



WADER QUEST

THE NEWSLETTER Volume 10; Issue 3 2023



Crab Plover - Aditya Roy

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THE NATURAL HOME FOR WADER LOVERS

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

Next meeting:

Trustees: 19 Sep 2023

Exec. Comm: 20 Oct 2023

AGM: 26 Nov 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:

info@waderquest.net

Wader Conservation World Watch enquiries:

wcww@waderquest.net

Grant applications and information:

applications@waderquest.net

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Membership 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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Edited by Rick Simpson

Wader Quest news

Editorial Comment

We are sorry to say that the regular feature Sands of Change, comes to an end in this issue. We are very grateful to Nature's Vallet Trust for allowing us to use this series of essays written by their interns in the Newsletter. In particular we are grateful to Brittany Arendse, who supplied the text and photos to us and indeed wrote the final essay in this issue herself. We hope to have further contributions from our friends at NVT in the near future.

Your support for Wader Quest has never been more important, be it as a Friend of Wader Quest, a Sponsor, or a donor, we guarantee that every penny that you send to us will be used exclusively to help fund wader conservation projects around the world. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, your support is greatly appreciated, by us and I'm sure by the birds.

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

We are pleased to have responded to a request for funding from Australia for the Birdlife Top End Darwin-Garramilla Shore Bird Festival in Australia. We have contributed £1000 to help the Top End Festival. The coastal position of Darwin with its geographical proximity to Indonesia and South Asia makes it an important migration route and stop over site for many bird species, on their autumn and spring migrations. Large numbers of birds including wader species use the area and benefit from suitable habits which also facilitate for resident breeding wader species. Raising the profile of requirements for wader species' survival is important work and can impact positively among residents and decision makers helping future survival.

This event should be a lot of fun for the participants and we wish them well! We hope to provide some stories and accounts from the festival in future.

We are currently looking at how we can support [protection for the Sociable Lapwing](#) *Vanellus gregarius*. This critically endangered species uses only a couple of stop over sites during its migration. One of these sites, the Talimarzhan reservoir in Uzbekistan, can be used by up to 50% of the population over 45 days in the autumn. A project by OSME (Ornithological Society of the Middle East) intends to enhance protection on foraging and roosting areas for around 33% of the population. Although legally protected since 2021 there is still a loss of adult birds from the population which is contributing to the species decline.

Events planned UK:

We will be returning to the [Spurn Mig Fest](#) event this year on the 8th - 10th September at the Spurn Bird Observatory, Easington Road, Kilnsea, Hull, HU12 0UB

The Northwest Birdwatching Festival will take place again this year at Martin Mere Wetland Centre on the 14th and 15th of October.

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 planned Brazil : (Wader Quest Brasil / Projeto Aves Limícolas)

The third Coastal Birds Festival will be taking place in November.

Talks:

Since the last newsletter Rick and Elis have carried out a further 2 live talks to clubs and societies one via Zoom to the USA and one at the Birdfair with a combined audience of 203 people. The income from sign-ups, sales and donations from those talks came to £115.95. The total raised this financial year (since April 6th) from talks is 672.35, and the number people reached is 378.

Forthcoming talks scheduled this year, if one is near you why not pop along to say hello;

2023	Time	Date	Group	Talk title
	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 - Curse of the Curlews
	19.00 tbc	30/11/2023	Watford RSPB (2nd) Via ZOOM	New Moon on the Wane - Curse of the Curlews
	19.30	08/12/2023	South-East Cheshire Ornithological Soc.	Wader Quest
2024	19.30	02/01/2024	East Lancashire Ornithologists' Club (4th)	A Quest for Waders - Wader Quest on Safari
	19.30	22/01/2024	The Preston Society (2nd)	New Moon on the Wane - Curse of the Curlews
	19.30	25/01/2024	Northwest Surrey RSPB (4th)	New Moon on the Wane - Curse of the Curlews
	19.00	04/03/2024	Nottingham RSPB	Wader Quest
	19.30	13/03/2024	Skipton RSPB	Wader Quest
	19.30	15/04/2024	High Peak RSPB	New Moon on the Wane - Curse of the Curlews

Wader Quest news cont'd

Time	Date	Group	Talk title
19.30	19/04/2024	Southport RSPB (7th)	To be decided
14.15	05/06/2024	Eastbourne and District RSPB (afternoon)	Wader Quest
19.00	05/06/2024	Eastbourne and District RSPB (evening)	Wader Quest

To request a talk for your club or group email
rick@rick-simpson.com

Announcing four new Wader Quest Collectable pin badges: Numbers 34-37. [Available from our shop now.](#) £3.00 each

Also available; 2023 Friends of Wader Quest badge exclusive to 2023 paid up FOWQ members - £3.00



34: Common Snipe



35: American Avocet



36: Grey Phalarope



37: Killdeer



Our aims:

TO RAISE AWARENESS...

about the challenges waders face in the modern world.

TO RAISE FUNDS...

to support wader conservation initiatives worldwide, especially those involving locally led, community projects.



Snowy Plover Chick — Teresa Hedden

Wader Conservation World Watch 10

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

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

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

Global Big Day 13th May 2023

Wader Quest Team results - Rick Simpson

[Global Birding](#) are big supporters of Wader Quest and the people running it just happen to be our Patrons, Tim Appleton and Penny Robinson. Therefore as a show of reciprocal support we like to get involved with the spring Global Big Day in May. We ask some of our friends around the world to join us to enhance our list for the day and have a bit of fun.

This year we had people join us from **9 countries**; Caribbean (Anguilla), North America (Canada), South America (Brazil), Europe (Bulgaria, Portugal, UK), Asia (China), Africa (South Africa) and Australasia (Australia). In total **44 observers** were involved and together we saw **509 species**.

WaderQuestTeam results;

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF SPECIES	PARTICIPANTS
Anguilla	43	Jackie Cestero
Australia	109	Robert Berry, Gail D'Alton, Kerry Hadley, Chris Hassell, Alan McBride
Brazil	150	Karina Ávila, Milena Corbo, Sue Healey, Bruno Lima, Rodrigo Passos
Bulgaria	63	Liudmila Karukina
Canada	19	Madison Acker, Laura King +20
China	80	Katherine Leung
Norway	15	Tommy Pedersen
Portugal	19	Jack Delabye
South Africa	41	Sue Oertli, Jenny and Peter Sharland
United Kingdom	73	Phil Hadley, Andrew MacGarvey, Elis and Rick Simpson

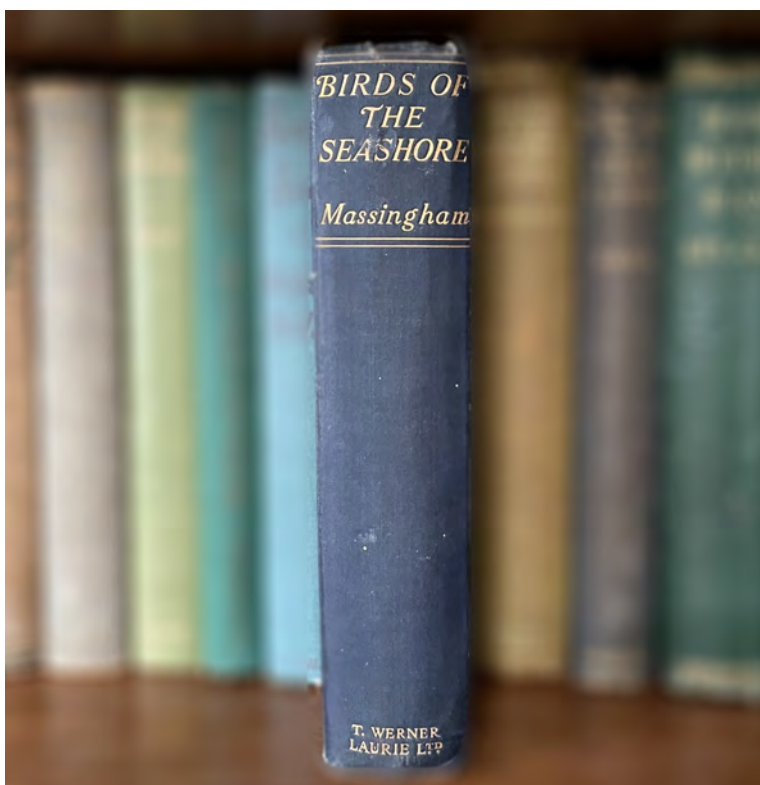
WaderQuestTeam (capitalised and no gaps) is the Wader Quest account on eBird. If you are ever submitting a list to us, for a Global Big Day event or for our Wader Conservation World Watch event, sharing from your own eBird account to ours is the easiest way to do so.



