egg by himself – very unsure of himself now that Betty was not there to support him. In the end the decision to start nesting earlier this year proved to be a foolish one. The weather continued to deteriorate and became colder and colder as the day grew shorter. Betty was still gone, and Barney was physically growing hungry and weak, sitting on the egg with no-one to relieve him of his duties, and emotionally longing for his Betty. At last he decided that he could no longer let his love deal with her pain alone and for the sake of their unborn child he had to get her to return and help warm their egg. He searched the whole night, finally finding Betty and reminding her that all is not lost as they had one egg remaining. Filled with new hope they both returned to their nest with great expectation. As quickly as this optimism blossomed, it wilted to nothing. Betty noticed something was wrong as soon as she came within view of her egg. The little one was trying to hatch but the icy cold heart of nature had silenced her baby forever. Hope she would have been called.

Is this it for Betty and Barney? Have their love been put to the test one too many times? Will they try for another family or has the cold embrace of the wind finally taken all it can from them. What will Betty and Barney do next? Will the sands of change be in their favour?



Bam bam with Mum - NVT



Marylou and Salty - NVT



Wader news from around the world - in brief

EUROPE.

UK: No sooner have we started to recover from the COVID pandemic when another virus hits our shores. It cannot have escaped your notice that many bird populations in the UK are suffering, or have suffered, from this virus, particularly colonial nesting species.

It was therefore a bitter disappointment to the staff at Martin Mere Wildfowl and Wetland Trust Centre at Martin Mere that they had to close their doors to the public as a result of this virus. The timing was awful as it happened on the week when many people were looking forward to the Northwest Birdwatching Festival that is traditionally held there each year.

Wader Quest was obviously included in that number and our hearts go out to the staff at Martin Mere who had worked so hard to get everything ready, those who had already travelled to the area for the event and also to the local community since the lack of the usual late burst of visitors to the region will have affected many B&Bs, restaurants and other visitor related outlets. We greatly look forward to next year and hope for better times.



Eurasian Curlew nest and eggs — Stephen Inglis

Malta: The Committee Against Bird Slaughter (CABS) has had a successful prosecution in Malta concerning a massive collection of live birds, many of which were waders. The birds were confiscated from the man who had them in his possession and, after they had been inspected and treated, where possible, they were ringed and released back into the wild at Ghadira Nature Reserve.

Of the 136 live birds seized 76 were wader species comprising; 3 Black-winged Stilts *Himantopus himantopus*, 13 Little Ringed Plovers *Charadrius dubius*, 16 Wood Sandpipers *Tringa glareola*, 16 Green Sandpipers *Tringa ochrurus*, 1 Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, 16 Common Sandpipers *Actitis hypoleucos*, 9 Little Stints *Calidris minutus*, and 2 Temminck's Stints *Calidris temminckii*. The remainder were predominantly finches and other small passerines including a Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*.

Sadly not all of the waders could be released. Some were had their flight feathers clipped preventing them from flying, hopefully these will be released after they moult ne flight feathers and 8 waders dies before they could be released. Some of the birds had been kept in such appalling conditions that their own faeces had hardened into balls around their feet, which had to be removed before the birds could be released.



Little Stint with faeces balls on its feet - CABS - www.komitee.de

NORTH AMERICA.

USA: The Great Lakes Piping Plover Conservation Team has announced a record breeding season. 149 Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* chicks fledged, the most since official counts began in 1984, and that is just the wild birds, there were also 10 headstarted birds too, adding to the population.

There are now 72 breeding pairs in the Great Lakes region, although for the species to be removed from the endangered list there would need to be more than twice that with 150 pairs required.

This year's season began in sorrow. With the loss of the famous pair Monty and Rose. Rose never returned from her wintering grounds, and Monty died suddenly of a respiratory infection at Montrose Beach on May 13. But this celebrity pair has been immortalised in stone by a carving created by Don Di Sante on limestone slabs near the beach where they lived.

Undoubtedly these two little birds did much to enhance the local upswelling of empathy for the birds on the beach, so it is a fitting epitaph to them.



Monty and Rose carving by Don Di Sante
- Patty Wetli / WTTW News

Wader news from around the world - cont'd

USA. Bird Islands have been created from dredged sediment along the Atlantic coast.

