



WADER QUEST

THE NEWSLETTER Volume 11; Issue 3 2024



European Golden Plover - Elis Simpson

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A.G.M.: 24 Nov 2024

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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

Another bumper newsletter for you. It is always such a pleasure to bring so many fascinating and diverse aspects to waders together. It is sometimes more difficult to know what to leave out than what to include. If we embraced everything that is going on in the world, we would be producing something like *War and Peace* for each issue. I hope that you find the choices interesting, we do try to bring things together, linking articles by taxonomy or by conservation aspect. We also delight in bringing information to you and points of interest that you will be unlikely to find included elsewhere in the waderologists media outlets.

This will be the last issue with the Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* as the focus species and I am able to tell you that next year is another perennial favourite among wader lovers, the Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* so you can look forward to learning some fun facts about that species next year.

As always we have items about colour-ringing to try to encourage people to observe them and more importantly report them, we have a summary of the Curlew season by Mike Smart about the WWT Severn and Avon Vales Curlew Project, which, whilst it is not always an easy read in the sense of the difficulties the species faces, it is good to know that people are out there doing their best for these wonderful birds.

There is much more besides in this issue, but rather than tell you all about it here, I'll let you get on and discover all that this issue has to offer and hope that you enjoy what you find.

We always welcome new ideas and contributions, so, if you have an idea for an article, or have some item of interest about waders that you would like to share in the newsletter then feel free to get in touch with me. rick.simpson@waderquest.net

Chair's Comment

The continuing gloom in the economy seems to be affecting people's confidence and we have seen a sharp drop in the number of renewals this year. This may be partly due to myself and Elis stepping down from giving live talks around the country. Over the course of 2023/24 season we travelled 4,517 miles to speak to 900 people during 18 live and 5 Zoom talks. These talks raised £991.50 in sales, £215.85 in donations and £280 in membership income, a grand total of £1,487.35. These face-to-face interactions are difficult to replace but we are working on it and hope that we'll be able to make up the shortfall in other ways.

We continue to get applications for grants and, even though our income has been depleted a little, we have so far been able to oblige in all cases that the Grants Panel have judged to be worthy of your money and, let's face it, is not our money, it is your money, so we are very grateful to all of you who are able to continue supporting us.

That all said it has still been an exciting year, the new pin badges have been a success once again and widely appreciated by the collectors and general bird enthusiasts alike. Our collaboration with Red Dragon Metal Arts continues to benefit Wader Quest thanks to their very generous donation per wader item sold, and discounts that we are allowed to buy our own stock for events. There are some new, smaller, wader ground-spikes being introduced as we go to press.

But it has to be said, that by far the most enjoyable part of running the charity is meeting the people who support us, whether that be online, by old fashioned post or face to face. There are so many fascinating wader stories that we are told, so much generosity with donations both in cash and items to sell to raise money, so much interest in waders and a real concern for their future and well-being in an increasingly harsh world. Above all else it is this that we will miss most about leaving the talks behind us, but that will make the other events all that more enjoyable and something very much to look forward to. Hopefully we'll see you at one of the events still to come this year (see p4) or, if not, at one of the regular events next year.

As this will be the final regular Newsletter for the year, let me be the very first to wish you all a very Happy Christmas, or, if you don't celebrate Christmas, then a very enjoyable holiday season whatever you are celebrating and don't forget to spare a thought for the birds out there struggling to survive at this time of year while you are doing so.

Events attended

Birdfair 12-14th July. This was at the new venue of Lyndon Top, Rutland, UK. The Wader Quest stand was located in Robin Marquee on stand 15 and it was great to see so many Friends of Wader Quest and our pin badge collectors there.

Our feeling was that it was less well attended (maybe due to a big sporting weekend - who'd have predicted England would be in the Euro's final?), but we definitely got the Birdfair vibe back this year. Not sure why the previous venue wasn't as



Rick Simpson delivering a talk at the Global Birdfair - Phil Hadley

Wader Quest news - cont'd

enjoyable, it just wasn't. Maybe that was the weather. But we were not alone in these sentiments as many people said to us that somehow it feels like Birdfair again.

Despite the fewer numbers we still made a profit of £1,000 at the event, every penny of which will help us continue with our work.

I (Rick Simpson) gave a talk at 12.30 on the Friday in the Avocet Lecture Theatre. The talk was called 'Wader Quest Down-Under' and covered some of our exploits in Australia. The advertising (my fault) said that New Zealand was included, and that was my initial intention, but there was so much to say about the awesome Australian waders that I couldn't fit New Zealand into the 20 minutes we are allowed. Having made the decision to not include New Zealand, I then forgot to inform Global Birdfair so they could change the blurb. So, at least I know what I'll be talking about next year!!!

Northern Farmland Curlew Awards 18th August.

This was a wholly enjoyable and (possibly accidentally) informal event. It was a ceremony to make awards to those working with Curlews on the farms across the north of England, but it felt so friendly and enthusiastic affair where all technical glitches were absorbed with good humour by all. One of the highlights for us was to see the debut screening of the film by Alicia Hayden called 'The Lost Songstress' that the charity sponsored. See pages 8-9 for full report.

Spurn Migfest 6-8th September. The annual Migfest took place at Spurn and we once had a stand there. It was an enjoyable weekend with plenty of birding interest for the visitors (and us!). On Saturday we joined Richard Baines of Yorkshire Coast Nature and Linda Jenkinson of Start Birding with a group for a wader identification session. The sage-like information being imparted by these two was impressive, I learnt a thing or two myself.

A.G.M.- 24th November 2024

This will once again be a virtual A.G.M. and we look forward to as many people as possible attending. An invite and joining link will be sent to all members with an agenda for the meeting.

Further events we will be attending in 2024

- **Northwest Birdwatching Festival 19-20 October.** As usual we will be exhibiting at this very friendly and enjoyable event.
- **WCWW 2nd-3rd November** - Wherever you happen to be in the world, why not join our world wader watching event? It is a bit of fun but a really useful awareness raising tool for us, so, the more the merrier. [See details here.](#)

Executive Committee updates and news - No updates - next meeting; Trustees 29 Oct 2024.



The Birdfair crew, L-R; Phil Hadley, Elis and Rick Simpson, Elizabeth Anderson, Ray Heaton (Karen Hadley missing from the line-up)



Although not a wader, this Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* was one of the delights on offer at Spurn during the Mig fest - Elis Simpson

Wader Conservation World Watch 11

**November
2nd &/or 3rd
2024**

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

[Details of how to take part](#)

Wader Quest news - cont'd



Great news for
Wader Quest

Your cause has raised
535
donations

Your supporters have shopped **535** times via easyfundraising, raising **£658.00** for Wader Quest so far.

Keep up this momentum! **Share the good news** and invite others to sign up and boost your donation count.

Plus, sign up as many supporters as you can before 30th September to get entries to **win one of ten £100 donation prizes** in our Big September Sign up*.

Sign up here!
Click on the
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535.0
shops have supported
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Sign up

Booking.com | eBay
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Sign up today and make a difference!

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Wader Quest news - What's new in the shop?

New Pin badges launched in 2024 - available from the [Wader Quest shop](#).

Wader Quest Collectables



Images
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39: Common Redshank



Wader Quest Collectables



Images
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40: Asian Dowitcher



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41: Red Knot



Wader Quest Collectables



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42: Red-wattled Lapwing



Wader Quest Collectables



43: FOWQ 2024



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Grants Panel updates and news - Ray Heaton; Grants Panel Chair

Currently we are considering several applications and hoping to help towards these projects.

A study in Brazil (mentioned in our last Newsletter) concerns four species of Austral migrating waders: Tawny-throated Dotterel *Oreopholus ruficollis*, Rufus-chested Dotterel *Zonibyx modesta*, and Two-banded Plover *Anarhynchus falklandicus*. This project will study the migrations and help effect habitat protection. Nearctic species will also be involved in the work e.g. the endangered Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis* and the American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*.