From the library - Birds of the Seashore (1931; 1st Edition) - H. J. Massingham.

The Dunlin are in the air and all, as by an invisible broom, are swept into a perfect unison of movement. They change pattern, direction, colour and formation with every turn, but each individual keeps the same distance from its neighbours, the same momentum and the same angle of the body that they do, as though they were all pulled hither and thither from the ends of an infinite number of equidistant threads, held by and unseen hand - thousands of leaderless birds with the cohesion of one body, supported upon one pair of wings.

The afternoon sun hurls long bright shafts athwart the silent marshes when suddenly one of these tremendous floods of life surges over them, rising and falling, banking and curving, and accompanied by a hiss of wings and a soft purr or humming (whence the name "Purre") from innumerable throats. Then as though they swam into a magnetic spell, breathed from the brown flats beneath them, they stay their course, swerve at right angles with a concurrent tilt of bodies, flash a single sheet of white and sweep the air an inch above the ground in one precipitate wave. The marshland pulls them to its breast and they sin into it, breaking up at once into a jargonning scurry of individuals, confusedly twinkling over its surface.





Wader Quest Brasil news

- Karina Ávila and Bruno Lima



A Wader Quest Brasil no Congresso de Ornitologia das Américas! - English text

Um dos eventos mais esperados do ano no Neotrópico, o “II Congresso de Ornitologia das Americas”, ocorreu entre 01 e 04 de agosto em Gramado, no Sul do Brasil que contou com mais de 400 participantes de vários países!

Estivemos presentes para expor o trabalho que a Wader Quest Brasil/Projeto Aves Limícolas vem realizando no litoral do Estado de São Paulo, e para realizar um Workshop pela Environment for the Americas, apresentando o tema “Água: vital para as aves”. A Environment for the Americas é uma ONG que está começando sua atuação no Brasil, por meio do envolvimento da comunidade e aproximação dessa com as aves.

Trocamos experiências com diversas instituições e pesquisadores que têm atuado principalmente com conservação, reafirmamos nossa atuação na proteção das aves limícolas no estado de São Paulo e nos impressionou a quantidade de trabalhos expostos por jovens pesquisadores da América Latina.

A Wader Quest tem nos incentivado financeiramente a quatro anos a realizar e manter nossas pesquisas sobre as populações e ameaças que as aves limícolas migratórias e residentes vêm enfrentando no Estado mais populosos do Brasil. Graças a isso temos conseguido realizar um trabalho de educação ambiental no território, ressaltando a importância desse local como “stopover” para aves limícolas migratórias neárticas e para aves limícolas residentes em declínio no estado de São Paulo, como o piru-piru. Temos trabalhado com políticas públicas e com educação ambiental junto às comunidades, criando leis municipais, festivais e atividades que envolvam os frequentadores das praias.

Sem esse incentivo não teríamos chegado aonde chegamos. Esse apoio tem nos feito voar cada vez mais alto e trazido mais e mais pessoas para atuar na proteção das aves limícolas.



Apresentação sobre Conservação de Aves Limícolas Migratórias e ações comunitárias no sudeste do Brasil. Durante o Workshop sobre o Dia Mundial das Aves Migratórias.

- Presentation about migratory wader conservation and community action in the southeast of Brazil. During the World Migratory Bird Workshop.



Equipe da Wader Quest Brasil/Projeto Aves Limícolas com o Corrdenador Técnico do Projeto Aves Migratórias do Nordeste.

- the Wader Quest Brasil/ Projecto Aves Limícolas team with the Migratory birds of the Northeast Project.



Equipe da Environment for the Americas - The Environment for the Americas team



Wader Quest Brasil news

- Karina Ávila and Bruno Lima



Painel com os nomes de todos os participantes; E. Bruno Lima D. Karina Ávila - Panel with all the participants' names; L. Bruno Lima, R. Karina Ávila

II Ornithological Congress of the Americas
Gramado, Brazil
August 1-4, 2023

"RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY AND RESIDENT SHOREBIRDS ON THE SÃO PAULO COAST, BRAZIL"
"Pesquisa e conservação das aves limícolas migratórias e residentes no Litoral Paulista, Brasil"

Introdução / Introduction
O comportamento migratório da maioria das espécies de aves limícolas é caracterizado pelo uso de habitats de descanso e alimentação em vários países ao longo dos ciclos anuais, o que leva à necessidade da implementação de planos de conservação internacionais. Por este motivo, é essencial a identificação da riqueza e composição de espécies, dos padrões sazonais, da abundância de indivíduos e do uso do habitat pelas espécies migratórias em todas as principais áreas utilizadas como "stopovers" e invernação – informações essenciais para a elaboração de estratégias de manejo e conservação (Bamford et al., 2008; Barbieri & Espasza, 2023).

Metodologia / Methodology
Realizaram-se censos mensais (2019-2023), percorrendo um trecho de 20 km ao longo da costa. Se identificaram as espécies e se contabilizaram o número de indivíduos com o auxílio de binóculos 10x42, luneta 54x72 e guias de identificação de campo como os de O'Brien et al. (2004) e Grantus (2016). Foi calculada a abundância das 26 espécies (abundância/ha). A avaliação das Patrocinadoras mensais foram feitas por meio da análise de gráficos de barra com erro padrão (Teste de Normalidade Shapiro-Wilk).

Resultados / Results
Let municipal N° 3.876. Let municipal N° 4.203.

Área de estudo / Study Area
Praias dos municípios de Peruibe e Itanhaém no Litoral Centro Paulista.

Conclusões / Conclusions
Os dados do presente estudo podem indicar que as aves limícolas migratórias neárticas utilizam as praias de Peruibe e Itanhaém como pontos de descanso e alimentação, especialmente durante a migração para o nordeste do Brasil. Também pode ser considerado como um ponto de concentração para a conservação das espécies limícolas neárticas e a conservação de suas áreas de reprodução (Ornithological Congress of the Americas, 2023).

Referências/References

II Ornithological Congress of the Americas
Gramado, Brazil
August 1-4, 2023

"SHOREBIRDS AS A TOOL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION OF THEIR HABITATS"
"Aves Limícolas como Ferramenta para a educação ambiental e conservação de seus habitats"

THE PLACE
The coast of São Paulo State has some areas where migratory nearctic shorebirds use as stopovers.

THE PROBLEMS
However, these areas suffer strong anthropic pressure because they are attractive for tourism.

FINDING SOLUTIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY
We started an environmental education project on beaches, schools and communities. Through the campaign "My dog hero of shorebirds", we explain to tourists and residents that dogs are a threat to birds.

Kōlea Quest '23; From Hawaii to Nome – Susan Scott

Originally published in SusanScott.net July 5th 2023

With the ambitious goal of seeing kōlea (Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*) chicks, 19 Hawaii Audubon Society members, including Dr Wally Johnson, and I spent the last week of June traveling the tundra near Nome, Alaska, a famous gold rush town of about 3,700. I call our goal ambitious because I'd been to the area in 2018 with plover expert, Wally Johnson, and learned how hard it is to find a plover nest with eggs, let alone one with chicks still in it. Like chickens, as soon as newly hatched chicks are dry, they leave the nest to forage for food.

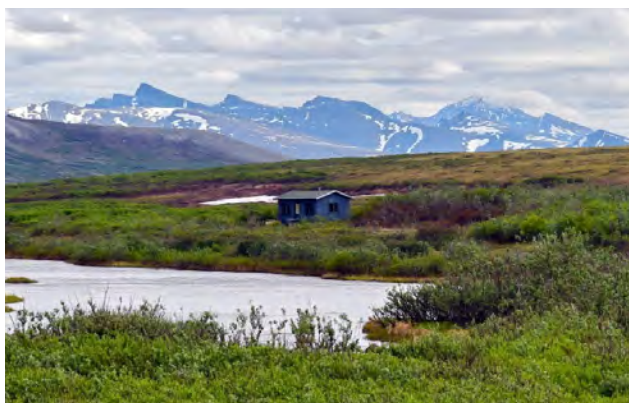
With that in mind, we called our trip "Kōlea Quest" and prepared ourselves. Even if we didn't see chicks, we would appreciate seeing where it happens and enjoy Nome's spectacular plants, animals, rivers, and mountains. (For more story and photos, see [Kōlea Count News/Nome](#))



We 21 plover lovers (including our outstanding Nome guide, Carol Gales) travelled in the three vehicles above. The vegetation below the road is typical terrain in the vast miles of tundra - Susan Scott



Nome roads are mostly unpaved. Kapiolani Community College student, Emma Ho, declared our mission in dust - Susan Scott



A view from Council Road. The other side of the road is the Bering Sea. Nome is located on Alaska's Seward Peninsula, accessible only by air, boat, or dog sled. Nome is the end of the famous Iditarod dog sled race. - Susan Scott

The first order of "Kōlea Quest" was for Wally and his long-time Anchorage-based research assistants, Paul and Nancy Brusseau, to look for the Pacific Golden Plovers they studied in the past. Males usually build their soft lichen nests in the same area year after year, and some may reuse the same nest from the previous summer.