In the past sediment dredged to restore and protect shipping waterways has been dumped at sea by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers who maintain access to all waterways, ports, and harbours. However recently an experiment has been carried out to see if that sediment can be put to good use instead by creating and restoring wader/shorebird islands that can mitigate some of the habitat loss caused by climate change. One naturally occurring island was augmented this spring in Georgia's Altamaha River Delta. The island will not be permanent as it will erode in time, but in that time it will provide important habitat for migrating waders and of course when the dredging needs doing again in the future, as it certainly will, this valuable resource can be augmented again to the same effect and the project has proved what can be done with planning and forethought, using instead of wasting a resource to hand.



Resting Dunlin *Calidris alpina* and Sanderlings *C. alba* - Elis Simpson

SOUTH AMERICA.

Argentina / Chile: During the Boreal winter Red Knots of the subspecies *Calidris canutus rufa*, gather at the southern tip of South America. This year they were counted using aerial surveys and revealed one of the highest counts in the last 10 years.

Although counts were made at various sites, the majority of Red Knots were counted at the Bahia Lomas mudflats in Chile (a WHSRN Hemispheric site of importance since 2009) a site that is one of the most important wintering areas for the *rufa* Red Knots. In January 2022 the census was carried out and revealed 14,073 individuals.

There was concern in 2021 about the low numbers of *rufa* Red Knot in Delaware Bay, USA on the northern migration of the species to breed. This survey shows that the numbers in Southern South America show that number have not fallen there and so an alternative explanation for this low count needs to be established.



Red Knot - Teresa Hedden

Wader Conservation World Watch 9



Wader Conservation World Watch

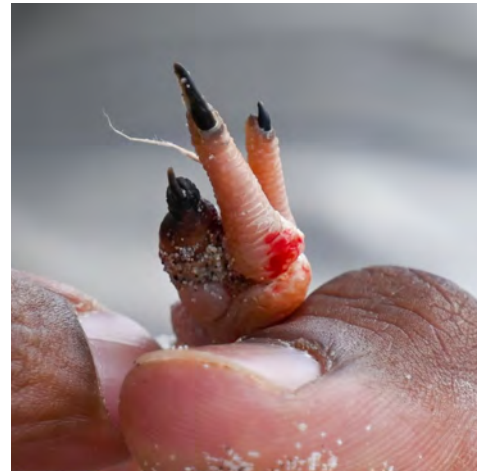
5th—6th November 2022

Two Toes - The BirdLife Australia team

Back in March, the Beach-nesting birds team undertook a rescue of an unringed Hooded Plover *Thinornis cucullatus* with fishing line entangled around its foot at Mushroom Reef on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula. Friends of the Hooded Plover - Mornington Peninsula had been monitoring this bird and reported its entanglement as soon as they found it.

BirdLife Australia's Kasun Ekanayake managed to capture this Hoodie and took it straight to the [Main Ridge Veterinary Clinic](#) where the fishing line was removed. Horrifyingly, as the line was removed, one of the toes that had been wrapped so tight that it had lost circulation had become necrotic and the toe essentially fell off when the line was removed. The wound was cleaned and bandaged by the vets and the bird was given antibiotics to reduce the chances of infection.

The bird was not ready to be released immediately so was given to a Wildlife Carer (who is also happens to be a hoodie volunteer), and under the instructions of the vet, was able to care for the hoodie overnight. Volunteers and Kasun collected amphipods so that the Hoodie had ample food for the night.



Close up of TT's tangled toes - BirdLife Australia

The next day, the Hoodie was ready for release. The bandage was removed, the wound had healed completely and the swelling had gone down. Kasun placed a white leg flag on its opposite leg – with the letters “TT” – guess what that stands for? Two Toes!

Two Toes was released back where it had been captured and thankfully went straight to its partner. TT was observed for a while and was seen to put its foot down straight away and started walking without trouble. Its first move after its ordeal? It went straight to the water for a bath!

However, when we named it Two Toes, we didn't realise it would then lose a second toe a few weeks later!



