



# WADER QUEST

THE NEWSLETTER Volume 10; Issue 1 2023



Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola* - Craig Brelsford/[shanghaibirding.com](http://shanghaibirding.com)

## Inside this issue

2: Wader Quest information.

3-5: Wader Quest news.

6: Anniversary Grant Winner.

7-8: Wader Quest South Africa regional roundup.

9: Who needs a Wash?

Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival.

Shoebill Conservation Project, Uganda - Report.

10-12: The Challenges of a Changing Climate and Protection of Endangered Shorebird Species.

13: Waders in Poetry - Giles Watson.

14: Saemangeum

15-17: Cover picture Wood Snipe.

18-20: Sands of Change Series 3 Episode 2

21: Wader news from around the world - in brief.

22: Wader Quest Guru links / WCWW 10

23-28: Wader Quest shop.

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



THE NATURAL HOME FOR WADER LOVERS

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Rick Simpson

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

**Next meeting:**

**Trustees:** TBA March 2023

**Exec. Comm:** TBA March 2023

**AGM:** 26th November 2023

**Friends of Wader Quest fees:**

Individual £10.00  
Family £15.00  
Life £200.00

**Sponsorship fees:**

Club £20.00  
Corporate £50.00

**General enquiries:**

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**Wader Conservation World Watch enquiries:**

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**Wader Quest's aims**

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

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

**Our mission:**

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

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

Wader Quest is an entirely voluntary organisation.

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

Edited by Rick Simpson

# Wader Quest news

**WE HAVE MOVED!**  
**Temporary address;**  
**76 Pangbourne drive**  
**Stanmore**  
**Middx.**  
**HA7 4RB**

(For those of you who do correspond by post)

## Editorial Comment

The perspicacious among you will have noted that this issue should be Vol. 9 Issue 4 Winter 2022-2023. However, in a move to align the volumes with the calendar year we have skipped that issue number and this is the first issue of Volume 10. Also, where we had changed from giving the month of publication, due to an inability sometimes to publish in the month named, we changed to giving the season. This of course was only correct for half the planet, and, as this is read globally, we decided to do away with that part of the title leaving just the volume number, issue and year.

Also, this issue is very late and a little sparse in content (in volume but not in quality). We apologise for this but as you may also have noted Wader Quest HQ is on the move and is currently housed in temporary accommodation in the Greater London suburbs. We will eventually be relocating and it is this search for a new home that is taking up a considerable amount of our time. Once we are ensconced in our new abode, business will return to normal.

## Trustee updates and news

No comings or goings to report.

## Executive Committee updates and news

No comings and goings to report.

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

The panel unanimously, decided to award the Anniversary grant to an outreach project on Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* conservation, which involves the making of a film. Such outreach work involving young people in the breeding areas and a potential mass audience via the film, was felt to have potentially great value towards wader conservation (see page 6 for more detail).

Four other applications, three involving nesting site protection issues and chick survival: these were Collared Plover *Charadrius collaris* in Colombia; Two-banded Plover *Charadrius falklandicus* in Guatemala; Snowy Plover *Charadrius nivosus* at Valdes in Patagonia; and one concerned with flyway monitoring and banding of a number of wader species in Mongolia.

The panel are currently considering granting funding to an American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* breeding study, and an ongoing detailed project on nest protection and chick survival in Shropshire UK, on Eurasian Curlew.

## Events planned:



We are in the application stage of attending the Global Birdfair in July 14th-16th July 2023. We have also applied for a talk slot at the event.

We will be attending the new Birdwatchers Ball event on the 12th of August at the Churchend Brewery, Ridge Lane, Nr. Nuneaton, Warks. CV10 ORD from 13.00 to 22.00hrs.

We also hope the Northwest Birdwatching Fair at WWT Martin Mere will take place again this year after last

year's being cancelled due to Avian Flu. The dates for that are provisionally 14th and 15th of October; fingers crossed.





# Wader Quest news cont'd

We will be holding our annual Wader Conservation World Watch event which will take place on the 4th and 5th of November. We hope to be able to surpass last year's totals and have many more participants.

The AGM date is the 26th of November. It will probably be a virtual meeting again this year and invites will be sent out before the event.

**Events attended:**

None.

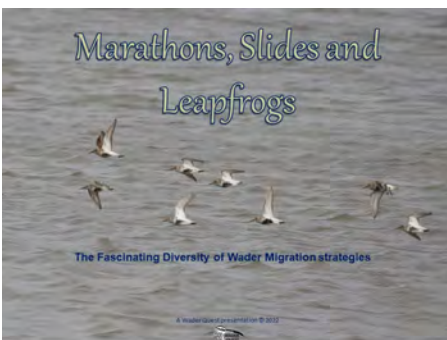
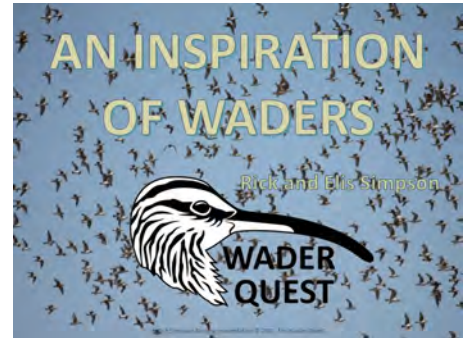
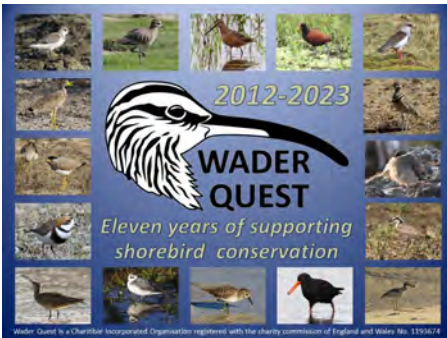
**Talks:**

Since the last newsletter Rick and Elis have carried out a further 5 talks to clubs and societies with a combined audience of 201 people. The income from sales and donations from those talks came to £621.85. This includes 4 sign-ups as Friends of Wader Quest. Total raised this financial year from talks is £2,377.03, and the number people reached is 703. Forthcoming talks scheduled, if one is near you why not pop along to say hello;



|             | Date       | Group                                 | Talk title  |
|-------------|------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>2023</b> |            |                                       |   |
| (19.30)     | 05/04/2023 | Richmond and Twickenham RSPB (2nd)    | For the Love of Waders  |
| (19.30)     | 06/04/2023 | Wirral RSPB                           | Wader Quest - Introductory talk   |
| (19.30)     | 11/04/2023 | Shoreham Dist. Ornithological Society | Wader Quest - Introductory talk   |
| (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   |

## Our most requested talk titles



To request a talk for your club or group email [waderquest@gmail.com](mailto:waderquest@gmail.com)

# **Wader Conservation World Watch 9**

**November  
4th &/or 5th  
2023**

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

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

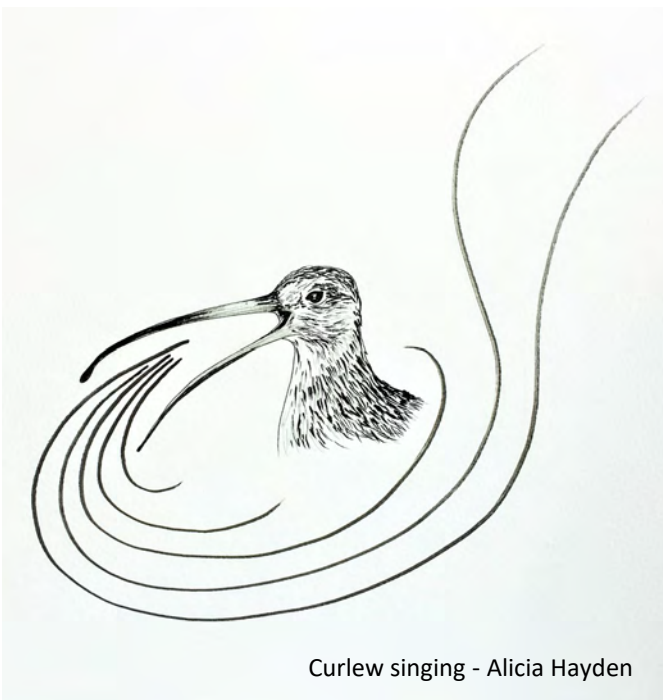


## Wader Quest news - cont'd

# Wader Quest 10th Anniversary Grant.

# Winner - Alicia Hayden

who is making an educational film about the decline and conservation of the Eurasian Curlews in Britain and Ireland.