Although kōlea have learned to live with us humans in the main Hawaiian Islands, they are not people-friendly in their Arctic nesting grounds where predators abound. Observers have to spot a kōlea either flying or foraging, and then follow it with binoculars to its well-camouflaged nest.

While one person watches where the parent settled, another person walks toward it, guided by radio communication from the person who has eyes on the bird.

Once a walker approaches a nest, the kōlea parent flies off and behaves as if its wing is broken, a ploy to lure a predator away from the eggs. This leaves the human walker with the tricky job of finding the nearly invisible nest, but not stepping on it.

When a nest is discovered, however, workers can't flag it because the parent may not return to an altered neighbourhood. To relocate a nest, researchers create their own tundra cairns, count paces, and triangulate with background scenery.

Kōlea Quest '23 From Hawaii to Nome – cont'd



Craig Thomas with Paul and Nancy Brusseau, our team spotters, keep track of a kōlea they saw flying - Susan Scott



Paul carefully approaching the area where the bird landed - Susan Scott



Even when standing next to the nest, I couldn't see it. A member of the team pointed it out for me - Susan Scott



This is the typical "broken wing" posture of a male trying to lure us away from the nest ©Susan Scott

While the nest finders worked, the rest of us explored the three roads leading out of Nome. The tundra delivered. We marvelled over wildflowers, lichens, and tiny plants that hide the birds so well.



Wildflowers bloom here and there throughout the tundra - Susan Scott



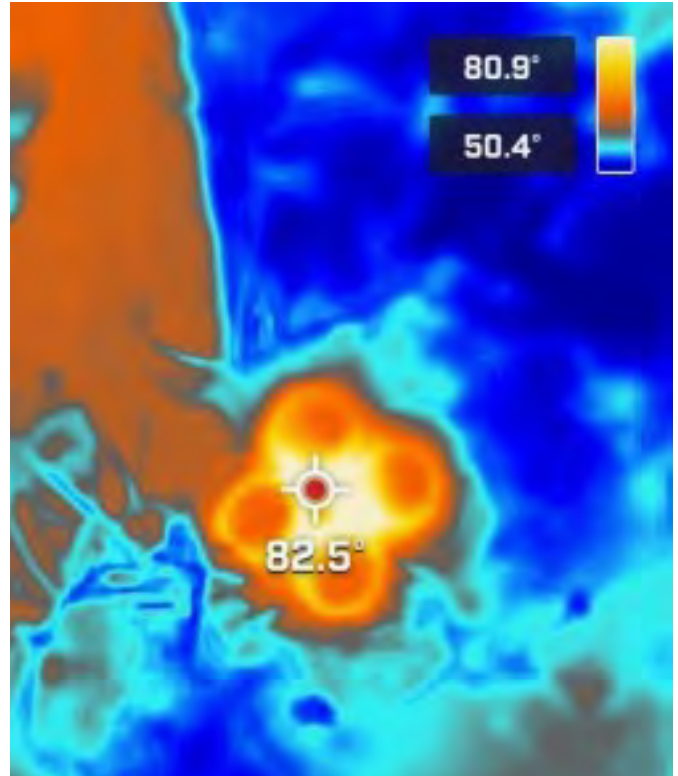
The shallow puddles that lie between grassy tufts harbour mosquitoes and other insects that nourish birds and their chicks - Susan Scott

Kōlea Quest '23 From Hawaii to Nome – cont'd

Back at the hotel, the research team had good news: they had found an accessible plover nest containing four eggs. Several days later, the shells contained tiny holes and cracks. The nest team could hear the chicks' peeping, but the eggs had not yet hatched.



Cracks in the eggs were barely visible but we could hear the chicks peeping
- Susan Scott



Paul's infrared photo of the eggs measured their heat. Temperature colour scale upper right - Paul Brusseau



Chicks hatch one at a time in the order the female laid them. The last chick, top, is still wet. The pink knobs are the newborns' folded legs. These parents have already picked up the eggshells, white and visible to predators, and dropped them far from the nest - Susan Scott

Sadly, it was time to leave. The next morning, while the nest finders checked the eggs one last time, the rest of us checked our baggage in at the tiny airport. As we were discussing what to do with the two hours we had before going through the TSA line, one of the nest finders sent a text with no words, but just one joyful photo: four newly hatched kōlea chicks.

It was the most organized our group had been all week. In a flash, we were in the vehicles, at the site, and tiptoeing through the tussocks. At the nest, we quickly took our photos, and left those precious babies and parents in peace.

I know that during our exit, each of us was silently thanking the plovers, the search team that included Dr. Wally Johnson, our trip organizer, Dr. Wendy Kuntz of KCC, the Hawaii Audubon Society, and of course, the universe for giving us this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Back at the airport, long-time Audubon board member, Pat Moriyasu, summed up the trip perfectly. "In Nome," she said, "we struck gold."

Cover photo; Crab Plover - Aditya Roy



Crab Plover - Aditya Roy

This photograph was taken in Jamnagar, on the north-western coast of India in the state of Gujarat. This is in the Gulf of Kutch which is bordered to the north by the Kutch region and the south by the Saurashtra region. This photograph was taken during a low tide while the plovers were feeding.

Aditya is a guide for [Soar Excursions](#) and is a qualified wildlife biologist working in the field of wildlife and conservation since 2000.

He has extensively travelled in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya-Pradesh during his work on critically endangered vultures. Currently he is pursuing his PhD on toxicology of vultures from Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore. He has worked with Bombay Natural History Society and Wildlife Institute of India for research projects on Vultures, Flamingos and Asiatic Wild-Ass. His papers and articles on vultures have been published in national and international journals.

He has been into wildlife photography for seven years and has photographed over 350 species of birds across India. His photographs have been published in many books and photography magazines, and he has kindly allowed us to use many on the website and also in these newsletters.

Crab Plover - Rick Simpson

Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola* Paykull 1805

IUCN Least Concern

Scientific name explained:

- *Dromas* - Greek *dromas* meaning running.
- *ardeola* - Latin; *ardeola* or *adiola* little heron, diminutive form of *ardea* heron.

Alternative English name; Crab-Plover - **Afrikaans name;** Krapvreter - **Arabic names;** الحنكور, حنكور, زقراق السرطان الحنكور - **Bengali names;** কাঁকড়া চজচয়্যা, কাঁকড়া জিরিয়া, কাঁকড়াচজচয়্যা (transliteration) kām̐kaṛā jiriṃyā, kām̐kaṛājiriṃyā - **French names;** Drome ardéole, Drôme ardéole, Pluvier crabbier - **Gujarati names;** શાંખલો, શાંખલો (transliteration) Shankhlo - **Hindi name;** कर्कट टिटिहरी (transliteration) Karkat Titihari - **Malagasy names;** Firatsa, Tsakaranta, Tsarakaranta - **Malayalam name;** തെണ്ടുണ്ണി - **Maldivian names;** Theyravaa/Moalha Lunbo - **Marathi name;** चिंबोरी खाऊ - **Persian names;** سلیم خرچنگ خوار, سلیم - **Swahili name;** خړچنگ خوار - **Swahili name;** Ndoero - **Tamil name;** Nandu Thinni - **Thai name;** นกหัวโตกินปู (transliteration) - nók hŭa-too-kin-puu.

Crab Plover - cont'd

Taxonomy; monotypic

This is a species whose affinities are uncertain. It is traditionally believed to be closely related to both the stone-curlews, with which it has a striking structural similarity, and the pratincoles and coursers, but might be more closely related to gulls and auks.

The Crab Plover is the only member of the family, Dromadidae. Morphological analyses placed the Crab Plover in the suborder Charadrii, however recent molecular phylogenetic studies, have indicated it would be better placed in the sub order Lari where it is likely to be accompanied by the Glareolidae (pratincoles and coursers). The new thinking on the suborder is as follows;

Family Turnicidae – Buttonquails (18 species)

Family Dromadidae – Crab-Plover

Family Glareolidae – Coursers & pratincoles (17 species)

Family Laridae – Gulls, terns, skimmers (103 species)

Family Stercorariidae – Skuas (7 species)

Family Alcidae – Auks (25 species)

Currently wader Quest continues to include the Crab Plover in the sub order Charadrii (of Charadriiformes), thus a wader. If we adopt this taxonomy, along with Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers) the Crab Plover would be lost to us, as would the Turnicidae (Buttonquails).