A study, in Nepal, intends to establish the density of Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* along some of their riverine habitat.

A survey in Rwanda will monitor water birds including wader species such as Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*, Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*, Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, Ruff *Calidris pugnax*, Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* and plover species as found occurring.

A project in Sarawak will look at habitat use by wader species, including the 'vulnerable' Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*, across protected areas in Sarawak which also relate to the East Asia-Australasian Flyway.

We are also keen to support ongoing work with wader species. Longitudinal studies can provide particularly important information, which may identify the appropriate conservation interventions necessary to safeguard species and populations. To this end we are looking at continuing funding for a study on Margarita Island Venezuela, on Wilson Plover *Anarhynchus wilsonia*. Following previous population studies, funded by Wader Quest, this project will be extended to look at the impact of human disturbance on hatching success and local movements of plovers during non-breeding periods.

We are keen to support, by small grants, studies of waders, including currently common species, involving habitat protection and breeding success, chick survival, and winter survival as well as public engagement. We also welcome application from little studied species as well as rare and endangered ones, which sadly many wader species are.

North of England Curlew Conservation Award Ceremony and Concert - Rick Simpson

On the 18th of August Rick and Elis Simpson attended the **North of England Curlew Conservation Awards** held at Masham Town Hall. These awards celebrate the work of farmers, volunteers and upland managers across the North of England, to conserve Eurasian Curlews.

The event was organised and introduced by **Matt Trevelyan** the Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer for [Nidderdale National Landscape](#).



North of England Curlew Conservation Awards, Masham, North Yorkshire 2024 - Elis Simpson.



The Pennine Hills Curlew Choir in action - Dr Rose Ferraby.

This was not one of those dull and dry award ceremonies, far from it. Between the award announcements there were songs and poetry readings to entertain the 100 plus attendees. These songs and poems were written during three **Call of the Curlew** Singing and Songwriting workshop sessions led by nature writer, [Karen Lloyd](#), and musician, [Mary Keith](#) at differing locations throughout North Yorkshire during August. The results of these workshops were rehearsed and then performed on the day by the newly formed **Pennine Hills Curlew Choir**. In short, they were magnificent.

The first guest speaker was **Amanda Perkins** of [Curlew Country](#), who spoke on Lowland Curlew Conservation and the challenges that brings to her and her team. Amanda was followed by last year's winner of the Farmland Curlew Award **Rebecca Dickens** of [Hallbankgate Farm](#) in Cumbria, who outlined all the work that she and her partner **Ian Bell** were

undertaking to make the farm they run inviting and secure for wildlife in general and in particular of course Curlews and other waders.

Awards were then made by **Tom Orde-Powlett** for this year's **Farmland Curlew Award** that went to the [Grosvenor Abbeystead Estate](#) and the **Group Award** that went to [Darley Beck Curlew Project](#).

After another song by the choir, there was a sumptuous and delicious hot buffet supplied, which was of excellent quality and taste.

Once reconvened there was a Curlew Photography slide show to celebrate the life of conservation volunteer and wildlife photographer [Barry Carter](#). Music and sounds were recorded by composer and songwriter [Sarah Dew](#) with a piece called simply 'Curlew', which featured the singer [Anna Shannon](#).

This was followed by a presentation by Tom Orde-Powlett about Upland Curlew Conservation, outlining the work done in the uplands and the reasons and benefits of various methods of management. This includes the preservation of Hen Harriers in the uplands.



Tom Orde-Powlett (left) and Matt Trevelyan announcing and presenting an award. Photo Dr Rose Ferraby.

North of England Curlew Conservation Award Ceremony and Concert - cont'd



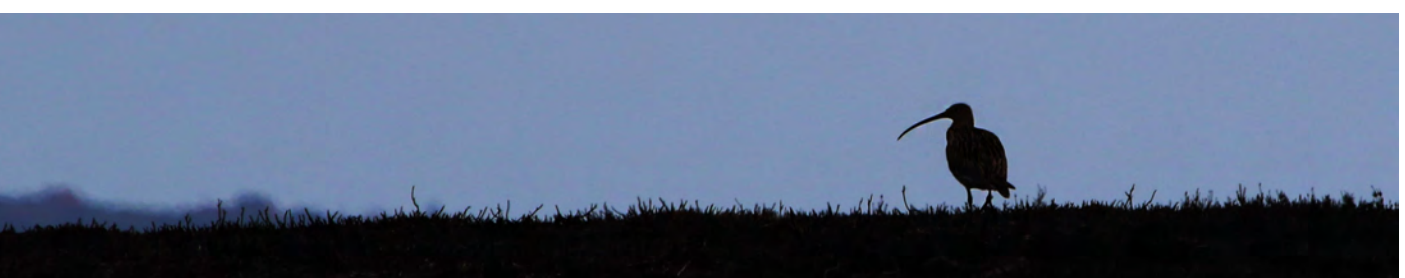
Rick and Elis with Alicia Hayden holding a Red Dragon Metal Art, Curlew ornament - Catherine Hayden

Amanda Perkins then presented the **Upland Curlew Award** which went to [Bolton Castle Estate](#) and the last awards were **Volunteer Award**, which went to **Mr Barny Sykes** of [Curlew Recovery South Lakes](#), Cumbria and the **Young Person Award**, which went to **Katie Laidlow**, presented by Matt Trevelyan and [Alicia Hayden](#) respectively.

There then followed two film screenings. The first was *'Curlew, Curlew, Curlew'* an amusing film animated and narrated by the children of Nidderdale. The second was the film made by Alicia Hayden *'The Lost Songstress'* which was supported by the Wader Quest 2022 Anniversary Grant and introduced by **Rick Simpson**, co-founder of [Wader Quest](#) ornament. Photo Catherine Hayden.

Amanda Perkins then presented the Upland Curlew Award which went to Bolton Castle Estate and the last awards were Volunteer Award, which went to Mr Barny Sykes of Curlew Recovery South Lakes, Cumbria and the Young Person Award, which went to Katie Laidlow, presented by Matt Trevelyan and Alicia Hayden respectively.

Finally, two film screenings. The first was *'Curlew, Curlew, Curlew'* an amusing film animated and narrated by the children of Nidderdale. The second was the film made by Alicia Hayden *'The Lost Songstress'* which was supported by the Wader Quest 2022 Anniversary Grant and introduced by Rick Simpson, co-founder of Wader



Eurasian Curlew on the North York Moors - Elis Simpson

The 5th Coastal Bird Festival of the São Paulo Coast - Karina Ávila and Bruno Lima

Since 2020, Wader Quest has been supporting the “Coastal Bird Festival of the Litoral Paulista”, an event that highlights the importance of protecting coastal environments and the birds that occur in them. This is the most important environmental event in the city of Peruíbe, on the central coast of São Paulo, and is included in the Municipal Calendar. Several institutions, schools, renowned professionals participate in it and artisans can sell their products – most of them related to coastal birds.

From the 12th to the 15th of September, Peruíbe was the stage for the “5th Coastal Bird Festival of the Litoral Paulista”. This year’s theme was dunes and coastal



environments, which are extremely important for the reproduction of American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* and Collared Plover *Anarhynchus collaris*, as well as being resting places for Nearctic migratory shorebirds



The Festival also highlighted the Environment for the Americas campaign: “Protect the insects, protect the birds”, highlighting the importance of not removing vegetation from the beaches or using tractors to clean the sand.

The big difference this year was the opening: the event began with all the pomp, at the City Hall, in a ceremony where the quiet city of Peruíbe received the title of First City of Birds in Brazil.

Representatives of the Shorebirds Project/Wader Quest Brasil, local institutions, public authorities, schools and civil society were present.