Curlew singing - Alicia Hayden

Having grown up in North Yorkshire, Alicia is familiar with the Curlews which frequent our moorlands, but she knows that many young people are not. Curlews are now a Red Listed species in the UK, and are Near Threatened globally – since 1970, they have declined a staggering 65% due to changing farming practises, land use, and predation. Alicia said 'I grew up listening to the curlew's beautiful but haunting song – many young people today will have never had this opportunity, so I hope this film will give them chance to experience curlews, and inspire them to protect them.'

The film will explore the life of Curlews, from birth to death, showing a side to Curlews that many people will never get to see. Additionally, using animations in conjunction with traditional film footage will attract a new audience to natural history, and will help visualise the threats Curlews face in a way which is suitable for all.



Alicia in action - Jacob Burley



# Southern African Rarity sightings - Nov and Dec 2022 and January 2023 – Sue Oertli



Summer is in full swing here and there has been a steady stream of rare and unusual wader sightings reported in the sub-region. These records have been compiled by Trevor Hardaker through the publication of a twice weekly report called the “Southern African Rare Bird News Report.”

Here is a compilation of some of some of the waders visiting our shores;

## November 2022

**Namibia** - Grey Plover; *Pluvialis squatarola* an unusual sighting in Etosha National Park at the Klein Namutoni waterhole.

**Botswana** - Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* at Gaborone Game Reserve.

**Mozambique** - Crab Plover *Dromus ardeola*, African Oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini* & Eurasian Oystercatcher *H. ostralegus* at San Sebastian Peninsula (see next page).

**Cape Province South Africa** - Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus* at Geelbek hide, West Coast National Park.

**Eastern Cape Province South Africa** - Greater *Charadrius lechscenaultii* and Lesser Sand Plover *C. atrifrons* at Krom River Estuary, St Francis; Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fusca* at Keiskamma River Estuary, East London.

**Kwa Zulu Natal Province South Africa** - Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus* at Mpempe Pan northern KZN near Mkhuzi; Lesser Jacana *Microparra capensis* at Sappi Stanger Hide Stanger Northern KZN.

## December 2022

**Botswana** - Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis* near Sojwe north of Gaborone.

**Western Cape Province South Africa** - Caspian Plover at de Mond Nature Reserve near Bredasdorp.

**Kwa Zulu Natal Province South Africa** - Crab Plover at Umlalazi river mouth Mtunzini Northern KZN.

**Orange Free State Province** - Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* at Rietpan near Welkom.

## January 2023

**Botswana** - Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* at Broadhurst Sewage Ponds near Gaborone.

**Western Cape Province South Africa** - Baird’s Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* at Olifantsbos in the Table Mountain National Park. The 19th record of this species in the sub-region; Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* at Kliphoeck Salt Pans Velddrif; Caspian Plover at de Mond Nature Reserve near Bredasdorp; Lesser Sand Plover Klein Brak River near Mossel Bay.

**Eastern Cape Province South Africa** - Temminck’s Courser *Cursorius temminckii* at Harpoor Dam Addo Elephant National Park; Bronze-winged Courser *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus* at Beacon Bay East London.



Lesser Sand Plover - Amanda Walden



Caspian Plovers - Estelle Smalberger





# San Sebastian in Mozambique; A wader hotspot – Peter Sharland



About 20 km south-east across the bay from Vilankulo, Mozambique, you will find the San Sebastian Sanctuary. This wader hotspot is well known amongst Southern African birders for hosting large numbers of shorebirds and terns, but it really deserves a wider following.

Situated to the south of the famous Bazaruto Archipelago, it incorporates a rich mosaic of wetlands, mangroves, reefs, small islands, mudflats, salt marshes, freshwater lakes, and estuaries. The terrestrial biome includes miombo woodland, tree savannah and coastal dunes.

It is accessible by boat and by road. Vilankulo can be reached by air, with flights available from Johannesburg and Maputo.

Here are some of the wader sightings reported over the past 10 months: -

### June 2022

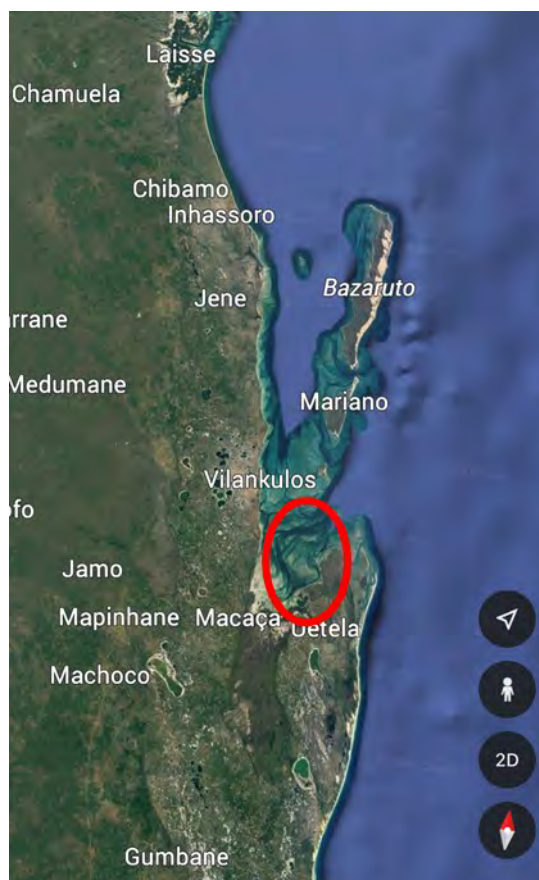
Overwintering birds included 63 Crab Plovers *Dromus ardeola*, a handful of Lesser Sand Plovers *Charadrius atrifrons* and Godwits *Limosa*, and about 120 terns. Reported by Christine Read.

### September 2022

40 Crab Plovers, 450 Grey Plovers *Pluvialis squatarola*, 160 Common Ringed Plovers *Charadrius hiaticula*, 300 Lesser Sand Plovers, 600 Curlew Sandpipers *Calidris ferruginea*, 3 African Oystercatchers *Haematopus moquini* and 11 Chestnut-banded Plovers *Charadrius pallidus*. Reported by Etienne Marais.

### February 2023

9 European Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus*, 1 African Oystercatcher, 175 Crab Plovers, 400 Lesser Sand Plovers, 30 Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* and over 100 terns.



## From the library

Unfortunately, due to Wader Quest relocating, the library is residing in boxes and is irretrievable at present. Ed.





# Who needs a Wash? - Graham Appleton.

There is a new plan to put a tidal barrage across the mouth of the Wash, the large estuary on the east coast of England that is used by half a million or more waders each year. Is this something that should concern us? Is this another mad idea that is going to go away? Contacts at the RSPB think that we need to take the threat seriously, as we did nearly fifty years ago.

I got hooked on waders after my first wader-catching trip with the Wash Wader Ringing Group (now Wash Wader Research Group, WWRG) in April 1974. At the time, the main focus of the Group's activities was to collect as much data as we could about nine key species. There was a proposal to build one or more freshwater reservoirs on the mudflats, thereby displacing thousands of Red Knots *Calidris canutus* from Greenland and Canada, Dunlins *Calidris alpina* and Grey Plovers *Pluvialis squatarola* from Siberia and Eurasian Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus* from Norway – to name just a few of the species that would have been affected. Conservation organisations across the charity and government sectors worked together to oppose the plan.