Crab Plover - Aditya Roy



Crab Plover with prey - Aditya Roy

Taxonomic history and synonyms;

Family: Dromadidae (Gray G, R, 1840)

Subfamily: None

The genus *Dromas* was first coined by Baron Friherre Gustav von Paykull (1757–1826) a Swedish naturalist and collector when he named the species *Dromas ardeola*. It was not given a family of its own until 1840 when G. R. Gray erected Dromadidae, recognising that it didn't fit in with the plovers.

Synonyms: protonym *Dromas Ardeola*

Least Concern: Crab Plovers have a large range, appear to be stable and a large population, all of which mean they are categorised as of least concern.

Uniquely among waders they nest between April and August in burrows which they dig in the sand with their bills. They form in dense colonies mainly on islands nesting close together.

A single white egg is laid in a simple, unlined chamber at the end of a burrow (again unique among waders, most broods are of two or more eggs with camouflaged shells due to their ground nesting nature). Burrows vary from 1 - 1.5 metres in length.

Crab Plover - cont'd

The young are not precocial as most other wader species are as they are unable to forage for themselves in the burrow. They are therefore also nidicolous meaning they remain in the nest until they can fend for themselves. Obviously this means the parents need to feed the young. They do not regurgitate food, they have no crop, (Magellanic Plover *Pluvianellus socialis* is the only wader to possess a crop and feed their young in this way). The young are fed initially with small morsels at the end of the burrow, gradually moving to the mouth as they grow. The morsels will grow in size until small dead crabs are presented. Later live crabs will be left for the young to practise hunting. Even when large and able to fend for themselves completely immature birds can still be seen begging for food from their parents.

Away from the breeding area birds will feed singly or in small groups, although they will gather in large aggregations at roosting sites, usually at high tide. They are most active away from the heat of the middle of the day.

They breed on dunes and sandy islands but will winter on intertidal zones such as sandflats and mudflats, estuaries as well as lagoons and coral reefs, where they catch mainly crabs, as their name suggests, but will also take other crustaceans molluscs and worms.

Although of least concern there are threats to their status. There are few breeding colonies and this makes them vulnerable to ecological disasters such as oil spills, coastal development, wars and introduced predators at nesting sites. Traditionally eggs and young were collected but although this practise may still persist in some areas it is much reduced. The planting and spread of mangroves on previously open areas may also reduce both nesting and feeding opportunities.

They breed along the coasts of the Arabian Peninsula and around the Persian Gulf. Many winter south along the African coast as far as South Africa and Madagascar, and also in north-western India, southern India and Sri Lanka, and also in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and peninsula Thailand.



Flock of Crab Plovers - Aditya Roy

The Crab Plover is available as a Wader Quest pin badge, number 22 and is available through our online shop [here](#).



Flock of Crab Plovers - Elis Simpson



Colour ring sighting report from Bulgaria - Liudmila Karukina



Both photographs Curlew Sandpiper with flag ID AMM - Liudmila Karukina

I met my first ringed wader a couple days ago! I saw it on May 12th and 13th, while participating in the Global Big Day for the eBird WaderQuestTeam.

The species concerned was a Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* and I discovered it was ringed in Norway in 2019 as a young bird having hatched in that year. It was sighted again at the ringing site on 04/09/2019 and then, incredibly, the next day it was seen in the UK! There had been no more sightings after this until I found him here at the Mramor reservoir, feeding together with others of its kind.

The Mramor reservoir has a place at the beginning of waterway, where waders usually like to feed. You can get quite close with a hide or a net, especially with the arctic species like these. But while it's the best wader place around Sofia, and there are lots of other species, it's not even close to being as rich as the Burgas salt lakes. But still people are trying to make it a protected area. It is good to have the opportunity to raise awareness about Mramor as it could use some publicity to help the conservation efforts.

It is a wonderful place, though waders are mostly migrating through. I use it for my monthly Eurasian shorebird survey, even though it's probably of a limited use because we don't get a lot of them. But you can see it all in the hotspot stats in eBird.

Here is the report from the ringers: Thank you very much for taking the time to report to us details of the sighting of a flagged Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*). This project is a collaboration between some ringing groups in Norway. Information about the bird and its movement is given below:

Ring no : Stavanger 8N68132

Yellow flag AMM (Left tarsus : metal ring. Left tibia: red colour ring. Right tibia: yellow flag engraved with three black letters AMM). :LAR:LBM:RAYN(AMM)F

Age/sex/biometric: 1K (young, hatched 2019). Wing: 134 mm. Weight: 48,3 g. Bill: 40 mm.

Ringing date: 23.08.2019, 10 hrs.

Ringing place: Makkevika (62*30'29"N-006*01'37E), Giske, Giske, Møre & Romsdal, Norway. (Giske Ornithological Station)

Remarks: Caught in mist net at our wader ringing station.

Ringer: Sveinung Remøy / Sunnmøre Ringing Group

REMARKS: OBSERVED (TELESCOPED) 04.09.2019, 10 hrs, Makkevika, Giske, 0 km, 12 days after ringing. (Kjell Mork Soot).

Finding date: 05.09.2019, 11 hrs.

Observed: Titchwell RSPB reserve (52*57'46"N-000*36'14"E) Norfolk, England.

Distance : 1008 km SSW. Direction: 199 deg. Time:0-0-1 (1 day (26 hours) after the observation at ringing place)

Remarks : Trevor Girling: "The bird was not seen on the reserve between dawn and 9am, and was gone by the following morning".

Observers / reporters /collaborators: Trevor Girling, Miles Tindal (Canada), Mark Golley.

Finding date: 12.05 + 13.05.2023, - hrs.

Observed: Mramor reservoir (42*41'N-023*19'E) Sofia, Bulgaria

Distance : 2475 km SE. Direction: 145 deg. Time: 3-8-20 (3 years-8 months-20 days after ringing).

Remarks : Photodocumented

Reported and photographed by: Liudmila Karukina, Bulgaria.

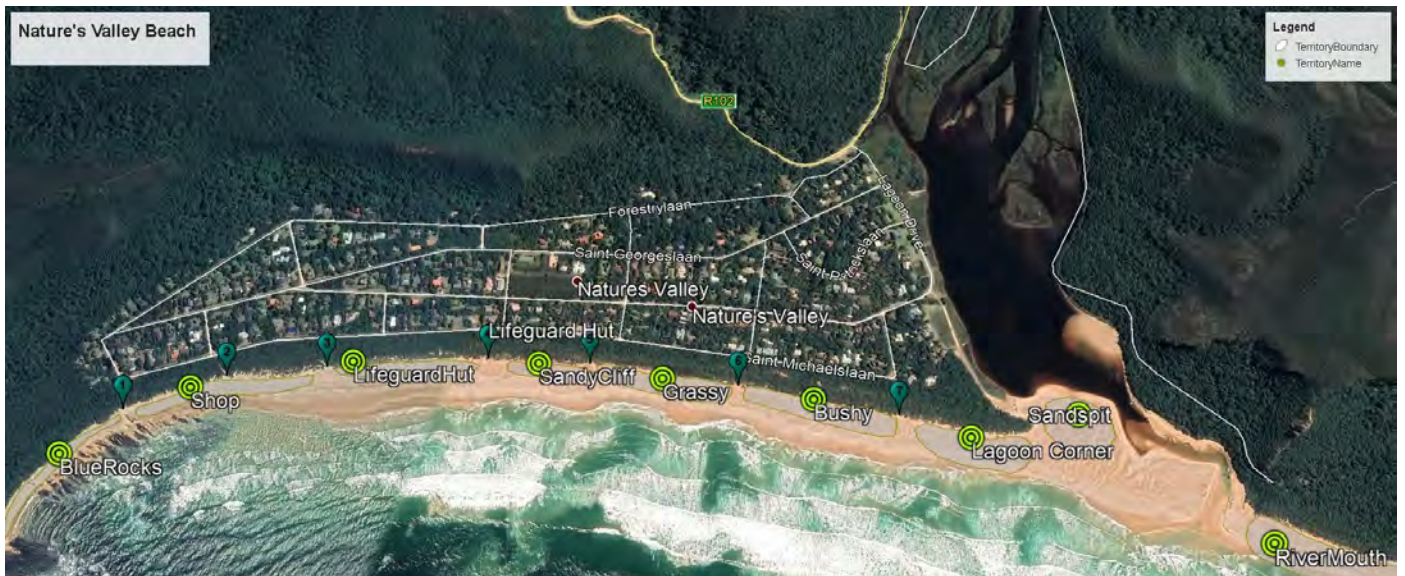
The Sands Of Change: Final Episode

- Brittany Arendse; 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; [Nature's Valley Trust](#).