The title, given by representatives of Environment for the Americas, is granted to those municipalities that have several requirements such as: having municipal bird protection laws, celebrating World Migratory Bird Day, having a domestic animal removal and control program in natural environments, having a community involved in the protection of birds and habitats, having several protected natural areas, carrying out joint efforts to clean rivers and beaches and planting native species, among others.

Peruíbe is the place where the Aves Limícolas/Wader Quest Brasil Project has been operating since 2019, involving communities, public bodies, municipal councils and institutions in the protection of shorebirds and their habitats.

It was therefore the effort of this teamwork that culminated in receiving this important title, which must be renewed every year.

And here we will be, working hard to make cities more shorebird-friendly! [All photos - João Farah]



Versão Brasileira

American Oystercatcher on the coast of the State of São Paulo - Karina Ávila and Bruno Lima



Versão Brasileira



Wader Quest has been supporting an unprecedented project in the State of São Paulo: monitoring the population of American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* in the municipalities of Itanhaém, Peruíbe and Ilha Comprida. The species is threatened with extinction in the State, due to uncontrolled tourism and loss of breeding and feeding sites. The project will ring and monitor the individuals that still occur in the region, later counting on the support of the community to further monitor the individuals by identifying the coloured bands.

A team of qualified professionals, biologists and veterinarians is committed to dedicating time and energy to monitoring this species and doing everything possible to halt the decline of its population: senior ringer Paulo César, members of Biosensu Consultoria, from the Ambiecco Institute and the Shorebirds Project/Wader Quest Brasil, in addition to the support of the Peruíbe Bird Observers Group.

Another piece of good news is that we have already found a nest, on September 29th, on Ilha Comprida. We will be taking care to prevent it from being preyed upon by dogs or crushed by vehicles, as Ilha Comprida is the most important place for the reproduction of this species in the State of São Paulo. [All photos - Sandra Pentristo]



Species Focus for 2024; Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*



Eurasian Curlew - Elis Simpson

Some fun facts about the Eurasian Curlew?

What's in a name?

The English name Curlew comes from its distinctive call, it is hard to describe in writing but the Collins Field guide has it thus; *cour-lee* the emphasis on the rising second syllable. The official 'Eurasian' prefix was added in the 1980s when all species with just one name in English (Avocet, Oystercatcher, Stone-curlew, Lapwing, Dotterel, Golden Plover, Ringed Plover, Curlew, Redshank, Greenshank, Knot, Turnstone, Snipe, Woodcock) that had other species with that name prefixed elsewhere in the world, had to have one added so as not to cause confusion.

The French name is the same *Courlis cendré*, the *cendré* part meaning ash-coloured.

In the British Isles there are other names for the Curlew; Scottish Gaelic; *Guilbinn*, *Guilbneach* - Irish Gaelic: *Crotach*, *Cuirliún* - Welsh; *Chwibanog*l y mynydd, *Chwibanwr*, *Cwliwn*, *Cwrlif*, *Cwrlig*, *Cwrlip*, *Gylfinir* - Cornish; *Gelvynak* - Manx; *Crottag*, *Cruittagh*.

A Northern England and Scottish name for the Curlew is Whaup which sounds like the alarm call of the Curlew. This is similar to the Dutch *Wulp* and the Frisian *Wylp*.

Some languages bestow the title of king of the species due to its size, Spanish *Zarapito Real*, *Zarapito* meaning Curlew and *Real* being royal the same is true in Portuguese *Maçarico-real* where *Maçarico* simply means Sandpiper.

Scandinavian languages and many others too simply refer to the large size of the Curlew *Storspove* in Danish and Norwegian, *stor* being large and *spove* being Curlew and the Swedish is *storspov*.

The scientific name *Numenius arquata* refers in both parts to the shape of the bill. *Numenius* comes from an ancient Greek name for an unknown bird with a down-curved bill and means young or new moon after the shape of the young moon in astronomy. The *arquata* part comes from the Latin meaning bow-shaped.

When colour rings would have been useful - Andrew Whitelee

I have written about colour-ringing in a previous WQ newsletter ([Vol.10 - Iss.4](#) p24) and how citizen science can help conservation. I have another example of where the use of colour rings could have been useful.

This Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* frequented a construction site in Shetland in the summers of 2022 and 2023. I worked on the site as an Environmental Clerk of Works and saw the bird on a regular, almost daily, basis. The bird is metal ringed and I tried everything to get the ring number for this bird.

I managed blurred photos of the ring, and made out one or two numbers, but not enough to be useful in narrowing down who ringed the bird, or where. By their nature, Oystercatchers and other waders tend to have muddy legs, so getting a clear view of a small metal ring is challenging.

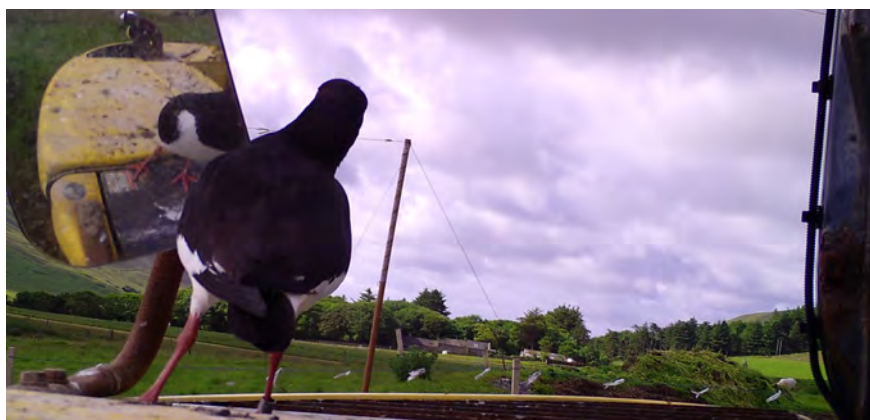
My increasingly eccentric efforts included putting a camera trap on the back of the excavator where it liked to pick arguments with its reflection in the machine's mirror. The camera trap footage was useful in watching the bird's behaviour, as I had no idea how much time this bird was spending looking at its own reflection and getting agitated by the presence of "another" bird. It was also quite revealing to find out how much time they spend standing on one leg (usually with the ringed leg hidden from view).

After two summers my attempts were getting ever more desperate. I even resorted to hiding in the cab of the machine and waiting for the bird to turn up so I could photograph it, but all to no avail.

I appreciate that not every bird can be colour-ringed, but for me, colour ringing birds such as waders seems like a great way to engage the birdwatching community and to gain useful data to inform species conservation.



Stills taken from a camera trap showing how hard reading a metal ring is. - Andrew Whitelee



Click on the Oystercatcher icon above to see an Oystercatcher determined not to show the ring on its leg! - Andrew Whitelee

Latest news from the WWT Severn and Avon Vales Curlew Project - 28 June - Mike Smart

There has been a great deal of activity in the Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* world in the last ten days, so I thought that an update was in order. The main questions have been:

- Continuing failure of nests
- Early departures of nesting Curlews to the estuary and coastline
- Hay making in the sunnier weather of the last few days.

To take the hay-making first, the strikingly improved weather in the Severn and Avon Vales over the last few days (with 26th June the warmest day of the year so far, and temperatures in the Vales in the mid- or high twenties Celsius, over eighty degrees Fahrenheit) has naturally led Vale farmers to bring in their hay. There is obviously a danger to both the few remaining eggs and small chicks from heavy machinery during hay-making activities. Fortunately, the farming community has remained in close contact and many farmers have given us advance notice of their plans, so that we can take appropriate measures (such as moving chicks to another field or putting fences round nests with eggs). Once again, we would like to express our thanks to farmers and land-owners for their support and cooperation.