[Read full article here.](#)



Waders and other shorebirds in the Wash - Elis Simpson

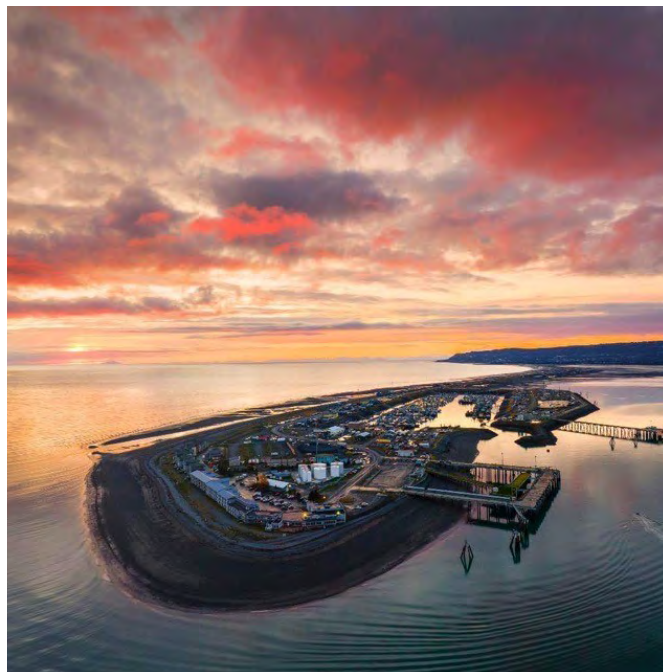
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# Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival, Alaska - Joey Hausler.

As I arrive at the Anchor Point beach in Homer, Alaska, I switch my truck into 4 wheel drive and begin cruising down the shoreline in search of the target species: shorebirds. In early May, thousands of shorebirds move through this quiet fishing community, using it as a vital stopover as they continue to the breeding grounds. To celebrate their return, the Alaska National Wildlife Refuges and Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge annually organize a shorebird festival (this year it was held May 4-8). Birders from all over America and the world come into town to witness the spectacle.

## Geography and Culture

Homer is a small community of about 6000 people that doubles in size during the summer due to tourism. It is 320 kilometres from Anchorage. People come from all over to adventure and witness the idyllic view. Some of the popular hobbies include fishing, hiking, photography, foraging, 4-wheeling, tide pooling, beachcombing, and birding. The iconic Homer Spit is a natural tidal peninsula that extends way out into the Kachemak Bay. Some of best birding opportunities are centralised right around the spit, which include "Land's End" (the end of the spit), Louie's Lagoon (a tidal grassland), and Mud Bay (a tidal mudflat at the base of the spit). [Read full article here.](#)



The Homer Spit © Sergius Hannan

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# Shoebill Conservation Project Uganda report

Last year we assisted Kenneth Tumusiime, founder of the Save Shoebill Conservation Project (SSCP). Kenneth recently compiled an annual report with much information about how the project is going and what they are doing, not only to save the Shoebill, but also to save the wetlands of Uganda, thereby helping in the conservation of waders. This is why we were happy to make a contribution to the project by donating optical equipment and a tripod to assist in their endeavours.

[See report.](#)

Photo: Kenneth with the equipment - SSCP



# The Challenges of a Changing Climate and Protection of Endangered Shorebird Species

## - Dr Mike Clear

Berrara Beach is an important nesting site towards the northern extent of the Hooded Plover Eastern *Thinornis cucullatus* range on the south coast of NSW, about 3 hours drive south of Sydney, Australia. The endangered Hooded Plover and endangered Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*, nest here regularly. Under NSW State government legislation, recovery programs for threatened species such as these are managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). Trained and licenced volunteers carry out most of the work on the ground with NPWS Shorebird Ranger guidance (as required) and equipment, provided.

In the last 15 nesting seasons there has been on average 4-5 breeding attempts by a single resident pair of Hooded Plover, laying on average 3 eggs per nest. In spite of some hatching success perhaps 30 percent, there has been only one Hooded Plover fledge (November 2015) at this site, in this period.

NPWS data (NSW Department Environment & Heritage) reveals that on an approximately 350 kilometres stretch of the south east coast of Australia (of which Berrara Beach is one small part), from Jervis Bay in the north to a little south of Eden, in 2021/22 there was only 28 'resident' pairs of Hooded Plover. Only 20 pairs were observed to nest. This represented a reduction from the previous year of 33 resident pairs with 32 breeding.

On Berrara Beach where there's mostly just 1 resident pair, the Pied Oystercatcher generally have one or two nests per season laying on average 2 eggs per nest. Hatching rates are approximately 50 percent or better, and if there's hatching have a better than even chance of success in rearing one or two fledgling each season. Thus on Berrara Beach in a 10 year period from 2012 to 2021 there have been 10 Pied Oystercatcher fledglings.

The most dominant threats include; European red fox *Vulpes vulpes*, Raven *Corvus corax* and other avian predators such as White-bellied sea eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* and Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*, beach-goers and domestic dogs, and inundation.

In the first half of this current nesting season (the season is approximately August through March) we experienced two failed Hooded Plover breeding attempts on Berrara Beach. These unsuccessful breeding attempts represented a loss of potentially six to the very small numbers of Hooded Plover on south coast beaches. Also, in the current season however, there's been one Pied Oystercatcher fledge at this same location using only the usual temporary fence enclosure to protect the nest.

Currently, with help from other volunteers (\*See below), I monitor and take whatever actions necessary to protect two Hooded Plover chicks, that represent our best chance for some years to get two of them to fledging stage. We caged their nest, within a larger fence enclosure to protect them through to hatching.

One chick was taken soon after hatching (cause not known, but most likely Raven). We also have a field camera installed to identify any potential ground based predators such as fox or dogs (or even human interference).

The chicks retreat towards the fore-dune and any vegetation, for example sea rocket, at key times, such as in the presence of people, dogs or avian predators. Previously, we have used on occasions, small constructed teepee shaped wooden shelters (400x400mm), particularly during extreme heat (See photo 1). There's some evidence however that these may attract, for example Raven, who get to know the shelters and exactly where the chicks will 'hang out'. For this reason we've tended to use them selectively with some care.

Of course cages and temporary fence enclosure may pose the same risks. As we know, human intervention in nature is complex and its history is a litany of unintended consequence, along with some very positive results, and important gains in knowledge and



Hooded Plover - Elis Simpson



Photo 1 Chick Shelter - Dr Mike Clear



# The Challenges of a Changing Climate and Protection of Endangered Shorebird Species

## - cont'd

understanding. It should be noted that shelters like these have been used successfully in various species of tern breeding colony for example, in Australia and other countries.

Some success with shelter use is also reported in the case of Hooded Plover broods, especially in Victoria. On relatively isolated long stretches of beach, the situation may be different and less clear.

Monument and Flat Rock Beach, to the immediate south of Berrara is another regular breeding site for Hooded Plovers. One of their volunteer group (\*\*see below) has recently constructed steel mesh shelters on which they place seaweed. It will be interesting to see how effective are these. They've had some Hooded Plover breeding success in the last two seasons. The site has only recently had strong regular volunteer monitoring, and this may well be a factor in improved breeding results.

Our last Hooded Plover brood (November/December 2022) on Berrara Beach was almost certainly taken by avian predators who were active in the area; Raven and Sea Eagle. One chick was within a week of flight. It has focused volunteer attention on looking again at the possible benefit of using protective shelters.

These shelters are generally placed between the most usual high tide line and the fore-dune ledge, with the opening facing the ocean. The reliable breeding space available on Berrara Beach now, however, is limited. This is principally due to increasing frequency of higher seas and storm surge eroding available breeding space on the upper beach.