We last spoke of Taryn and Sideburns, her mate, six breeding seasons ago during 2014/2015. This was mainly because after her last breeding attempt and little chick, Clover, she and Sideburns, disappeared off Lookout beach...

For Taryn, there has always been a battle for space and a territory that she could call home. She often resorted to living on the edge of other's territories and this was not often taken in stride. What made matters worse was that the fringes she then opted to nest on was on one side bordered by the dreaded gull colony and on the other side was often disturbed by beach walkers and dogs. There were days where she was disturbed so often by walkers, two and four-legged alike and with the sun blazing from above and the gulls quite openly salivating for her eggs she decided to move on and find friendlier conditions to raise her young. As the saying goes: the sand is always softer on the other side.

Of course, our researchers did not know that Taryn had finally given up on trying to make her home on Lookout Beach, like so many of her family before her. Our researchers were worried about her disappearance, wondering where she could have gone. Have the fates taken her and put



Taryn - NVT

The Sands of Change: Final Episode - cont'd

her out of her misery at last? But like the gentle stirring of grass by a light summer breeze flowing over the dunes, hope always lives on.

Seasons passed and the hope for a happy ending started, bit by bit, to diminish. The NVT researcher began to assume the worst as every passing season seemed to drag by... One afternoon, all hope was renewed while visiting Mr and Mrs Bacon's eggs and making sure they were still rosy-cheeked and safely nestled into the sand! Our intrepid researchers glimpsed a bird running among the sandy hummocks of the beach. Oh, what a joyous surprise when they realised this new pair in a new territory; was in fact little Taryn with what seemed like a completely new mate.

Her new home although still not ideal, on the other side of the gull territory, provided a more elevated, sheltered home. And there, on closer inspection, precariously nestled on the side of a dune, were two little speckled eggs tucked in the sand amongst the dune pumpkin leaves. The eggs were already two weeks old when we found them, so well were they hidden and so unexpected Taryn's return. Two weeks sluggishly crept by and finally, Taryn welcomed two bundles of joy into her life.

Oh, what a wonderful sight, our new family of four flourishing on Lookout's Sandspit. As the chicks had now escaped their most vulnerable stage and were extremely mobile (ask the researcher that had to chase them down) our researchers felt content that most dangers had passed and left the chicks unscathed but of course, death by predation or trampling still scratched at the back of their minds. Weeks passed with no hitches at all but near day 30 one of the chicks went missing... Our researchers were hopeful that the little one was evading their scrutinizing eyes and only went off with Dad in search of some food. It soon became clear that one of the chicks had expired; now near fledge the remaining chick was much more visible spending very little time hiding away from danger.

Fledge day morning was filled with anticipation and expectation and the air almost felt charged with electricity as the researchers set foot in the sand. Taryn too seemed a bit more energised running to and fro at the waterline. At first, our heroic researchers were dismayed at the sight of her, alone for breakfast. After observing her for a while a soft whistle was heard from the vegetation... and the remaining little fledge ran out, closely followed by his dedicated father. F203 in his typical pale colouration brought a tear to the researcher's eyes; such a long journey brought them all to where they were and after six long, hard years Taryn finally re-established her home on Lookout and produced her first #ShareTheShores fledgling in so long.



Taryn's eggs - NVT



One of the chicks - NVT



F203 Taryn's mate - NVT



The fledged chick - NVT

Wader news from around the world - in brief

EUROPE

UK: Northey Island in Essex has recorded an increased number of some wader species since the removal of overhead powerlines. The lines are to be re-routed underground. This removal of an obstacle in the airspace has meant that larger numbers of some species have been recorded than ever before. Dunlins *Calidris alpina* for example are up to an all-time high, since records began, of 3,875 - up from the previous record of 3,510 set in 2015.

In addition numbers of other wader species, such as Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* and Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* have also recorded higher counts.



Dunlin - Julian Bhalerao

Netherlands / Poland: In a study carried out using hand reared Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* chicks in the Netherlands two siblings from each clutch of eggs were released in the Netherlands and two from each clutch were translocated to Poland for release. The birds were fitted with tagging devices and their migration routes studied. The birds released in the Netherlands migrated following the normal route of adult Dutch godwits, while the birds released in Poland followed their new congeners' route.

This demonstrates that migration is not inherited from the parents but that external factors influence the migration of young birds.



Juvenile Black-tailed Godwit - Elis Simpson

NORTH AMERICA.

USA: Fort De Soto Park at the mouth of Tampa Bay in western Florida has had American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* breed for the first time in nearly 20 years. The pair fledged three chicks.

The female carried a leg band AE that was put on her as a chick in Georgia and, after a visit to the park in 2017, she decided to stay and nest in 2023. Her partner, nicknamed Archie by the local observers, was unringed.

Against all odds, having set up home on one of the busiest tourist beaches in the park, they defended their nest from predators and also survived a king tide, which flooded most of the island. Audubon and park staff with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) biologists, as well as beachgoers, were treated to a lesson in nest management and protection by the pair. When the eggs hatching the parents moved the chicks to a nearby lagoon where they fledged. The chicks were given leg rings of their own; YA4, YA5, and YA6.



American Oystercatcher - Elis Simpson

Wader news from around the world - in brief

NORTH AMERICA cont'd

USA: If you are in the USA or Caribbean and lucky enough to have Piping Plovers *Charadrius melodus* either breeding or wintering near you, then look out for birds that have been colour ringed (colour-banded). It is always good to report where they have been seen to help the scientists and conservationists develop strategies for their protection.

But, there is one group of these colour-ringed birds that, in normal circumstances would not be alive to be seen. These birds carry a split colour ring on their left leg, like the one pictured whose code reads Of,L/OY:X,b (orange flag left tibia - above the ankle joint - black/orange ring, yellow ring left tarsus - below the ankle joint: metal ring right tibia, blue ring right tarsus). The story behind these birds is that they were hatched from eggs that were in abandoned or washed out nests. These eggs were taken to the University of Michigan Biological Station (UoMBS) where the Detroit Zoo manages a captive rearing facility for Great Lakes Piping Plovers. There they were hatched and head started, being released back into wild when fledged.

If you see one, do be sure to report your sighting and remember, were it not for the work of the good people at the UoMBS, you would not be enjoying that particular plover encounter. If you see a breeding or non-breeding plover with colour leg rings please report it. [For more information and to report a sighting](#)



Colour ringed Piping Plover Of,L/OY:X,b - Alice Van Zoeren

SOUTH AMERICA.

Colombia: The Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis* is a wader that is adapted to life in grassy environments, both on the breeding grounds and also on the non-breeding grounds and along their migration routes. One of the threats to them in Colombia is the increased transformation of the Llanos, a vast tropical grassland plain situated to the east of the Andes in Colombia and Venezuela, in northwestern South America, into rice farming replacing the traditional cattle ranching, which helps maintain the grassland habitat. The misuse of burning also contributes to habitat loss as it encourages other vegetation to proliferate in which it is not suitable for the sandpipers to forage. At the Sabanas de Paz de Ariporo and Trinidad WHSRN Site, since 2015, the Asociación Calidris has been recording between 500 - 700 individuals. The organisation works with the ranching families that inhabit the WHSRN site to help them continue to working in the traditional way, and by encouraging them to work in a way that favours nature, to provide a safe haven for the Buff-breasted Sandpipers as well as benefitting production.

Wildlife tourism opportunities are also developed that can supplement ranching families' income.

This initiative will protect the area from agricultural expansion both with rice production and ranching intensification that degrades natural resources.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper - Julian Bhalerao

Wader news from around the world - contd

AUSTRALASIA

Australia: In the ongoing battle to save the Critically Endangered Black Stilt *Himantopus novaezelandiae*, or Kakī as it is called in Māori, on the 10th of August there was another substantial release of young birds in the Mackenzie Basin, at the Godley and Tasman Rivers. This is an important wintering site for the species.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) Kakī Recovery Programme said the species' wild adult population is up to about 156 adult birds (up from 23 individuals in the 1980s). That number is slowly rising but does fluctuate.

The birds will receive supplemental feeding for a few weeks as they learn to forage for themselves, they then go off and take their chances in the world.

The rearing of these birds is undertaken at DOC's Twizel facility and The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust in Christchurch.