TT released after the line removal - BirdLife Australia

TT's progress was followed by the Beach Nesting Bird team and a few months after all this, we are happy to report that Two Toes has been spotted with its original partner “Orange UJ” at Point Leo, and they've just laid their first egg for the season!

Thank you to all involved – it's important that BirdLife Australia's Beach-nesting Birds Team are notified of any potential entanglements as soon as possible, so that we can organise treatment where required as early as possible. If you are a fisherman or you find any old fishing line on the beach, please place it in the Zoos Victoria and Victorian Fisheries Authority 'Seal the Loop Bins'



When two becomes one! - BirdLife Australia

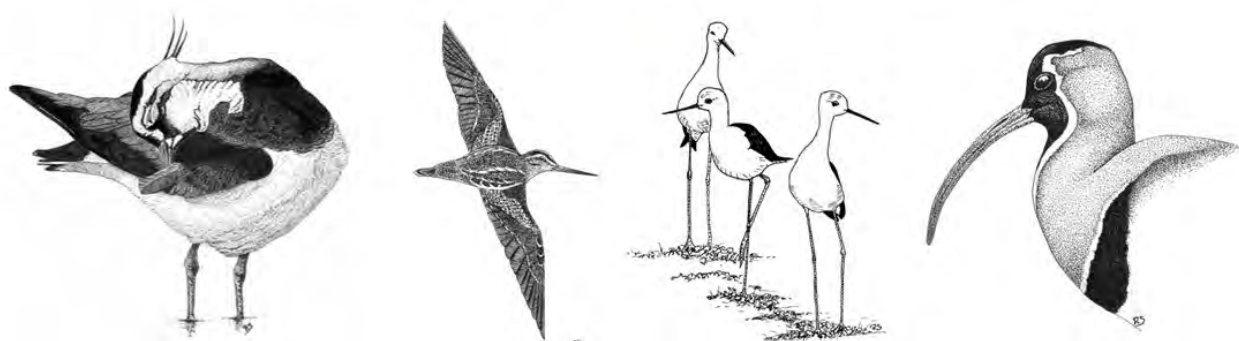


TT & UJ's first egg - BirdLife Australia

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



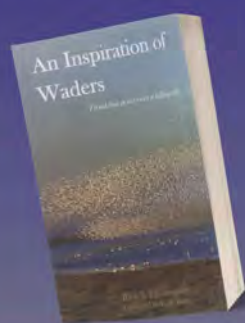
'Breathtakingly excellent - like a birding Michael Palin. The photographs and drawings are fantastic, and the text is fast-moving and endlessly entertaining and amusing.' Jim Wright.