Historically, it was common for Hooded Plover to nest in at least 4 possible locations along this 1-2 kilometre stretch of Berrara Beach, but now they tend to nest exclusively off beach adjacent to the tidal creek. During nesting they feed in turn, in the wave or wash zone of the beach proper. This 'new' nesting area is exactly the location chosen by the endangered Pied Oystercatcher, a species that is commonly associated with still water ecosystems including mudflats, estuary and creeks, in addition to the beach.

The change in Hooded Plover breeding location appears to be directly related to the evident effects of changes in beach structure due to climate change.

Recently, we've decided to try construction of some natural shelters or hides using small and some larger dead branches taken judiciously from the adjoining National Park, if they're not already available on the beach, itself. We've draped seaweed over them and spaced these variably, but approximately 50-100 metres apart along the back-beach between the most usual high tide line and the fore-dune ledge forming the back limits of any breeding area (Photo 2 &3, constructed 'natural shelters')



Photos 2 & 3 Natural Shelters - Dr Mike Clear



# The Challenges of a Changing Climate and Protection of Endangered Shorebird Species - cont'd

I think the random nature of both hide size and their spacing, in addition to the natural (material) quality, may be important to overcome the potential they might have for 'predator recognition'.

Whilst the hides are variable in size, many are not large, they're put randomly in place, and they potentially obstruct the passage of some beach goers, who walk the 1-2 kms of (upper) beach when it's high tide. We have placed Chick alert signs along the beach, away from the hides, but relatively nearby, to warn folk of the presence of chicks, in an upper beach passage (going from north to south), that has become narrower as the beach profile permanently changes with changing climate (Photo 4 Chick alert sign and Photo 5 Eroding beach profile).



Photo 4 Chick alert sign & photo 5 eroding beach profile - Dr Mike Clear

At least one member of the Berrara Beach volunteer team monitor the beach daily and make any renovations or additions that might be necessitated by inundation or wind infill, when tides are higher, and winds are stronger than usual.

I'll report on how the little Hoodies fare. They're due to fledge about February 17th. They've survived the holiday crowds and the recent 'mayhem' of 'Invasion Day' (also known as January 26, Australia Day!) with the attendant influx of beach-goers, and the stress of fireworks. We're feeling positive, but have been disappointed many times previously.

#### \*Berrara Beach Volunteers

Margaret Webber, Rose Clear, Ann Finlay, Sue Taylor, Lyndsay Holmes, Mike Clear

#### \*\*Monument Beach Volunteers

Bridget Ikin, Katrina Bronar, Michael Shaw, Pete Garbett, Kerry Moore

NPWS South Coast Shorebird Coordinator: Annemarie Mueller.

*Dr Mike Clear is a retired academic (Social Sciences), engaged in a number of volunteer community projects. He coordinates a small group of volunteers at one location in the National Parks & Wildlife Service, Shorebird Recovery Program on the NSW south coast. He's been involved as a volunteer with the Program for approximately 15 years.*



Hooded Plover nest - Elis Simpson

Hoo



# Waders in Poetry - Flyway by Giles Watson

Binoculars - manufactured in Japan -  
match my eye a moment  
with a grey plover hatched  
in Siberia - here near the southernmost tip  
of Western Australia. Now she feeds  
in a frenzy whenever the tide  
is out - gorging on crabs and worms -  
restoring the weight she shed in flight.

One day I will watch her dwindling flock  
lifting the last time from the tidal silt  
and leaving here - the air shimmering  
with wing-beats - plaintive whistles -

keening.

Half way round the world - they won't  
touch down any more at Saemangeum\* -  
that estuary is gone - garrotted  
by a concrete wall - so tens of thousands  
of knots and plovers circled bewildered - peeping -  
disconsolate for hours - then disappeared -  
spent their bodies - almost fleshless -  
in the ocean. My wise grey plover knows  
not to go there. Perhaps she drops  
in on the coast of China - the Yellow Sea  
overshadowed by factories - gleaning  
what she needs from clammy mud  
pursued by twitchers from around  
her world - then flings out for Siberia -  
and beyond - to islands under tundra -  
there to mate and lay her eggs  
in sudden abundance - an Arctic summer.

Her flyway connects the shrinking shores  
of Asia and Australasia - survival depends on bays  
where she stays warm - feeds and breeds.  
While China and Australia quibble over trade

\* See following page

or berate each other over human rights  
or thump tubs and theorise of war -  
for the sake of my wild grey plover they must  
reach agreement - or she dies. Imagine - in Siberia -  
a researcher trains binoculars made in Japan  
on meltwater - waiting for her flock to drop in  
from Australia - via China. This time they never come.

Year on year - I walk here at Rushy Point - close  
to Western Australia's southernmost tip  
and the housing lots draw closer to the shore  
shouldering their concrete into the buffer-zone -  
the soil churned - replacing trigger-plants  
with weeds - a wilderness of orchids now  
deemed "fire hazard" - and flailed. Beyond it  
birds still congregate - year on year -  
in smaller numbers - and hunkered in the hide  
I watch my one grey plover. It makes me cold  
to think it could be here - not China or Korea -  
that fails her - that it might be our encroachment  
or pollution - or the inevitable sea wall  
they will build to save the houses when the sea  
laps close to their foundations - that starves her.

Binoculars made in Japan - help me pick her out  
among the red-necked stints - sandpipers - turnstones -  
godwits - knots - and the world talks of new cold wars  
that we cannot afford. In her sleek and mottled  
body she carries the one warm - tight - beating hope -  
the knowledge - strung out along her flyway  
that all of us are joined - all depend  
on muds and silts and soils - and on oceans  
that enfold this one world we have spanned

with GPS - eighty million years  
after the one first plover  
spanned it all alone  
with her instinct and her eye.

If you would like to hear a reading of this poem by Giles you can [do so here](#).



Grey Plover - Elis Simpson

# Saemangeum - Rick Simpson

\*Saemangeum; for those who have not heard of it, this was the site of one of the greatest, if not *the* greatest single act of environmental vandalism ever perpetrated in the name of development. It had a devastating effect upon many wader species that travel through and winter on the Yellow Sea coastline or waders.

Saemangeum is on the eastern coastline of South Korea on the Yellow Sea. It is at the confluence of two large rivers, the Mangyeong and Dongjin River where a huge estuary formed. In their infinite wisdom the South Korean authorities decided that this would be a suitable place to carry out what is euphemistically called land reclamation, but is in fact simply a destruction of mudflats in the name of development. The plan was to build a wall from the mainland to some islands just offshore and then back to the mainland. The idea being to stop the ebb and flow of the tides, fill the area and then build on it.

Conservationists pleaded that this would adversely affect many thousands of birds, the authorities claimed that they would simply go elsewhere.

The conservationists counted the birds in the estuary and neighbouring estuaries and found that, in the case of the Great Knot, 90,000 individuals stopped there on their way south to Australia (among many other species using the estuary).

Once the wall was complete and virtually no waders were within the now-dry estuary a count was made in , the results showed that there were no Great Knots in the estuary and no significant changes to the Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* populations in the neighbouring estuaries. So the birds had not gone there. This then begged the question; where did they go?

The Australians carried out a national survey and discovered that the number of Great Knots was 90,000 short of the pre wall totals. So it is now known, for a fact, that removing habitat of this kind does not result in the displacement of birds to other areas, it simply means they are unable to feed and, as Giles Watson 's eloquent poem states, simply '*circled bewildered - peeping - disconsolate for hours - then disappeared - spent their bodies - almost fleshless - in the ocean.*' simply put, they died. At the time of the disaster, this represented one fifth of the world population of Great Knots.

A sobering thought when you consider 60-70% of the intertidal habitat in the Yellow Sea are has been 'reclaimed' suggesting that many hundreds of thousands of waders have met the same fate as those Great Knots and other species at Saemangeum.