For more information about kakī and the recovery programme visit doc.govt.nz/kaki.



Recently released Black Stilt juvenile - Elis Simpson



Plains Wanderer - Nick Borrow

Australia: A recent study of fossils of the Plains Wanderer from caves in South Australia was designed to see if they constituted the same taxon or if two taxa were involved. The conclusion was that, although the species was formerly larger no distinguishing traits could be found to suggest that there was more than one taxon involved.

Perhaps the most interesting thing that emerged from this study was that the fossils were found from around 400,000 years ago and pertain to a woodland dominated environment suggesting that [perhaps the grassland restricted habitat of today's bird was wider in the past.

ASIA.

Uzbekistan: There is still time to donate to help save one of the world's most beautiful and endangered lapwings, the Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*. Money is being raised to help fund the protection of a key stop-over site in Uzbekistan which holds 33% of the world's population. The Bird Conservation Fund is working in collaboration with the Ornithological Society of the Middle East (OSME) and is seeking to raise \$5,000 to support the Uzbekistan Society for the Protection of Birds (UzSPB) in their efforts to protect the site at Talimarzhan reservoir on the birds' autumn migration. Protection of this site is crucial to the conservation of the Sociable Lapwing along this southern flyway.

To donate go to the [BCF funding page](#).

[Paul Donald's photo was used to create Wader Quest pin badge number 26 - available in [our shop](#).]



Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius* - Paul F. Donald

Wader news from around the world - cont'd

ASIA cont'd

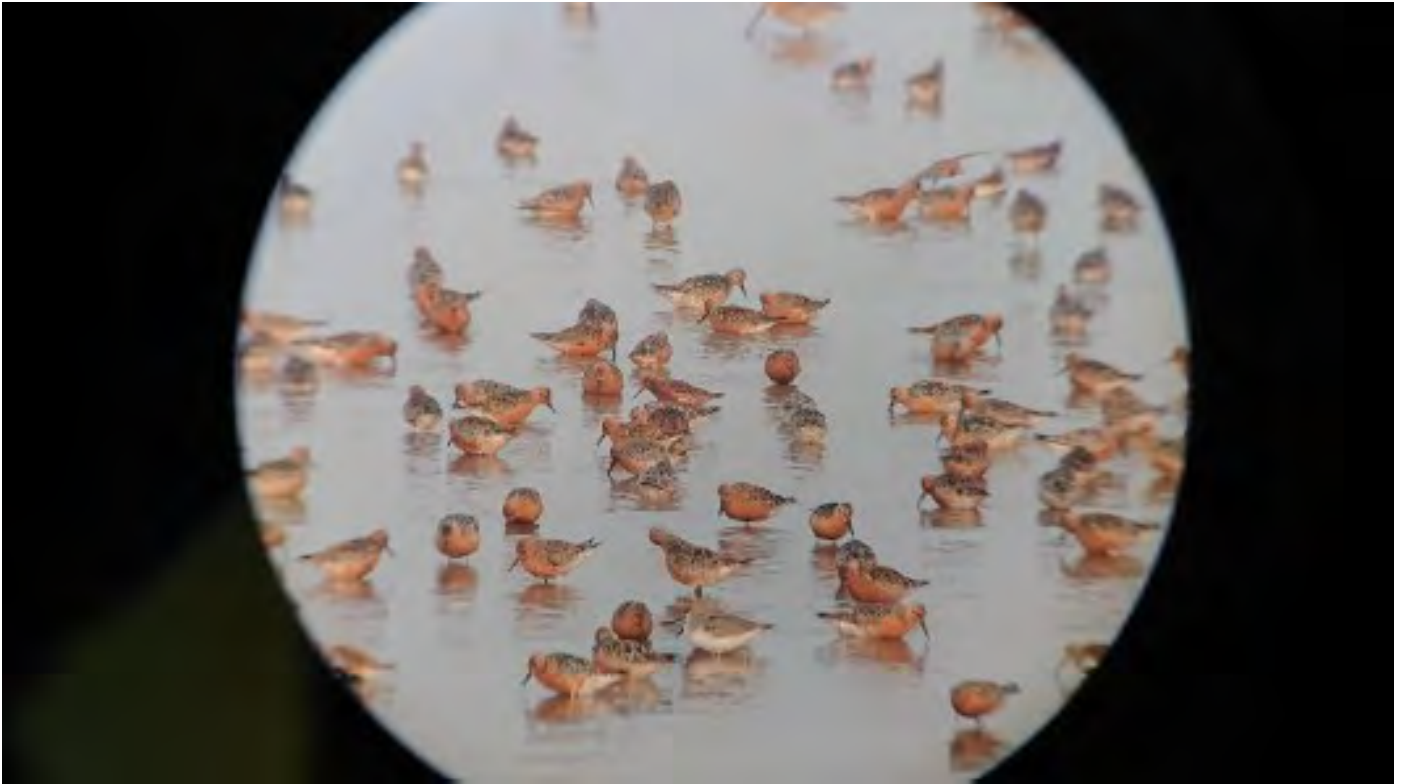
China:

For those of you who are interested in the state of play in China with regard to waders, and follow the Bohai Bay reports from China published by Global Flyway Network, in case you missed any of this year's reports from Katherine Leung, here are the links.

[Bohai-2023-Update-1.pdf \(globalflywaynetwork.com.au\)](#)

[Bohai-2023-Update-2.pdf \(globalflywaynetwork.com.au\)](#)

[Bohai-2023-Update-3.pdf \(globalflywaynetwork.com.au\)](#)



Red Knots *Calidris canutus* in Bohai Bay - Katherine Leung

Steel wader silhouettes ready to rust to decorate your garden

These designs make superb ornaments for your lawn, flowerpots or as fence toppers.

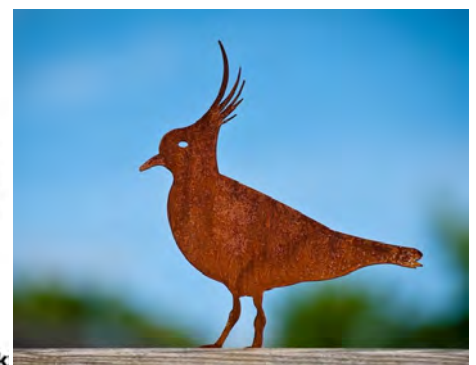
All available for Red Dragon Metal Art.

A percentage of all wader ornaments sold will be generously donated to Wader Quest.

See page 27 for more details and link to the Red Dragon Metal Art shop.



WWW.RedDragonMetalArt.co.uk



Lapwing fence topper

Darwin-Garramilla Shorebird Festival 2023



Darwin - Garramilla Shorebird Festival 15th - 17th

September 2023

- At various locations around Darwin -Garramilla

The Darwin-Garramilla Shorebird Festival will celebrate shorebirds and their stories



The aim of the festival is to engage and ignite the community of Darwin-Garramilla to learn and protect shorebirds through the arts and sciences – we will share stories about the migrant birds that travel thousands of kilometres every year to visit Darwin beaches; the Bush Stone-Curlew *Burhinus grallarius* that cries at night, and many people already have strong connections to this bird; the Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles* known for chasing people to protect their nests and young, and many other shorebirds that are found in freshwater wetlands and grassy plains.

The festival will include a curated art exhibition by local artists, art and craft sessions for the community, poetry, birdwatching and surveys, presentations, and social chats, and will conclude with a music immersion session.

The timing of the festival is based on migratory shorebirds arriving back in Australia, on Darwin beaches, and then around the tide cycle (spring and neap), which is based on the moon phases. 15-17 September 2023 (new moon phase tides)

Day and date	Tide time	Tide height
Friday 15th	1845	6.63 m
Saturday 16th	0709	7.08 m
Saturday 16th	1319	1.61 m
Saturday 16th	1915	6.84 m
Sunday 17th	0729	7.14 m

Bird of the Festival

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* is currently listed as *Critically Endangered* under the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and is the most abundant shorebird in Darwin-Garramilla.

Wader Quest is proud to have contributed to the funding of this festival - Ray Heaton, the Chair of the Wader Quest Grants Panel commented;

'We are pleased to have responded to a request for funding from Australia for the Birdlife Top End Darwin-Garramilla Shore Bird Festival in Australia.

The coastal position of Darwin with its geographical proximity to Indonesia and South Asia makes it an important migration route and stop over site for many bird species, on their autumn and spring migrations. Large numbers of birds including wader species use the area and benefit from suitable habits, which also facilitate for resident breeding wader species. Raising the profile of requirements for wader species' survival is important work and can impact positively among residents and decision makers helping future survival.