As noted in the previous circular, a total of 31 nests has so far been found in the WWT Severn and Avon Vales project area this year; some of these are replacement nests, where a first attempt failed, either because of the wet conditions in early spring or from predation, mainly by foxes and crows. Sadly, the previous story of nests being abandoned or predated has only been accentuated of late; from the nests found, only three are still active: one replacement nest which has not yet hatched, and two nests where the chicks have (so far) survived, and whose legs have grown enough for them to be marked with colour rings.

Of course, there will be some nests which we have not found at the egg or small chick stage, and where the adults will be raising chicks. These broods should now be growing and will become more obvious in the coming days and weeks, through the anxious behaviour of the parent birds. Thus there is a fair chance that the number of fledged chicks will be larger than seems likely from current data.

Observers monitoring the tiny relict population on the Cotswolds in Gloucestershire tell a similar story: all three of the nests found this year were unsuccessful. In Herefordshire too, the number of successful nests has been very low.

In most Curlew breeding pairs, both parents take part in the incubation; after the eggs hatch, both parents attend the chicks for a while, but the female usually leaves first, while the male stays with the chicks until they are able to fly. (The expression "attend the chicks" is appropriate here, since the chicks are very independent from a very young age, running around all over the place; the most that parents can do is to emit alarm calls at the approach of danger, in the hope that the chicks will take cover.) It is not therefore a surprise to find females leaving the nesting site before the chicks are fledged. This behaviour may be recorded through several methods. One colour-ringed female that was nesting along the Avon and still had chicks has appeared during the day in a group of adults over ten miles away on the Severn; this illustrates local movements away from the nesting area.

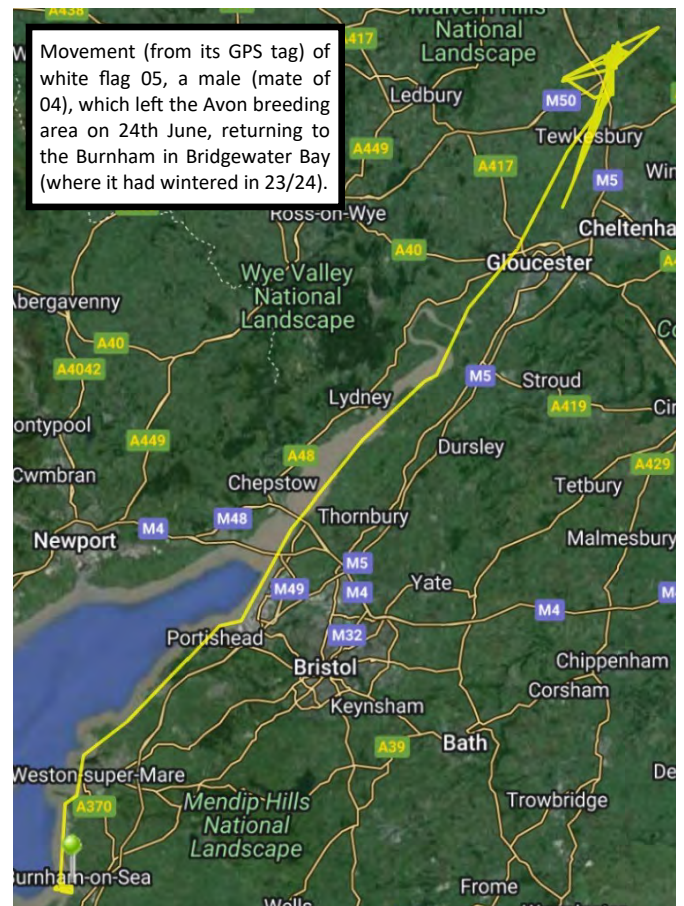
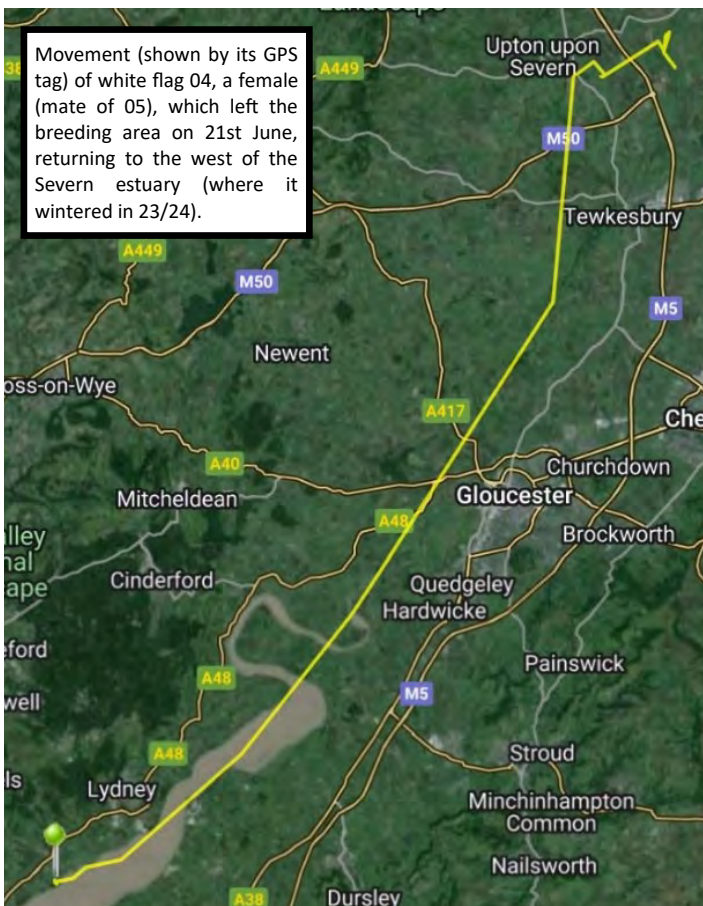


A partly grown chick, large enough to be ringed with an adult flag - Dan Gornall.

Latest news from the WWT Severn and Avon Vales Curlew Project - 28 June - cont'd

An even stronger proof of females moving away from the nesting area comes from a female marked with GPS tags, which has already returned to the estuary, as illustrated in the map below left.

Very interestingly, the mate of female 04, white tagged male 05, which had wintered in 2023/24 further down the Severn estuary in the Burnham area of Bridgewater Bay, also left the breeding area in late June 2024 (when, if it had had chicks, it would surely have remained along the Avon), and returned to Burnham. This interesting insight (which incidentally also shows the male and female of a pair wintering in quite different winter quarters) is available because (most unusually – and very luckily!) both members of the pair are marked with GPS tags.



However, some males clearly have doubts about returning to the estuary: GPS tagged male white 08 left its Severn and Avon Vales breeding area and was observed at evening roosts along the Severn on 10 and 11 June, before moving to the estuary on 21 June, only to return to the breeding area next day (see map below).