Currently the destruction of the region is on hold, at least in the Chinese portion of the Yellow Sea. Should this cease and the destruction start again it would result in the total loss of the Yellow Sea coast to waders. Then 100% of all the Bar-tailed Godwits *limosa lapponica baueri* that breed in Alaska and winter in New Zealand, which pass through the region each spring, will die. 100% of all the Nordmann's Greenshanks *Tringa guttifer*, the entire world population of which pass through the region, will die and significant proportions of other species will also perish, not to mention the few remaining Spoon-billed Sandpipers.





# Cover photo; Wood Snipe - Craig Brelsford



Wood Snipe - Craig Brelsford/[shanghaibirding.com](https://shanghaibirding.com)

For background on the day I achieved the photos, please see <https://www.shanghaibirding.com/hornbuckle/> The post describes my trip to Shaanxi and Sichuan with Jon Hornbuckle, who saw 9,600 species of bird, more than anyone, ever.

On the day on which the photos were taken, Hornbuckle plus team members Phil Heath, Dave Woodford, and I were on the famous Wolong-Balangshan road in Sichuan. A bird tour arrived. I cannot remember which company it was, but the leaders were British and knew Jon. The tour knew the spot where the Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola* was likely to be and led our group there. We moved downslope from the road a little ways, and there was the Snipe.

To get the shots, I used my Nikon VR 600mm F/4G lens attached to my Nikon 3GS.

The whole road is magical, and that spot, near the tunnel, is one of the most famous birdwatching locations in China. Just a few hundred yards from the Wood Snipe spot, birders regularly tick Chinese Monal *Lophophorus lhuysii*, White Eared Pheasant *Crossoptilon crossoptilon*, Sichuan Thrush *Zoothera griseiceps*, and half a dozen other specialities. I'll long remember the exhilaration I felt at that magic spot, watching the sun rise over the mountains, and I remember my sense of privilege at being able to bird with Hornbuckle, the world's champion lister. The day was just beginning and more birding triumphs lay ahead, and here we were with Wood Snipe displaying in front of us.

## Wood Snipe - Rick Simpson

Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola* [Hodgson](#) 1836

IUCN Vulnerable

### Scientific name explained:

- *Gallinago* - Late Medieval Latin: *gallinago* derived from *gallina* meaning hen and *ago* meaning resembling.
- *nemoricola* - Latin: *nemus*, *nemoris* meaning forest or wood and *cola* dweller from the Latin *colere* to inhabit.

**Alternative English names;** Himalayan Snipe.

**Nepali:** वन चाहा **Bengali:** ফন চ্যাগা , বন চ্যাগা (transliteration): bana cyāgā **Chinese:** 林沙雉 **Vietnamese:** Chim Rẽ giun lớn, Chim Rẽ giun rừng, Rẽ giun lớn - For more variants in other languages see [Avibase](#).

**Taxonomy;** monotypic.

**Taxonomic history;** *Capella nemoricola*, *Gallinago nemoricola*, *Nemoricola nepalensis*

Family: SCOLOPACIDAE ([Rafinesque](#) 1815) Subfamily: SCOLOPACINAE ([Rafinesque](#) 1815) .

The genus *Gallinago* was first described by [Brisson](#) in 1760. However, this name was not recognised until 1816 when [Koch](#) published a book and included it. The reason that [Brisson](#) was ignored is that he described it as a subdivision of the



# Wood Snipe - cont'd

genus, and didn't use [Linnaeus'](#) binomial system, so it was not considered valid. So, [Linnaeus'](#) *Scolopax* from 1758 remained in place until [Koch](#) resurrected *Gallinago* but, since Brisson was still being ignored, he was credited with its introduction.

In 1836 when [Hodgson](#) described the Wood Snipe as a species he agreed with the *Gallinago* genus, but the following year decided it deserved a genus of its own and used *Nemoricola*, changing the specific name to *nipalensis* in recognition of its Himalayan breeding range. Ten years later he changed his mind again and resurrected *Scolopax* and returned the *nemoricola* to the species level name. In 1856 [Bonaparte](#) resurrected the *Nemoricola* genus and changed the specific name to *nepalensis*, this however was not widely accepted although it is listed as a synonym in [Avibase](#), which does not mention [Hodgson's](#) version.



Wood Snipe - James Eaton/[Birdtour Asia](#)



Wood Snipe - Craig Brelsford/[shanghaibirding.com](#)

## Synonyms:

*Scolopax* [Linnaeus](#) *nemoricola* [Hodgson](#)

*Capella* [Frenzel](#) *nemoricola* [Hodgson](#)

*Nemoricola nipalensis* [Hodgson](#)

*Nemoricola nepalensis* [Bonaparte](#)

**Vulnerable:** Downlisted from Endangered in 1992. The Wood Snipe is seldom seen, due to being secretive and living in remote locations in the Himalayas. Added to this it is thought that it has a small and declining population. This fear is founded in the fact that suitable habitat for the species is declining due to the loss of wetlands on both breeding and wintering grounds. The population is estimated to be between 3,500 and 15,000 individuals.

The biggest threat used to be hunting and in places, China and Southeast Asia for example, this is still a concern, however habitat loss is now the major threat. Degradation and destruction of evergreen forest, wooded wetlands, marshes and swamps. In Nepal at least, the species is also threatened by high grazing pressure from livestock in its breeding habitats of subalpine shrubland and grasslands. This causes both a trampling hazard for nest and eggs, plus disturbance and quality of habitat required to breed.

It remained as *Scolopax* until 1920, when someone discovered a work by [Frenzel](#) in 1801 who had erected the genus *Capella* for these birds. This predated [Koch](#), and so the snipes all became *Capella* species.

It would have remained thus until now if the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature hadn't decided that Brisson was to be ignored no longer and they reinstated *Gallinago*, but this time with Brisson being the accredited author.

The Wood Snipe is, like all snipes, very cryptically marked and Seebohm remarked that surprisingly it was most similar in appearance to the northern Andean snipes [Andean Snipe](#) *Gallinago jamesoni* and [Noble Snipe](#) *Gallinago nobilis*. However, structurally it is more closely allied to the snipes with 18 or more tail feathers, having 18 itself\*.



Wood Snipe - Hari Basnet



# Wood Snipe - cont'd



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

The Wood Snipe breeds in the Himalayas in North-East India, Nepal, Bhutan, South-East Tibet, central Sichaun. It may also breed in Yunnan, China. The breeding season is from April to June, and the habitat is alpine meadows and marshes with scattered low bushes, or in dwarf scrub in barren, boulder-strewn areas, at elevations between 3,000 and 5,000 m, and at least occasionally down to 2,100 m, with one historical breeding record from 1,200 m. In winter, it frequents swampy ground in and at the edge of evergreen forest and marshy grassland and scrub, below 3,000 m, sometimes down to lowland plains (below 100 m). Populations are partially migratory, with some birds travelling from the Himalayas to south India, northern Vietnam and even rarely to central and southern India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, northern Thailand and Laos.

One key breeding area in Langtang National Park was previously threatened by disturbance from an increase in tourism. However that changed after a series of earthquakes in 2015 and numbers have not yet returned to previous levels. Few people visit the breeding range of the species in Nepal, so it may be under-recorded, but it is thought that there are fewer than 100 pairs. In 2019 and again in 2022, Wader Quest joint funded expeditions by the Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation to the breeding area, where the researchers were successful in finding the first nest ever recorded.

In the area, they were able to flush Wood Snipes more than 50 times but the sightings were short lived. The only photo obtained was in poor light with clouds.



Wood Snipe - Hari Basnet

Of all the wader genera *Gallinago* snipes have the widest variety of tail feather numbers. Most waders have 12 tail feathers, 6 on each side but *Gallinago* snipes have between 12 (Imperial Snipe *G. imperialis*) and 28 (some Pintail Snipes *G. stenura* and some Solitary Snipes *G. solitaria*). The widespread Common Snipe *G. gallinago* has 14 (although some may have 12 and others 16 - particularly melanistic birds known as 'Sabine's Snipe'). Wood Snipes have 18.