This event should be a lot of fun for the participants and we wish them well! We hope to provide some stories and accounts from the festival in future.'



Great Knot - Elis Simpson



The Willet a Breeding Shorebird of Summer on Anguilla - Jackie Cestero

The Summer nesting season on Anguilla would not be complete without the presence of our visiting Willets *Tringa semipalmata*. This species arrives each Spring from its non-breeding territory in the southern USA or South America specifically to breed on our wetlands. Favouring coastal habitats (especially those with telephone poles for perching), their arrival is marked by a ruckus call that sounds like “pill-will-willet.”



Willetts Enjoying the View From Above - Jacqueline A. Cestero Photography

Birds of the World describes the two populations that comprise this species as follows:

*“This species is composed of 2 disjunct breeding populations differing in ecology, in morphology, and subtly in vocalizations. Populations breeding in inland, primarily freshwater habitats of western states and provinces belong to the subspecies *Tringa semipalmata inornata* or Western Willet. Populations breeding in the marshes of the Atlantic coast, from New Brunswick to Tamaulipas, belong to the subspecies *T. s. semipalmata* or Eastern Willet. The two breeding environments differ in several characteristics. Eastern Willets often have abundant food resources but limited nesting habitat, while Western Willets often have abundant nesting habitat but unpredictable food resources, depending on wetland availability and*



Eastern Willet in breeding plumage - Jacqueline A. Cestero Photography



Eastern Willet - Jacqueline A. Cestero Photography

This brown shorebird of the *Tringa* family is one inch larger than a Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* at 15 inches with a thick dark bill and grey legs.

They are unremarkable until they take flight and display a stunning black and white wing pattern.



Willet Displaying Wing Pattern - Jacqueline A. Cestero Photography

drought. Ambient sound also differs between the breeding areas of the 2 subspecies, and this has resulted in a divergence in “song” characteristics. The song (“pill-will-willet”) of the Eastern Willet is emitted at a higher frequency and more rapid repetition rate than that of the Western Willet. Calls of both subspecies sound very similar to human ears, but Eastern Willets do discriminate between male songs of the 2 subspecies, responding preferentially to Eastern song. Western Willets tend to be larger and paler than Eastern Willets, with less ornate barring in their breeding plumage. These are average differences, and the 2 subspecies overlap in these morphological characteristics.”

The Eastern Willet is considered a Breeding Visitor to Anguilla. When this species arrives in late March and early April, it displays breeding plumage. The upper parts are distinctly brown with heavy barring below.

While some Willets arrive already paired off, others must find their mate at the breeding site. This usually occurs within three weeks of arrival.

Pairs will select the nest site together. The male makes the initial scrapes in the ground. The female then joins in. They prefer

The Willet a Breeding Shorebird of Summer on Anguilla - cont'd

sandy substrate surrounded by grasses. These grasses, leaves, and twigs comprise the nest. Four eggs are laid over several days and are described as follows:

“Ground colour varies ‘from ‘deep olive-buff’ to ‘olive-buff,’ rarely ‘yellowish glaucous’” (“greenish types”) to “avellaneous’ to ‘tilluel bluff [sic],’ rarely pale ‘Isabella colour’” (“buffy or brownish types”) with numerous shades in between. Bold and irregular spots (various sizes) and blotches of dark browns (burnt umber, bister, sepia, clove brown, sometimes lighter olive-browns), sometimes evenly covered with small spots (Bent 1929: 30). In s. Alberta, 4-egg clutches often consisted of eggs of 2 colours: greenish and white (CLG-T).”

As you can see from the photographs below, it would be easy to step on this nest. The bird blends in easily with its surroundings and “flattens” over the eggs. When walking on our wetlands and beaches during the nesting season, keep your eyes on the ground and be aware of possible nest sites.



Willet Nesting Long Pond Important Bird Area - Jacqueline A. Cestero Photography

Both parents incubate the eggs over approximately twenty-five days. Like many species, the female incubates during the day with the male on the night shift.

Hatching is described by Birds of the World as follows:

“Hatching

Preliminary Events And Vocalizations

*Little information. Chick makes pip hole in shell at large end of egg, then—with bill in hole to provide leverage—convulsive movements of chick slits shell in longitudinal lines (from pip hole to head at egg's equator) along shell's contact with chick's spinal process; manner of hatching similar to that of American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*; observations of 1 clutch by D. K. Wetherbee in Wetherbee and Bartlett 1962). Behavior of parent changes (more vocal and defensive, as in other species of shorebirds) when chicks start peeping shortly before hatch (CLG-T).*

Shell-Breaking And Emergence

Usually 3 eggs of clutch hatch within several hours and fourth hatches about half-day later (Howe 1982). Two days required for chicks to break through shell, and they consistently chip through larger end of egg (Tomkins 1965a). In s. Alberta, from first cracks in egg (star pip) to hatch usually 3–5 d. May hatch at any time of day; normally all eggs in clutch hatch in 1 d (12 of 16), occasionally 2 d (4 of 16). Once chick breaks through egg (hole pip), normally hatches that day (CLG-T).

Parental Assistance And Disposal Of Eggshells

Parents remove eggshells to some distance (Tomkins 1965a), but in s. Alberta, shells not removed as quickly as in most shorebird species; sometimes left in nest after chicks leave (CLG-T).”

Chicks are covered in grey down at birth and are up and pecking at food after a few hours. Their legs grow to the length of an adult by the first week.

Both parents raise the chicks, but the female may depart after two weeks. They take their first flight about four weeks from hatching. The male may remain with chicks for two weeks after their first flight.



Willet Chick West End Pond Important Bird Area
- Jacqueline A. Cestero Photography

The Willet a Breeding Shorebird of Summer on Anguilla - cont'd

Like the ones below, fledged birds maintain a bit of down along the back of the neck and at the base of the bill.



Fully Fledged Willets - Jacqueline A. Cestero Photography

Willetts are present in Anguilla from March to October. A few juvenile birds have been seen in January.

This is the only non-resident shorebird species that chooses Anguilla as a nesting site. It is a special experience to see them each year.

First published on [Nature Explorers-Wild Side News](#) 21st July 2023

Spoon-billed Sandpiper meets Artificial Intelligence - EAAFP

Like it or not, artificial intelligence or AI is here to stay, but how much use will it be to birders hoping gather information to assist them in their quest to find rare birds?

The answer seems to be 'not very useful' if the following is anything to go by.

On the final page of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force news bulletin was an intriguing entry. It carried a question that was asked of a chatbot;

"Where can we find Spoon-billed Sandpiper in China?"

The answer, shown below, goes from spot on, to reasonable, to iffy, to wrong, to completely bizarre!

"In China, the Spoon-billed Sandpiper can be seen mainly on the coasts and wetlands along the east and south coasts, but also inland on lakes and rivers. The Spoon-billed Sandpiper is a common species in China and plays an important role in the ecosystem as a pollinator and pest controller."

[Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force News Bulletin No 28 · May 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.

How you can help Wader Quest:

Help us raise awareness

Join [Wader Conservation World Watch](#) 4th/5th November 2023

Share our social media



Help us raise funds to support wader conservation

Charity number; 1193674

[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 Quest merchandising

New line in wader motif garden ornaments from Red Dragon Metal Art

Steel wader shapes designed to rust and look spectacular
As fence toppers or with a spike to place in the ground or flower pot
Supplied rust free, ready to rust,
Place them in your garden and let the weather do the rest.