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

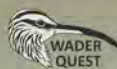
The foreword is by Keith Betton



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

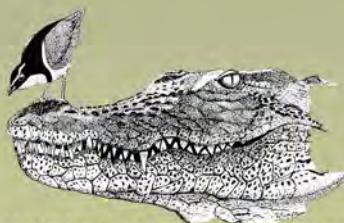


BY RICK AND ELIS SIMPSON



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

sales@waderquest.net



WADER QUEST PUBLISHING
All profits will go to Wader Quest

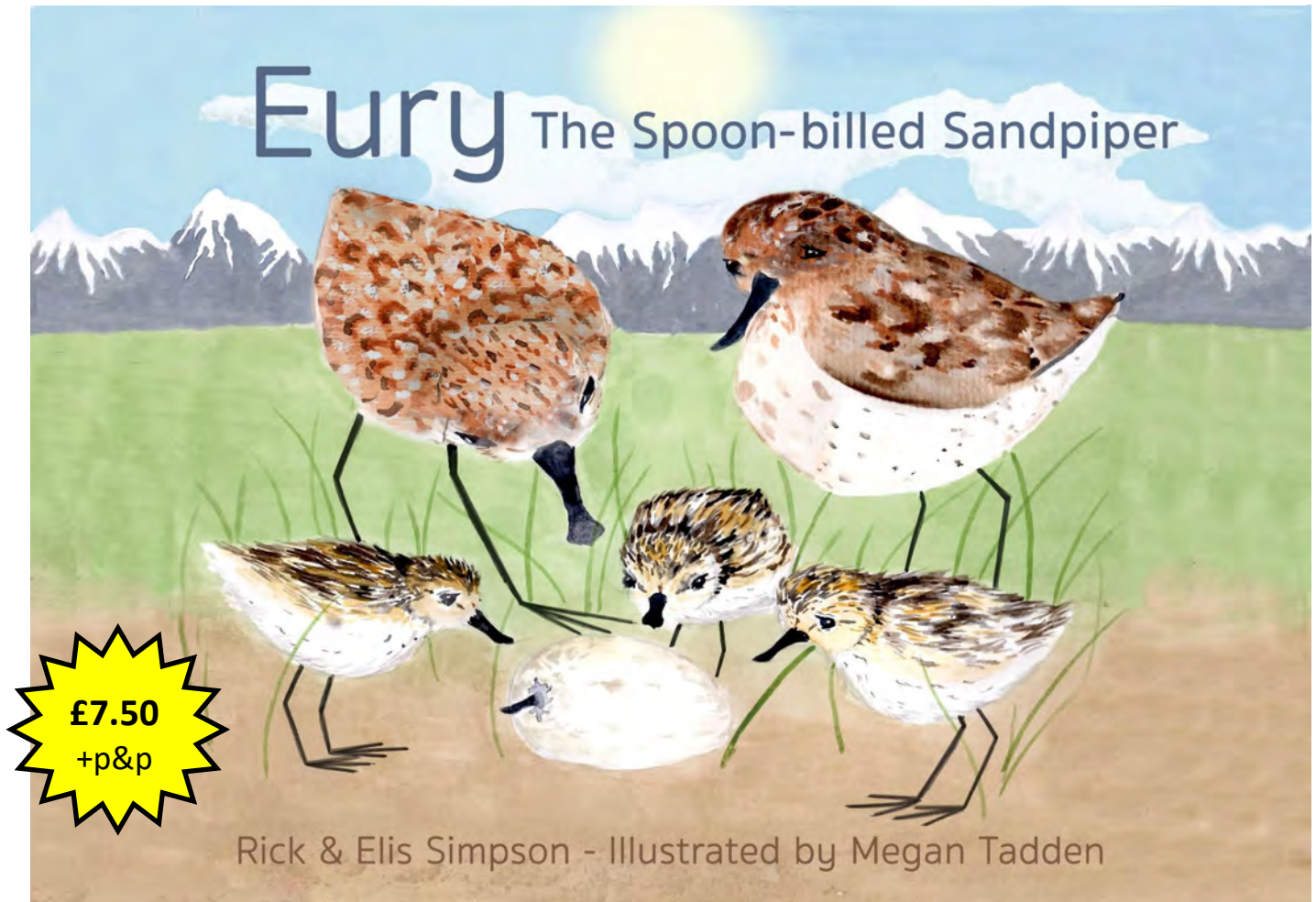
BUY NOW!

Wader Quest merchandising

Eury The Spoon-billed Sandpiper

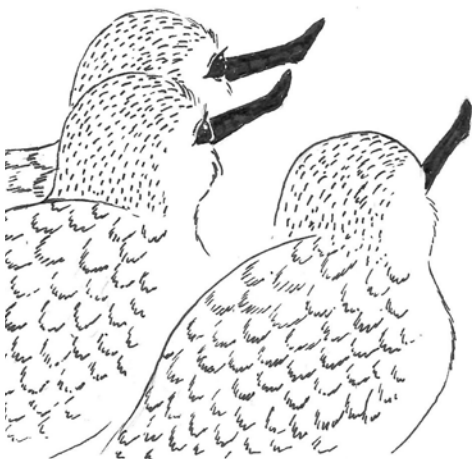
A Wader Quest Publishing book By Rick and Elis Simpson

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

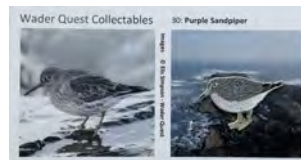
29. Blacksmith Lapwing
30. Purple Sandpiper
31. Red-capped Plover
32. Eurasian Oystercatcher