Common Snipe - Elis Simpson





# The Sands Of Change: Series 3 Episode 2

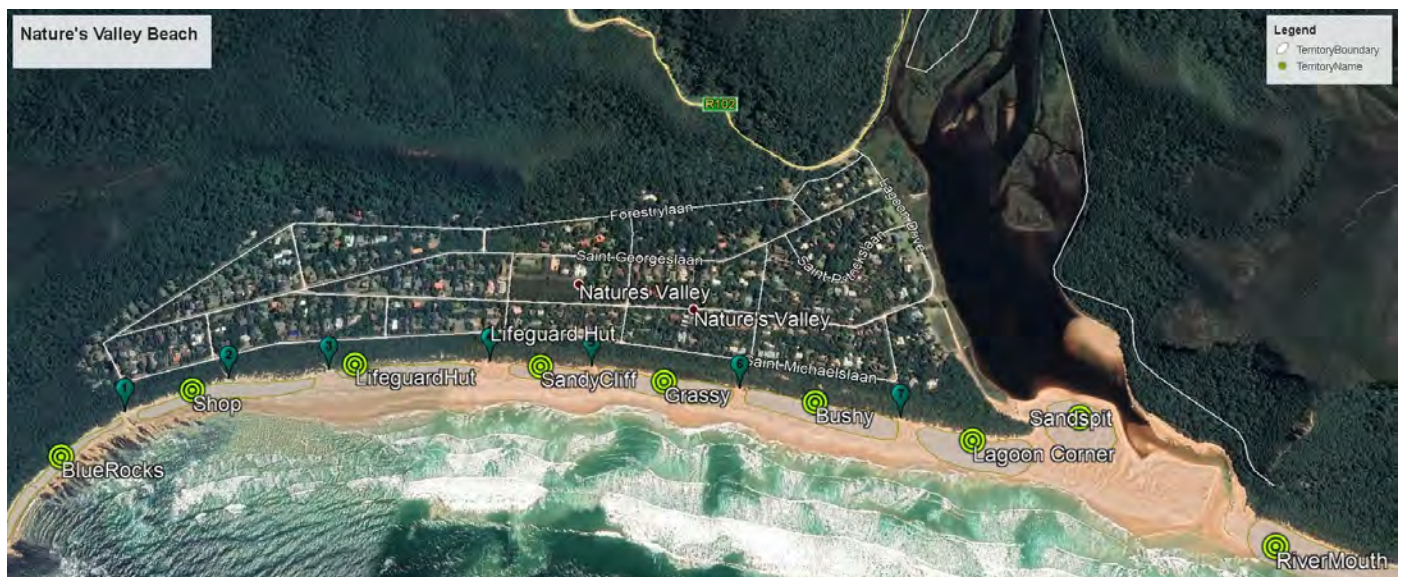
## - Nature's Valley Trust

*'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.



Who are these two funny birds that have moved into the neighbourhood? With their yellow and green rings that no other bird seems to have on Nature's Valley. They must come from somewhere far off Gina thought as she was foraging on the waterline. Well they seem nice enough, harmless in fact, even if they don't socialise with the other birds and have not said two tweets to anyone... Very mysterious in deed.

Green and Yellow arrived late July, making the sandspit their home. They found the perfect nesting area on the very flat and homogenous sandspit; it was right at the top of the only dune, safe from the impulsive high tides. Gina would know; she's very good at picking out nests and her current nest was particularly well situated as she had a full view of the sandspit pair, keeping a subtle eye on these newcomers. But if anyone asks, its pure coincidence that she can see right into their nest.

Time passed, everyone settling in to their territories for the season, the males scraping beautiful nest bowls for their ladies to choose from and the ladies decorating their chosen nest with flare. Gina was especially proud of her exterior design, she had a nice long stick to catch the sand on



Gina - NVT



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

those days when the wind was fierce and relentless, a tuft of sea pumpkin leaves to cast shadow on the days when the sun was particularly harsh, stabbing her with its rays and warming the sand to an unbearable degree (if you ever wonder why plovers run so fast; the sand is HOT!), and she even had a nice piece of red bait to attract the little insect so she wouldn't have to go too far when she feels the rumble of hunger. In hindsight, the latter was perhaps not such a good idea; the smell got a bit uncomfortable, to put it mildly. From her throne she could see that a certain pair was not too imaginative, the same old woody debris decoration you get everywhere, but hey it's not her business and she shouldn't judge, she tells herself.

At this point the new pair had still not said even one tweet to anyone, keeping to themselves and going about their daily tasks. Soon they had their first two lovely speckled eggs nuzzled into the soft sandy pillow of their nest. Incubating went without a hitch and thirty days later they had two beautiful chicks full of wonder and curiosity. But Gina was not going to let this pretentious and smug couple outdo her and Gino; they were not far behind with two eggs of their own.

Soon Gina saw that Green and Yellow were slowly inching into their territory with their twins. Were they trying to befriend them? Perhaps finally break the ice that had amassed over the last two months? Well even if not, Gina was willing to allow their existence in her space only because they were unlucky enough to nest on the only dog off-leash beach on the whole of Nature's Valley. She figured they needed a break from all the running and hiding.

The two families edged closer and closer: "Oh how lovely it would be for us to have two new friends, Momma" cooed her eldest. But Gina was wary, she didn't know these two from a hole in the sea sponge and she definitely was not going to just let her chicks play with strangers, whose chicks looked like a handful, she might add. She made it known to her two chicks that they may not befriend these older chicks as they were just too wild for her precious babies; they would get hurt! Plus, Auntie Pink and uncle Floyd will soon also have two little ones and they will be much more suitable as friends.

On a lovely day when the sun was bright, and a soothing breeze ruffled their feathers the two families were out and about enjoying what nature had intended for them. Separately of course. Gina and Gino were soaking up some rays as they do not often get time to relax these days, raising to little ones are tiring you know!

It only took one wink and when she opened her eyes one of her little ones was gone. What could have happened? Gino and herself rushed around looking under every leaf and twig, these chicks loved playing hide and seek, to the death of her. But she could not find her baby. Then out of the corner of her eye she saw two extra little legs sticking out from under Yellow!! What is this bird playing at? Gina rushed over and to confront this chick-knapping crow – How dare she brood one of Gina's chicks? Is she trying to insinuate that Gina is not a good mother? What ensued after this was... unexpected. Gina thought she would challenge this bird on her strange behaviour, she would in turn be very apologetic for her actions and they would call it a day. But she met resistance, Yellow would not give Gina's chick back. In fact, when the chick wanted to return to her mother, Yellow started pecking at her. Gina was taken aback because this is something she did not see coming. What followed was a tremendous display: Gina would not be bested, not today! She swooped down to attack, feathers flew in every direction. What felt like an eternity only lasted a few second before Yellow conceded and returned to her mate. Gino finally showed up having looked for his daughter on the other side of the rise, unaware of what was happening closer to



Yellow with three chicks - NVT



Gina with remaining chick - NVT

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

home and returning only for he heard the commotion. The little chick was quiet but still alive, only time will tell if she will make it through the night.

The next day when NVT researchers returned to Gina and Gino's nesting area only one chick remained... but of course they were not aware of the series of events that had led to this conclusion. But life goes on and they still had their youngest and now only child to be strong for. Pink and Floyd in the meantime also added two more to their little family and Gina and Gino preferred to socialise with these neighbours and stay away from the sandspit completely.