5 wader designs

Curlew (large)

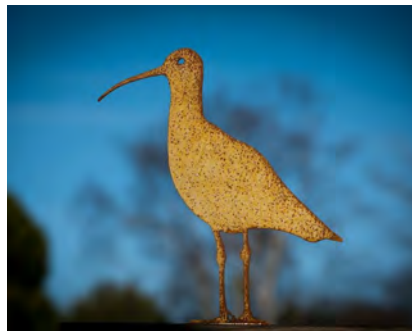
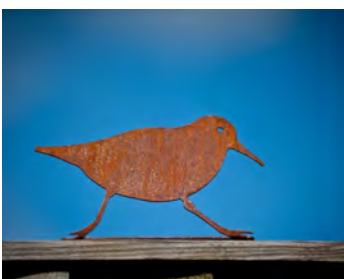
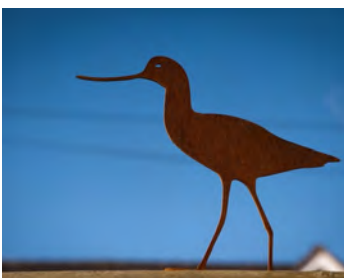
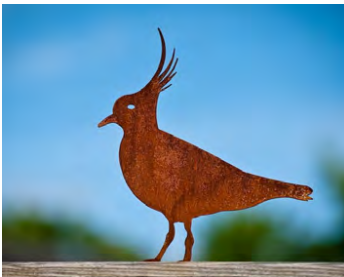
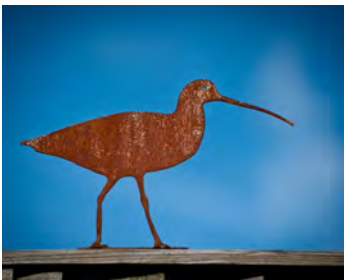
Curlew (small)

Lapwing

Avocet

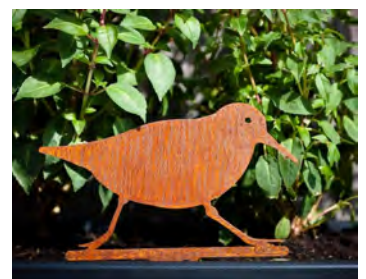
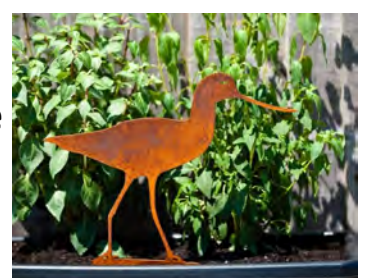
Sanderling

Fence toppers



Large Curlew only available as fence topper

Lawn/pot ornament



[All available from the Red Dragon Metal Art website shop](http://www.RedDragonMetalArt.co.uk)

For each wader design sold Red Dragon will donate a percentage of the price to Wader Quest

Watch them turn from shiny to rusty over time.

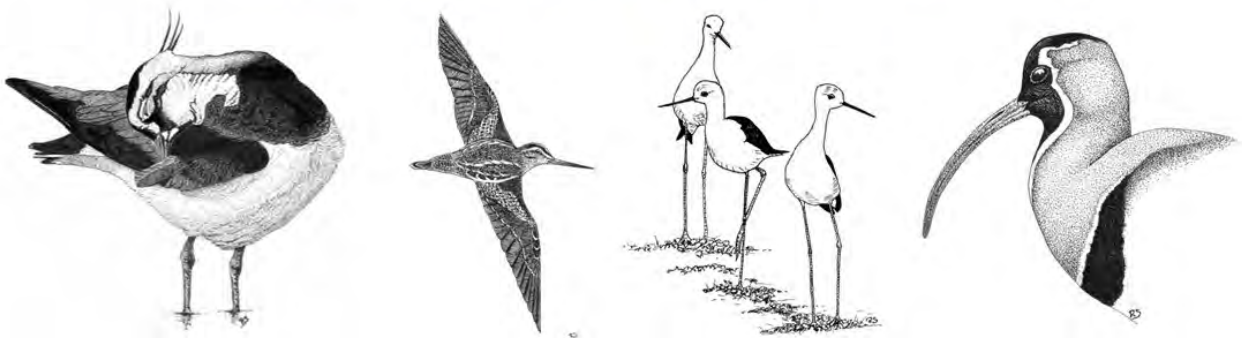


[WWW.RedDragonMetalArt.co.uk](http://www.RedDragonMetalArt.co.uk)

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



£15.00
+p&p

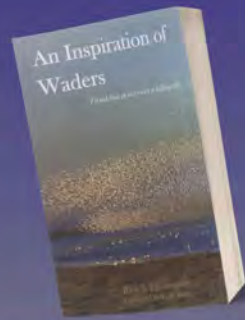
'Breathtakingly excellent - like a birding Michael Palin. The photographs and drawings are fantastic, and the text is fast-moving and endlessly entertaining and amusing.' Jim Wright.

BUY NOW!

Wader Quest merchandising

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

An Inspiration of Waders



Twinkling gems over a falling tide
The foreword is by Keith Betton



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



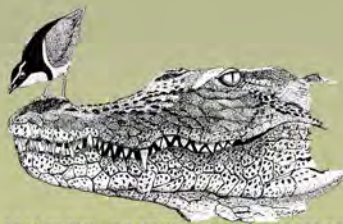
BY RICK AND ELIS SIMPSON



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

sales@waderquest.net

£8.50
+p&p



WADER QUEST PUBLISHING
All profits will go to Wader Quest

BUY NOW!

Wader Quest merchandising

Eury The Spoon-billed Sandpiper

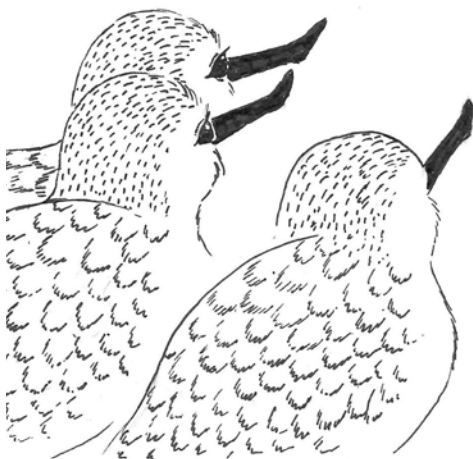
A Wader Quest Publishing book By Rick and Elis Simpson

Children 6 -11 years



BUY NOW!

sales@waderquest.net



Wader Quest merchandising

Wader Quest Collectables - Pin Badges

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



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

0-23 DESIGNS STILL



2021-23 DESIGNS

24. Terek Sandpiper
25. Banded Stilt
26. Sociable lapwing
27. Collared Pratincole
29. Blacksmith Lapwing
30. Purple Sandpiper
31. Red-capped Plover
32. Eurasian Oystercatcher
34. Common Snipe
35. American Avocet
36. Grey Phalarope

ORDERS FOR ALL WADER QUEST MERCHANDISING sales@waderquest.net



NEW FOWQ 2023 BADGE
Exclusive to 2023 subscribers.



Wader Quest Collectables - Enamelled



Earrings

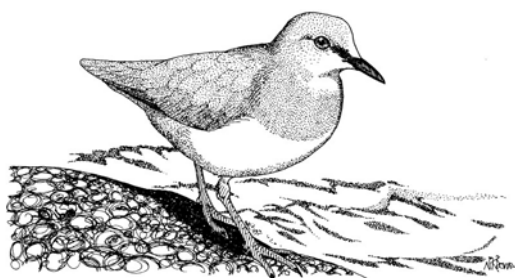
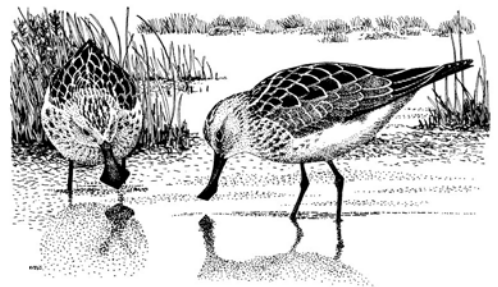
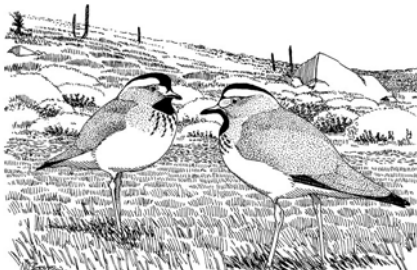
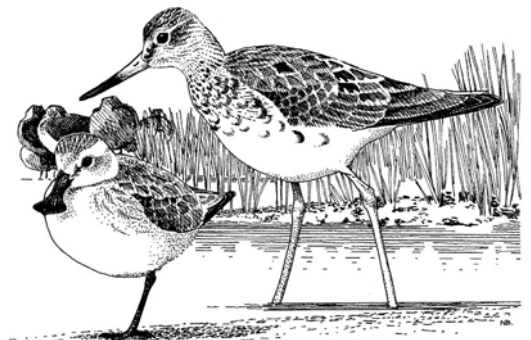
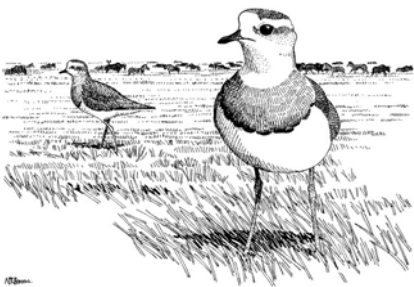
Wader Quest merchandising

**NIK BORROW DESIGNED WADER
GREETING CARDS**

100 X 150 MM

PACK OF 12 + 1 FREE £10.00

sales@waderquest.net



Wader Quest merchandising

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



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

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

£55,038.48

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