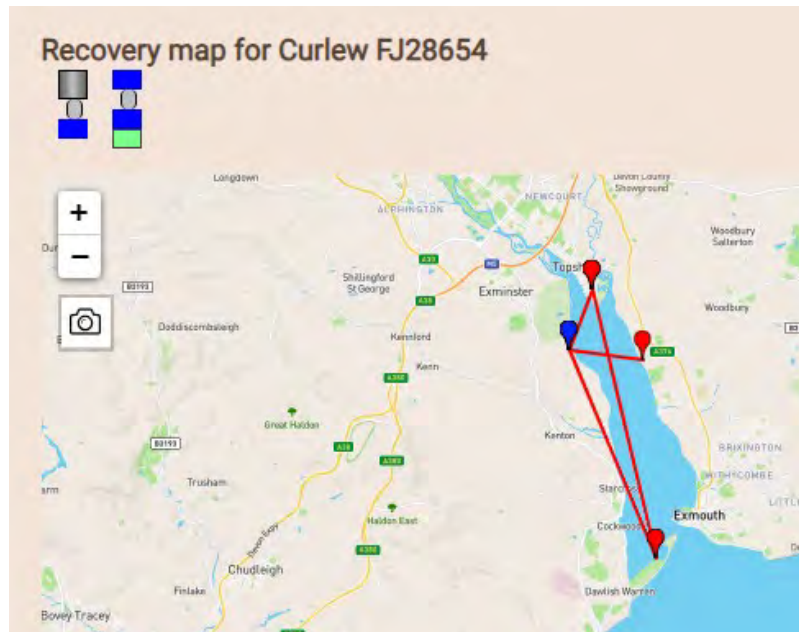
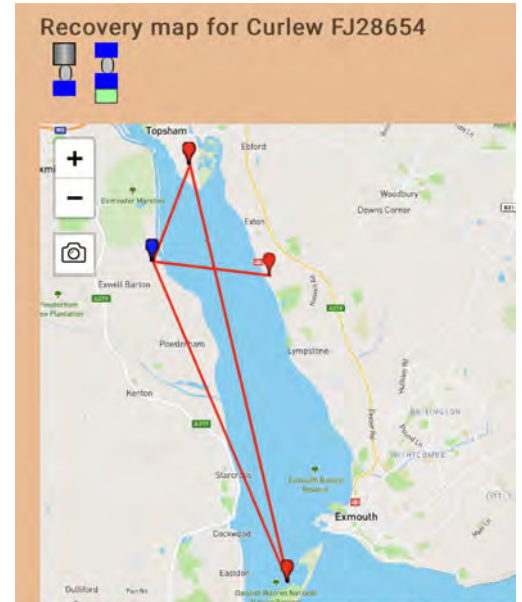
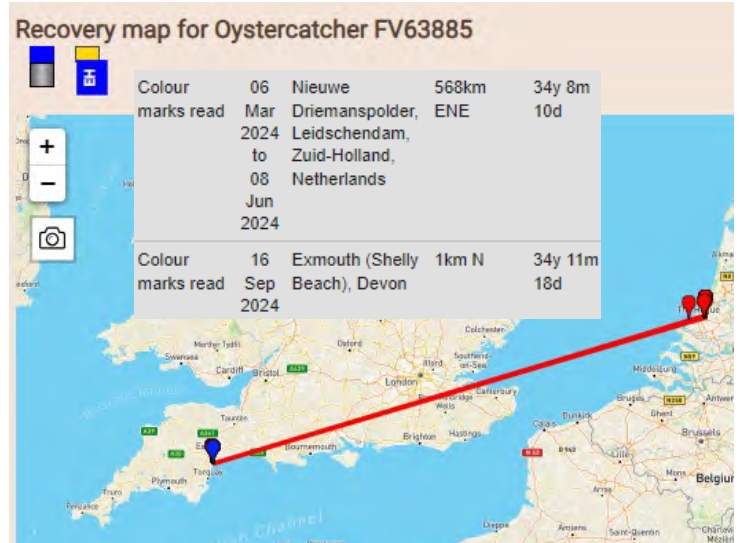
News from Herefordshire indicates that similar movements back to the coast are occurring there: the GPS tag on a male showed movement on 23 June from its inland breeding area to the Usk estuary, confirmed by a sighting of its colour ring on the Usk on 24 June; a second tagged Herefordshire Curlew arrived back on the Usk on 27 June.

As a result of these movements to the estuary and coast, numbers there are already increasing sharply. At one site on the west bank of the Severn numbers of Curlews at the high tide roost increased from 14 on 9 June to 80 on 21 June and 120 on 26 June, and much greater increases (and more records of colour-ringed birds) are to be expected in the coming weeks.

The previous newsletter included the [first part of a video](#). You can access the second part via the following link: [Severn and Avon curlews: part two on Vimeo](#).



More colour ringed waders from Devon - Tim Ridgeway



All photos and maps supplied by Tom Ridgeway

[Devon and Cornwall Wader Ringing Group](#) - Eurasian Curlew recoveries

Colour-ringed Ruddy Turnstones in Anguilla - Jackie Cestero (Text and photos)

The Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* is one of my favourite migratory shorebirds. The combination of feisty attitude and gorgeous plumage make it hard to overlook. Here in Anguilla we get the American subspecies *A. i. morinella*. The males in breeding plumage are spectacular!

Beyond their looks, is a far more enticing feature of this species. They often arrive on our shores wearing “jewellery” in the form of bands and flags.

While I see several different banded species throughout the year, Ruddy Turnstones are seen with the most frequency and repetition. This is most likely due to their high rate of site fidelity. They act much like Anguilla’s “Snowbirds” - a term given to tourists who spend each winter on Anguilla. They arrive in the Fall and head north in the Spring to warmer temperatures avoiding the worst winter weather.



Ruddy Turnstone "LJ+"

Species: Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* *arenaria*

Marker Type/Color: Engraved Flag Light Green & Grey - Black ink

Marker Code: LJ+

Search

Map Satellite

Captures: 5/19/2022 - Mispillion Harbor - Back Beach, Delaware, United States - 1392-07066 FELGLJ+ RL

Resightings: 5/25/2022 - Brockenbridge Gut, Delaware, United States - 1392-07068 FELGLJ+ RUTU

9/7/2022 - 1392-07068 FELGLJ+ RUTU [Click here to see a record](#)

Initial capture 5/2022
in Delaware USA

Ruddy Turnstone “LJ+” Resighting During Global Shorebird Count Sept. 2022

Ruddy Turnstone in Breeding Plumage Long Pond IBA

The trick to identifying these birds is to spot them among the crowd often at great distances. For example:



Finding this guy..... in this group of Ruddies on the beach.

Once I spot the bird it is important to get a clear shot of the flag to reveal the code. It’s sort of like a treasure hunt.

The resighting information is entered into my bandedbirds.org account. Once accepted, a full accounting of the original banding date and location are provided along with any resighting records.

The beauty of the band/flag combination is there is no need to recapture the bird. Anyone who sees the bird along its flight path can report the resighting information.

While a few birds are banded in South America, most come from the eastern seaboard states like New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland - all located along the Atlantic Flyway.

I find it hard not to get attached to frequent visitors like the Jersey Bird “EAE.” This individual has visited West End Pond regularly since 2015. The original capture and banding was in May 2014 on Kimbles Beach in New Jersey.



Resighting Ruddy Turnstone “EAE” (left) West End Pond IBA November 2020

Colour-ringed Ruddy Turnstones in Anguilla - cont'd

The guy who truly stole my heart was my first banded Ruddy Turnstone - "2EY." I initially encountered this gentleman on the beach in Sandy Ground in 2012. It was happily dodging the waves with its flock. Also a Jersey Bird it was banded at Reeds Beach in New Jersey in 2011.

This bird spent its days wandering the beaches by Elvis or behind the Pump House on Road Salt Pond from August to February each year. I could set my watch to his arrival and he never disappointed.

After an absence in 2017, I was excited to see him in 2018. His arrival meant he survived Hurricane Irma, unlike many others. Instinct must have cautioned this bird to avoid Anguilla and seek safer territory during one of the island's worst storms.



Ruddy Turnstone "2EY" Road Salt Pond IBA

While the longest-known surviving Ruddy Turnstone was 19, their average life expectancy in the wild is 6 to 7 years.

In October 2020 I observed "2EY" foraging in his favourite spot on the pond. However, his right foot was missing. It did not stop him from feeding happily with his flock. However, a bird with one foot is at a severe disadvantage and the odds of long-term survival are small.

As I drove away I was acutely aware that this would be our last encounter. At 9 years of age, he had beat the odds. It did not make the sadness in my heart any easier.