The researchers returned as they do every week to check on the nesting areas, and the chicks. They were hopeful that Gina and Gino would have a beautiful and plump little chick following them along on the beach as they have proved themselves to be very capable parents in the past. However, this is not what they found and the thought of it still leaves a pit in their

stomachs. One cold soaked morning when the clouds were weaving its heavy blanket, darkening the skies with promise of rain, the researches approached Gino and Gina. They could see them huddling behind a log from a distance; they must be warming their little chick in this cold, uncaring weather. The shock was overwhelming when the researchers saw Gino stand up and limp away. Not only was their second chick now also nowhere to be seen but Gino had a wound, soaking is leg red with blood. What had happened here? The researchers were baffled... Was the brave Gino protecting his family from an unknown predator? Or is this sinister enemy much closer to home? All they know is that with time the sands always reveal the truth.



Bloodied Gino - NVT



## How you can help Wader Quest:

### Help us raise awareness

Share our social media



Join [Wader Conservation World Watch](#) 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Czech Republic:** The newly established research group Global Life-history, Ornithology & Behavioural Ecology (GLOBE) – <https://GLOBEresearchgroup.com> new webpages will be launched soon – focuses on ecology, behaviour, life-history strategies and population dynamics of wild animals, particularly birds, including impacts and consequences of recent environmental changes. The GLOBE research group is led by [Dr Vojtěch Kubelka](#) from Department of Zoology and Centre for Polar Ecology at the Faculty of Sciences, University of South Bohemia in the Czech republic and has been recently awarded a prestigious [Junior Star GAČR grant](#): *Animal migrations in a changing world – Movements for reproduction to higher latitudes: still advantageous strategy or maladaptive behaviour?* for years 2023–2027. [See all details here.](#)



**Ireland:** In an article in the Sunday Independent 5/2/2023 called *Silence of the birds - a horror story happening in front of us* Fiona O'Connell highlights the devastation being wrought upon the Irish countryside. She points out that big business is involved in this calamity causing afforestation to take place on prime breeding habitats of endangered farmland birds such as the Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* and Northern Lapwing. *Vanellus vanellus*. Not only should these trees not be where they are, worse still they are of non-native species such as Sitka Spruce *Picea sitchensis* (51% of forest cover in Ireland) and Logpole Pine *Pinus contorta* (covering a further 9.6%). So why is this happening? The Irish government has requested state aid from the EU to fund its new forestry programme despite the fact that it has already breached both forestry programme state aid conditions and EU environmental law between 2014 and 2022, so there is little hope that the Irish government will step in to prevent further destruction of this kind. We need more trees it is true, but we need the right kind of trees in the right places and reducing biodiversity in the name of commercial logging or even offsetting carbon emissions is not the way to go about getting them.



Eurasian Curlew - Hardik Pala

**Spain:** In the spring of 2021 a male House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* was observed attacking and predated a Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* chick. It tried on two occasions, was successful on the first but on the second was repelled by the adult plovers. [See full account here](#)



Kentish Plover - Saswat Mishra

## Wader Conservation World Watch 10



# Wader Conservation World Watch

4th—5th November 2023

# 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 4th and or 5th 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 ICARE about wader conservation.

Simply email the list to; [wcssw@waderquest.net](mailto:wcssw@waderquest.net)

Or

Share you eBird list with WaderQuestTeam.

Tell us what you saw, where and with whom.

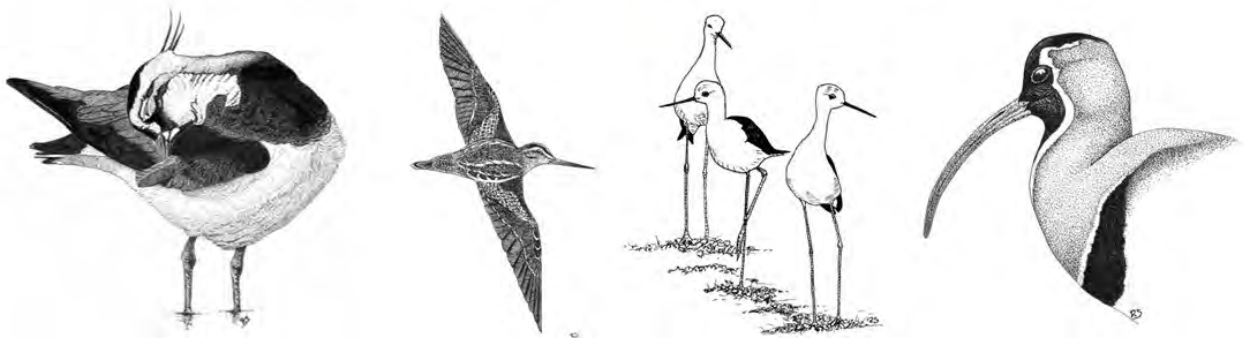
**Caring is the first step to conservation!**



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

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

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

- Debbie Pain: Conservationist and scientist.

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

- Rebecca Armstrong: Editor of Birdwatch magazine.

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



**£15.00**  
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*'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.

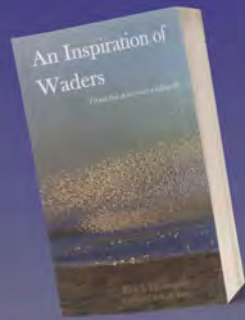
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# Wader Quest merchandising

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.



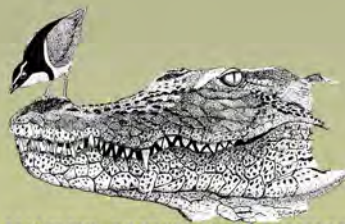
BY RICK AND ELIS SIMPSON



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

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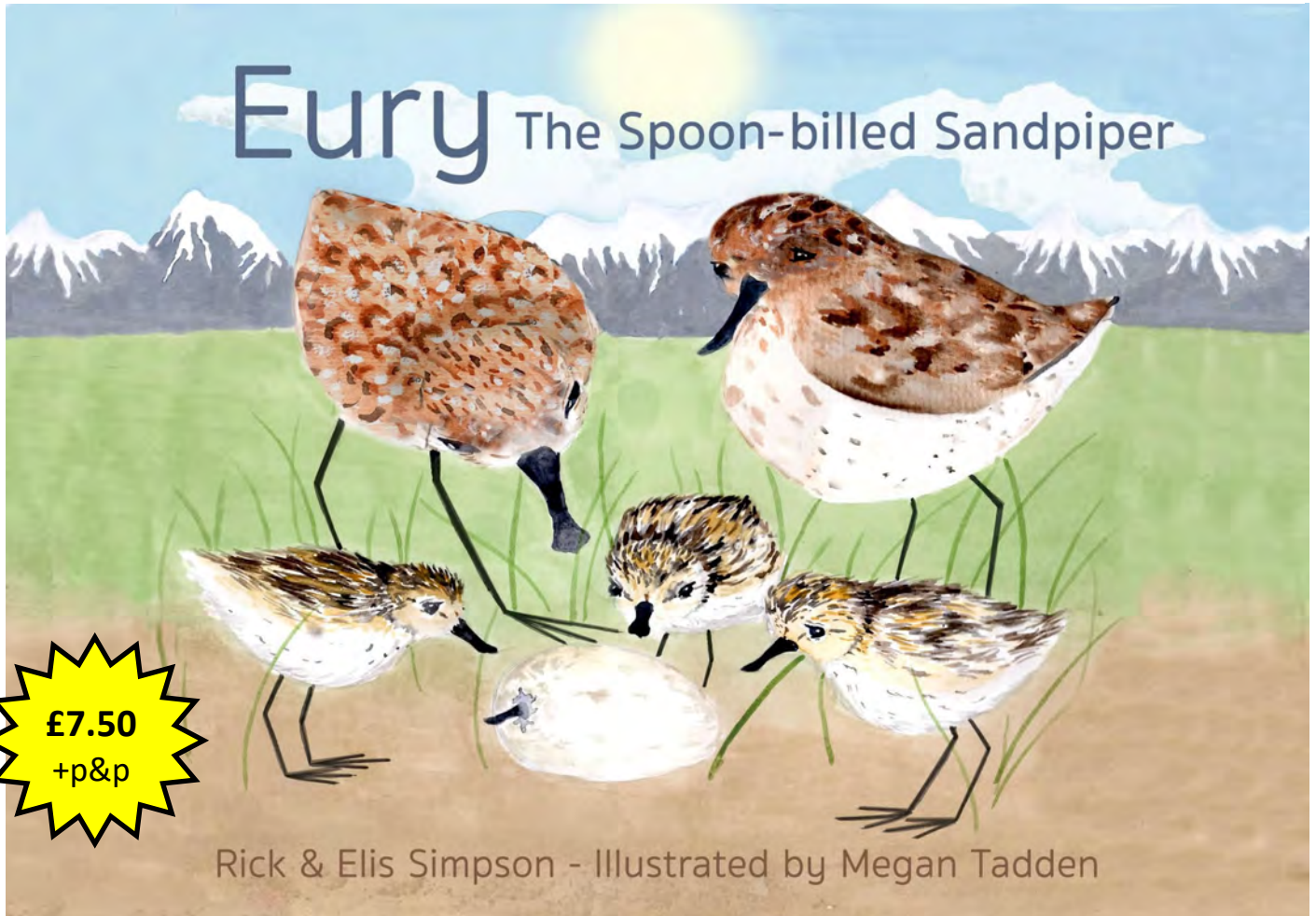