£3.00 each
+p&p

£3.00 each
+p&p

ORDERS FOR ALL WADER QUEST
MERCHANDISING
sales@waderquest.net

PLUS NEW
FOWQ 10 Year
Anniversary



£2.50 each
+p&p



Wader Quest Collectables - Enamelled



£10.00 pair
+p&p



Earrings

Wader Quest merchandising

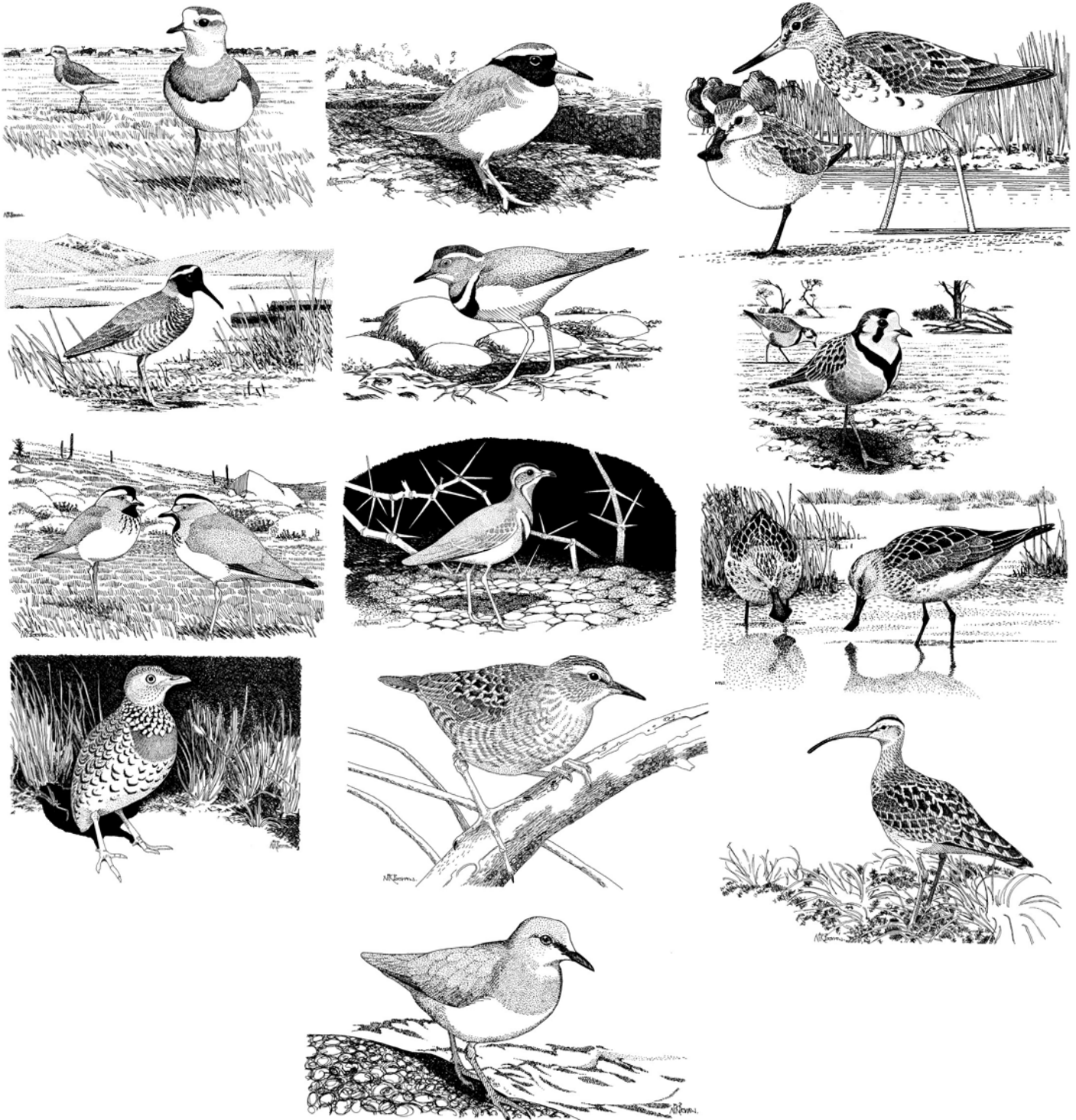


**NIK BORROW DESIGNED WADER
GREETING CARDS**

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)

£45,613.63

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
Fuegian 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