On the bright side, "2EY" was a true "Snowbird" lucky to spend his winters on Anguilla's beautiful shores and wetlands. Every time I visit his special spot, I think of all the amazing moments we shared.

There is no question that the data provided from bird banding is important to the survival of many migratory species. Protecting both breeding and overwintering habitats is essential to that survival. Perhaps one day my resighting reports will give ammunition to more environmentally conscious politicians to preserve Anguilla's critical migratory bird habitats.



Ruddy Turnstone Long Pond Bay

Collecting wader eggs... legally! Astrid Kant of the Netherlands turns her hand to egg turning

- Rick Simpson

The collecting of Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* eggs has been illegal in the UK for many years. The species first got protection with the Lapwing Act of 1926, where the sale of their eggs was deemed illegal. This was because they had become so popular as a posh foodstuff in London, known as 'Plover's Eggs'. The population was being catastrophically diminished, the trade was so lucrative anyone who could do so, was looking for, and taking, Lapwing eggs to sell. The result was inevitably that Lapwings couldn't breed successfully and thus were becoming rarer by the year. All birds are now protected since 1981.

Who among us birders though, has not admired the eggs of a bird and, although resisting the temptation, has not wanted to possess such a delicate, beautiful and perfect thing?

Well, now you can! Our friend Astrid Kant, Queen of the Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa* in the Netherlands has turned her hand to fabricating facsimile eggs from wood so we can now all possess these wondrous things legally and knowing that no bird was harmed in the process. If interested in purchasing wooden wader eggs, contact Astrid Kant grutto.astrid@xs4all.nl or visit her website www.astridkantweidevogels.nl - All photos Astrid Kant / Ronald Messemaker.



Here are a couple of videos showing the turning process - (Click on images to view.)



Turned egg complete



Prep before painting



All Dutch wader eggs in a glass dome



Attention to detail creates a realistic look



Wooden Eurasian Curlew eggs



A dozen Northern Lapwing eggs. Only one is the genuine article, the others are all wooden facsimiles created by Astrid; **which one do you think is the real egg?** Answer is on page 49.



Wooden Eurasian Oystercatcher eggs

Collecting wader eggs... legally! Astrid Kant of the Netherlands turns her hand to egg turning - cont'd

Here are all the British breeding wader eggs created by Astrid for Wader Quest; roughly to scale



Eurasian Curlew
Numenius arquata



Eurasian Whimbrel
Numenius phaeopus



Eurasian Oystercatcher
Haematopus ostralegus



Black-tailed Godwit
Limosa imosa



European Stone-curlew
Burhinus oedicephalus



European Golden Plover
Pluvialis apricaria



Pied Avocet
Recurvirostra avosetta



Common Greenshank
Tringa nebularia



Northern Lapwing
Vanellus vanellus



Ruff
Calidris pugnax



Eurasian Dotterel
Eudromias morinellus



Common Redshank
Tringa totanus



Wood Sandpiper
Tringa glareola



Common Snipe
Gallinago gallinago



Common Ringed Plover
Charadrius hiaticula



Common Sandpiper
Actitis hypoleucos



Dunlin
Calidris alpina



Kentish Plover
Anarhynchus alexandrinus



Red-necked Phalarope
Phalaropus lobatus



Little Ringed Plover
Charadrius dubius

Book review: Waders of India by R.G. Soni and Harkirat Singh Sangha - Harsh Vardhan

WHAT has a Hindi language daily newspaper in India got to do with waders? It may carry an item or two on birds that mostly confine themselves to water edges, at sea shores and/or inland waters and some across dry-parched habitats.

Rajasthan Patrika, is a Hindi language daily newspaper published from numerous locations in India, which has set an example for other media houses by publishing a pocket-size hand-book, "Waders of India." It is authored by R.G. Soni and Harkirat Singh Sangha, two well known authorities in the field of avifauna.

Soni served in the Indian Forest Service and retired as Principal Chief Conservator of Forest for the state of Rajasthan. He is among the few forest officers who is well versed in identifying birds and writing about them. Harkirat is a live-wire birder and author of a unique book: *Waders of the Indian Subcontinent*, which was reviewed by Rick Simpson in [Volume 8; Issue 4: January 2022](#) - p23 of the Wader Quest Newsletter.

Editor's emphasis: Gulab Kothari, Editor-in-Chief of Rajasthan Patrika, has done the foreword for this book. He wrote:

"I gather the waders are least studied birds... experts have done little studies despite the fact that these birds are observed round the year at all water bodies...Under Patrika's umbrella, a score of experts have received continued encouragement to work on flora, fauna and related biodiversity aspects to assess and quantify gains/losses to humanity..."

The book lists 84 wader species in India. Each species is described in one page and each species is depicted by a photograph. The book lists all Sanskrit (ancient Indian language) names of waders, which is strikingly, its unique aspect. It also has some text in Hindi language to allow non-English speaking people to read it. It carries photographs of bird ringing as well.

Peter Elfman's art: Interestingly, illustrations of birds by Peter Elfman have been carried in the book (Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* and Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*). Peter is a renowned artist based in Sweden and has often been featured in Wader Quest. Its back cover depicts a migration map of waders across Asian regions.

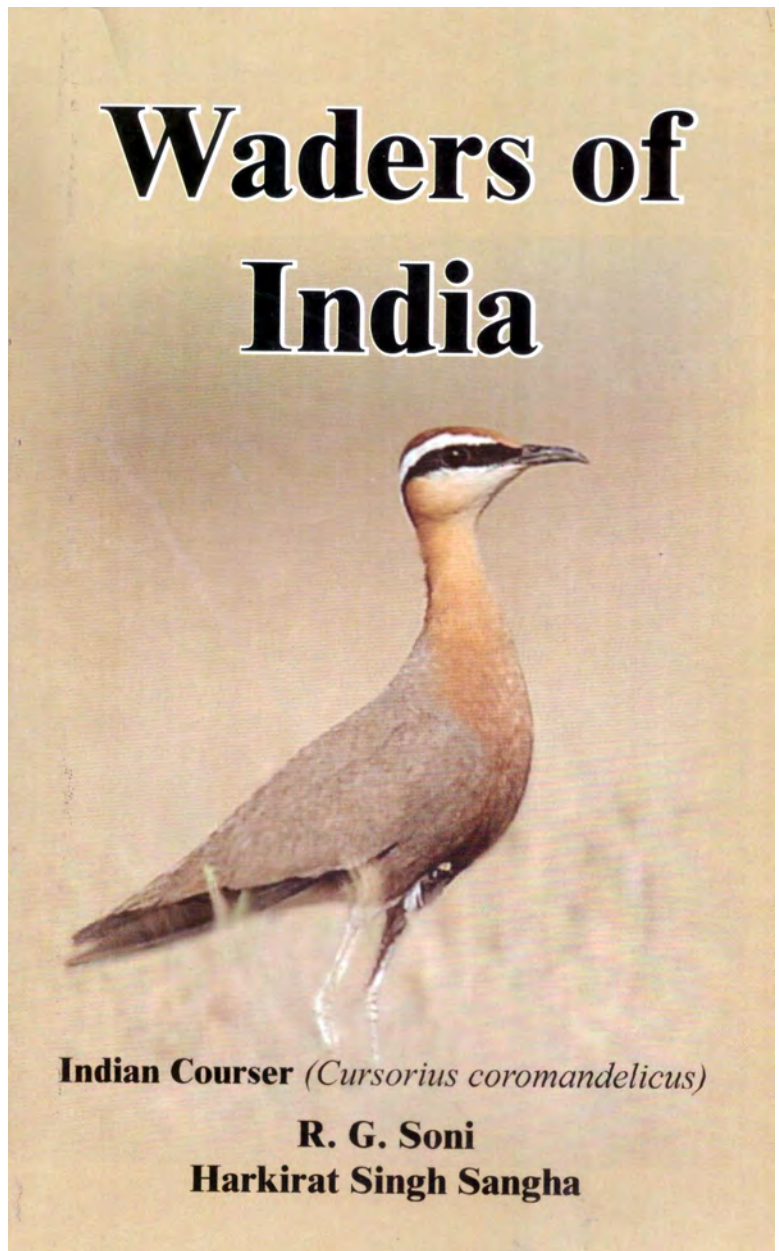
This reviewer (Harsh Vardhan) took up this task in his hands to fill a long standing gap in Indian ornithology. He is the founder of the Indian Birding Fair. Its 28th edition is slated to be staged during February 2025 at Man Sagar lake promenade in the city of Jaipur in India. He is also responsible for a quarterly e-journal, Conservation Times (www.econservationtimes.com).