# Wader Quest merchandising

## Eury The Spoon-billed Sandpiper

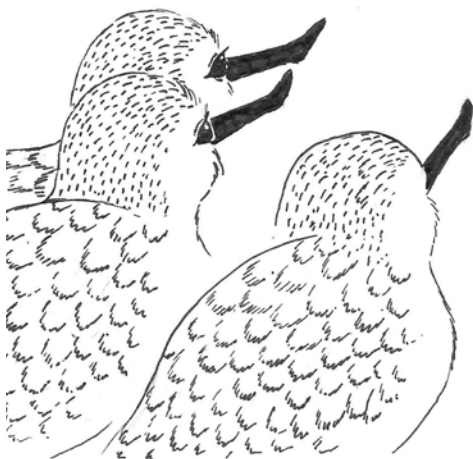
A Wader Quest Publishing book By Rick and Elis Simpson

Children 6 -11 years



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# Wader Quest merchandising

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- 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
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0-23 DESIGNS STILL



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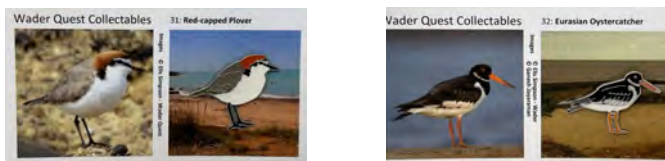
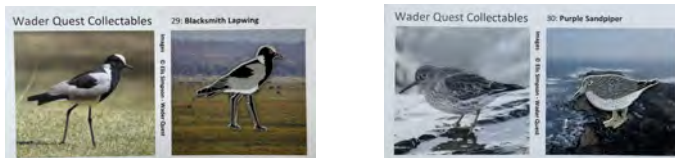
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## Wader Quest Collectables - Enamelled



## Earrings



# Wader Quest merchandising

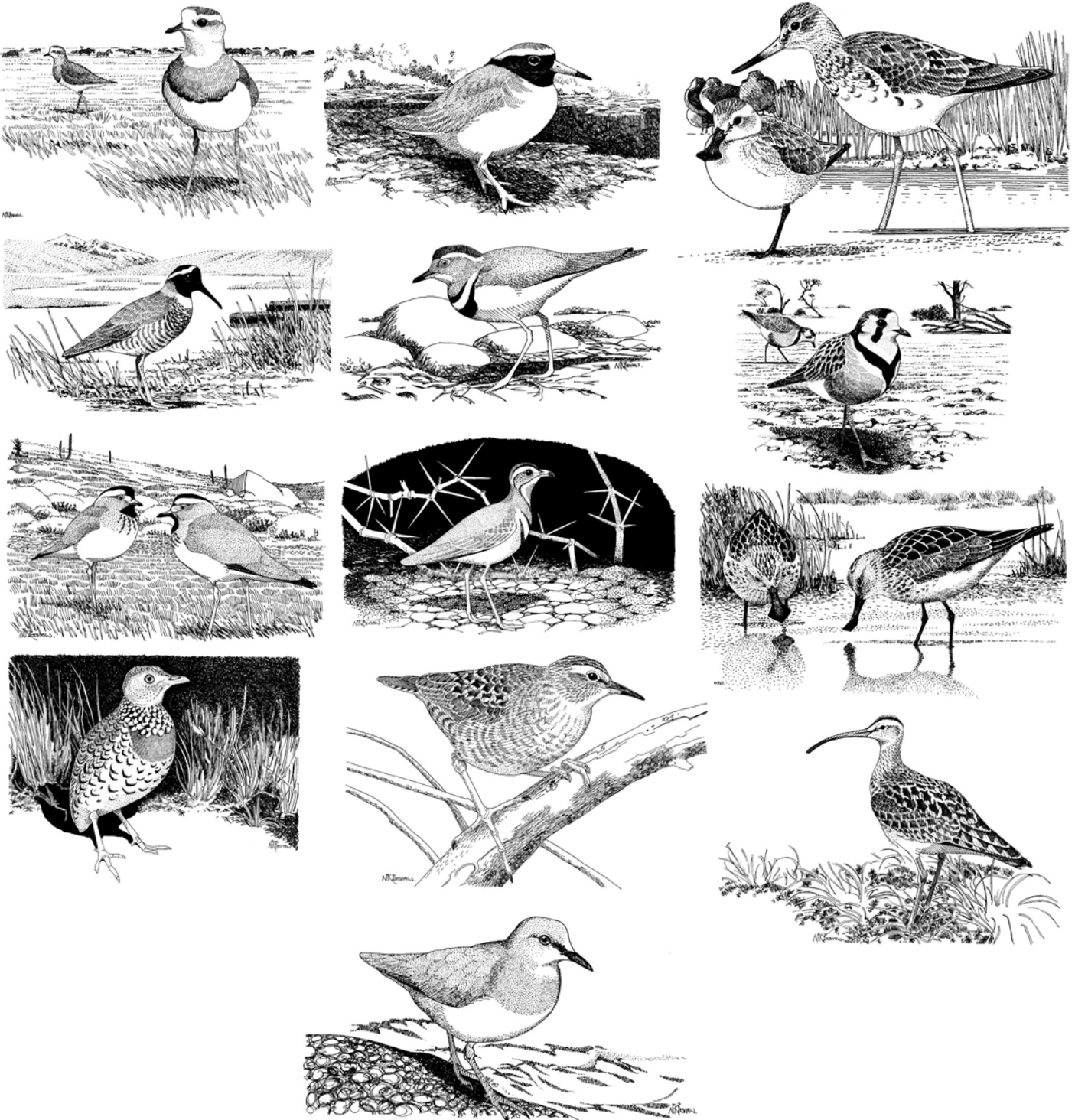


**NIK BORROW DESIGNED WADER  
GREETING CARDS**

**100 X 150 MM**

**PACK OF 12 + 1 FREE £10.00**

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





# Wader Quest merchandising

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



Pied Avocets over Titchwell RSPB reserve © Julia Page

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



Eurasian Oystercatchers © Julia Page



Common Snipe © Julia Page



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

**Designs by**  
**Julia Page**

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



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



# Guidelines for applications for Wader Quest grants

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

- Investigating the status of Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near-threatened wader species
- Attempting to further the knowledge of current Important Bird Areas (IBAs) of significant importance to waders, through breeding surveys and conducting systematic counts
- Investigating potential new IBAs or ornithologically little known areas for waders
- Conducting ecological studies of little-known wader species
- Educational programmes, especially aimed at school children and youth to conserve and protect waders and their habitat

Priority will be given to projects:

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

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

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

# £50,778.33

## 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