The tiny book slips into the pocket with ease. It costs Rs 250/- (GBP 2.5/-), available over internet. Its technical details are:

Publisher: Patrika Publication (1 January 2019)
Language: English
ISBN: 10 : 9385390457
ISBN: 13 : 978-9385390456

Total 210 species: Waders or shorebirds are birds commonly found wading along shorelines and mudflats in order to forage for food, crawling or burrowing in the mud and sand, usually small arthropods such as aquatic insects or crustaceans. The term "wader" is used in Europe, while "shorebird" is used in North America.

There are about 210 species of wader in the world, most of which live in wetland or coastal environments. Many species of Arctic and temperate regions are strongly migratory. Tropical birds are often resident, or move only in response to rainfall patterns. Some of the Arctic species, such as the Little Stint *Calidris minutus*, are amongst the longest distance



Some interesting Indian wader sightings; Pacific Golden Plover - Naveen Kumar Singh

The Morel dam is situated near Kankariya village in Lalsot city, Rajasthan, India. Visiting This place can be a memorable experience, especially if you enjoy scenic beauty and a touch of rural charm.

Natural Setting: The dam is set in a picturesque location with lush greenery, especially during the monsoon season. The surrounding landscape includes rolling hills and vibrant dry deciduous flora.

Depending on the water level, the dam offers lovely views of the reservoir, which can be particularly stunning during or after the rains when the water is full.

Being bird lovers, we always try to explore new birding spots near Jaipur city. The Morel Dam is one of the unexplored areas situated southeast of Jaipur (102 Km). It is an earthen dam and constructed for irrigation purposes. The winter season attracts migratory birds to the state's diverse landscapes, offering birders an exciting range of species to observe, especially waders. One can notice flocks of Ruffs *Calidris pugnax*, Pied Avocets *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa*, and many other species at the main reservoir, especially at its edges.

After being thoroughly exhausted from the daily routine of 9 to 5 jobs, we all were waiting for the weekend so that we could go and explore new birding spots. It

was Sunday 10th Sep 2023 when myself (Naveen Kumar Singh), Govind Yadav, Durga Lal Verma, Rakesh Shrama and Rajaram Meena planned to explore Morel Dam. We started early in the morning (5 am) as it is 2.5 hours drive from Jaipur.

Amidst waders: After birding for about an hour around the backwaters of the dam, we sighted large flocks of Sandpipers, Stints, Avocets, Godwits, Stilts, etc. We planned to look out for more waders in that habitat. As we reached a place that was adjacent to farmland, we observed a small flock of Sandpipers with some Ruff and Stilts near the shore. Govind Yadav and Rajaram Meena were trying their best to expect some new species. And they suddenly screamed with excitement -- 'Pacific Golden Plover' *Pluvialis fulva*!

Myself (Naveen Singh), Durga Lal, and Rakesh rushed with our cameras to click the bird. We succeeded in making nice frames using our tele-lens equipment. The lone bird was in non-breeding plumage and feeding with other wader flocks. We observed it picking up insects near the shore. This bird eats nearly anything that crawls including insects, spiders, molluscs, crustaceans, and small reptiles, as well as berries, leaves, and seeds.

Overall, a visit to Morel Dam can be a peaceful retreat from the bustle of city life, offering a chance to enjoy nature and gain a glimpse into rural Rajasthan. We all were very happy as this was a "lifer" for all of us. This dam is at a short distance from the main highway which leads to Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (from New Delhi as well as from Agra or from Jaipur).

Migratory: The Pacific Golden Plover is a migratory shorebird that breeds during summer in Alaska and Siberia. During the non-breeding season, this medium-sized plover migrates widely across the Pacific. This plover was formally described in 1789 by the German naturalist Johann Friedrich Gmelin in his revised and expanded edition of Carl Linnaeus's *Systema Naturae*.



Pacific Golden Plover - Naveen Kumar Singh

Some interesting Indian wader sightings; Pacific Golden Plover - cont'd

In India, this bird remains confined to the sea shores, from Gujarat to Kerala from there to the Sunderbans. The bird has been reported from several water bodies in Gujarat. It was recorded at Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, and also at a few places in Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

Adults are about 25 cm long with a wingspan averaging 61 cm. At their lightest, fat free, the birds weigh around 135 gm. In March, the birds begin gaining weight. Before leaving for their Arctic breeding grounds, the birds weigh about 200 gm.

In breeding plumage, the male is spotted gold and black on the crown, back, and wings. The face and neck are black bordered with white, the breast is black, the rump is dark. The bill is black, the legs are grey to black. The female is similar but the black breast is mottled and less distinct.

Look alike: In non-breeding plumage, sexes look identical. The black on the face and breast bordered by white is replaced with dark brown, grey, and yellowish patterning and lighter underparts. Its call is a quick "pip" note followed by a rising "ploEEP!" The first note is shorter and more clipped. It also makes shorter, more plaintive calls.

The Pacific Golden Plover is very similar to the American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*, with which it was once considered the conspecific and known as Lesser Golden Plover.

Although a shore bird, the Pacific Golden Plover feeds mostly inland, preferring open spaces with short vegetation. In Hawaii, these birds have adapted remarkably to human presence and to human alteration of the natural environment including, backyards, parks, cemeteries, rooftops, pastures, and golf courses.

The bird is site-faithful, each bird returns to, and defends, the same territory year after year, resulting in people observing their comings and goings with special interest. Some observers name and feed their birds, and some birds become tame around their caretakers.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species assessed the Pacific Golden Plover to be a species of Least Concern globally. However, the population trend is decreasing, the main threat being a global shift in habitat and alteration due to climate change and severe weather.

By Naveen Kumar Sing (singhnave@gmail.com), Govind Yadav (govind67@gmail.com), Durga Lal Verma (durgalalverma@hotmail.com), Rakesh Shrama (sotrakesh@gmail.com) and Rajaram Meena (rajaram100@gmail.com) are Volunteers with Tourism & Wildlife Society of India (TWSI)

Grey-headed Lapwing - Naveen Kumar Singh

I visit my hometown (Raebareli) every October-November to celebrate the annual Diwali festival with my parents and so it is time off from my busy schedule. During the trip, I also make sure I never miss visiting Samaspur Bird Sanctuary (25°59'N 81°23'E), in the Raebareli district of Uttar Pradesh, India. It is a perennial lowland marsh typical of the Indo-Gangetic Plains. Its six connected lakes are heavily relevant to monsoon rains. This sanctuary is 40 minutes drive from my place.

On 26th October 2022, I started early in the morning to try my luck to spot winter visitors. Birding in marshy areas during winter can offer a unique and rewarding experience. Marshlands are rich ecosystems that attract diverse bird species, and winter can bring both opportunities and challenges for birdwatchers.

A pair: After wandering around the Sanctuary for a few hours I spotted one of the rarest migratory birds, it was my lifer: The Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*, It was a pair wading around the wet grassland edge. They were feeding in shallow water on insects and worms. I saw only one pair around that area with the Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* flock. I had a few seconds to click this photo.

The sanctuary is situated in the Raebareli district of Uttar Pradesh, which is in the northern part of India. Its habitat consists of cultivated wetlands and marshy areas.

Appearance: Size: 34–37 cm long. bright yellow bill, it has a grey head and neck, a darker grey breast band, and a white



Grey Headed Lapwing - Naveen Kumar Singh

Some interesting Indian wader sightings; Grey-headed Lapwing - cont'd

belly. The back is brown, the rump is white and the tail is black.

Food: Feeds mainly on insects, worms, and crustaceans.

Best Time to Visit: Winter (October to February): This is the peak season for birdwatching at Samaspur Bird Sanctuary. Migratory birds arrive during this period, making it an ideal time for observing a diverse range of species.

Monsoon (June to September): The monsoon season transforms the sanctuary with lush greenery and increased water levels, attracting various species, although some areas may become difficult to access.

Winter birding can be an enriching experience! The colder months bring a different set of avian visitors and behaviour, so several aspects make winter birding unique. Happy Birding and good luck.

Breeding areas: The Grey-headed Lapwing breeds in north-east China and Japan. The mainland population winters in northern South-east Asia from north-eastern India to Cambodia.

Adults of both sexes are similarly plumaged, but males are slightly larger than females. Young birds have the white areas of plumage tinged with grey, a less distinct breast band, and pale fringes to the upperpart and wing covert feathers. Its call is a sharp chee-it.

By Naveen Kumar Singh (singhnave@gmail.com) Volunteer at Tourism & Wildlife Society of India (TWSI)

Red-necked Phalarope - Naveen Kumar Singh

Nevta is a large reservoir situated in the south west of Jaipur. It has remained a rain-fed water body for decades, letting local agriculturists draw water for their fields for winter crops of wheat and oil seeds. For the past couple of decades, the dam has been receiving loads of sewer flow from the city of Jaipur through the Aman-shah-ka Nalla, euphemistically renamed as Dravyavati River by the Government of Rajasthan.

During winter, the dam receives an incredible number of migratory flocks of birds. Ducks can be observed swimming across its placid water, inserting their beaks over surface to feed. Aquatic vegetation is in plenty – rooted, submerged, floating and shore-line. Hence, food for birds appears limitless.

The shallow water spread is towards the eastern fringes from where the monsoon inflow enters into the dam. Hence this parcel of aquatic habitat becomes a rendezvous point for waders. Our thirst is best quenched there whenever we hop at its earthen banks to walk faster to that region.

Nevta Backwater: One can notice flocks of Ruffs *Calidris pugnax*, Pied Avocets *Avosetta recurvirostra*, Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa* as well as a host of other wader species in that far flung region, that is not easy to reach. We have baptized it as "Nevta Backwater". We need to access the habitat through agriculture fields and a haphazard development of new houses being raised by settlers from urban scape – a threat to the dam and too an obvious impact on avian species.

Owing to the munificence of avian species in this vast stretch of moist and semi-submerged habitat, it has become our annual destination for sustained birding. Our team of volunteers is always delighted to be present there to earn a handsome number of species every time.

It was an October Saturday, when we all planned to visit Nevta to renew our past records. We started at around 6 am to brave the early cold spell. We walked over the earthen dam for a couple of hours observing large flocks of Sandpipers, Stints, Avocets, and Godwits among others. Once this lesson was over, we headed towards the Backwater habitat.

Stilt, NO: Crossing over agricultural fields and conveying our "ram ram" (good morning) to local folk who were ready to milk their buffalos, we settled over a raised earthen pound. A small flock of Ruffs and some Black-winged Stilts *Himantopus himantopus* greeted us with their mild calls and abruptly took off to settle amidst reeds at a distance. The sun was up and flashing soft light from the eastern fringe – a perfect setting for bird watching as it happened to be.



Red-necked Phalarope, in non-breeding phase - Naveen Kumar Singh

Some interesting Indian wader sightings; Red-necked Phalarope - cont'd

Sumit noticed an unusual bird and raised a sudden alarm. We all aimed our bins in that direction and almost unanimously announced: Black-winged Stilt only. Its short legs were moving restlessly near the flock of Ruffs. We felt it certainly to be a Stilt, none else, though it showed a marked abnormality. The thirst led us to aim at it ceaselessly and we all tried to decipher: an abnormal stilt... or what else?

The lone bird seemed like foraging in a rather typical wader manner. While Naveen took some photographs, we pulled out the field guide to search in the wader section. After turning some pages, we were getting convinced that the bird looked similar to a Phalarope.

We got it: Naveen came forward to display what he had captured through his extra long lens-camera. Our eyes were glued at the frame. Soon we started comparing the frame-photo with the illustrations outlined in the field guide -- *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* by Richard Grimmett, Carol Inskipp and Tim Inskipp.

Bingo! Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*, was our unanimous shout. We agreed that it was in non-breeding plumage. At first, we could not believe our luck. It was supposed to be a coastal area bird and had not been recorded in Jaipur in the recent past. Its few sightings had been reported from Sambhar Salt Lake region (a Ramsar Site), about hundred kilometres from Jaipur where we are based. Even e-Bird had not mentioned about its occurrence in this region.

So we devoted the remaining part of our morning session to the bird, about a hundred metres away from us. The Sun was brighter by now having split the thin layer of fog, improving visibility much better. We carefully observed the (new) bird for about half an hour.

Govind's yes: This Phalarope was very agile in its movements, bending its neck up and down while moving back and forth in the same marshy region. It was at ease and did not show any alarm at our presence. It continued feeding in shallow water. We could not tell what it was eating at that time. Thanks to our cell phones, we immediately relayed the photo and information to our colleague, Govind Yadav. His nod was flashed back in no time. It was gung-ho for us: Red-necked Phalarope!

Was the new bird meant to invite us to the same habitat following Sunday? It marked its attendance there, though was observed feeding at a far off spot. So we included the species in our list of birds for the Global Bird Weekend. Overall it happened to be a great excitement.

The Red-necked Phalarope is also known as the Northern Phalarope. It is a small wader. It breeds in the Arctic regions of North America and Eurasia. It is migratory, and, unusually for a wader, winters at sea on tropical oceans.

Tringa-history: In 1743, the English naturalist George Edwards included an illustration and a description of the Red-necked Phalarope in the first volume of his *A Natural History of Uncommon Birds*. He used the English name "The coot-footed tringa". Edwards based his hand-coloured etching on a specimen that had been collected off the coast of Maryland.

When in 1758, the Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus updated his *Systema Naturae* for the tenth edition, he placed the Red-necked Phalarope with the Phalaropes and Sandpipers in the genus *Tringa*.

By Naveen Singh (singhnave@gmail.com), Sumit Bari (sumitbb@gmail.com), Mayank Sharma (Sharmamayank06@yahoo.com) and Nishant Nath Shukla (nash.nishant@gmail.com) are volunteers with Tourism & Wildlife Society of India (TWSI)

Talking of Red-necked Phalaropes in odd places... - Rick Simpson

Birding is a funny old game. We go off to the most remote & wild places to find birds but sometimes, they come to us! This story from © Birding Croatia is a fine example, you should never let your guard down and always keep your eye open even in the most unpromising environments!

Whilst navigating the internet recently Elis came across a photograph of a Red-necked Phalarope in a rather unusual place. It appeared to be in a swimming pool. And that was exactly where it turned out to be.

You wouldn't have thought it would stay very long would you? Surely there would have been little or no food for it? But stay it did, at least two days. You can see a video of the bird by [TomVoet on twitter](#).



Anguilla's Summer Shorebird Species

Black-necked Stilt: Part 1 - Jackie Cestero

(All photos Jackie Cestero)

It is summer in Anguilla and nesting season for several bird species is underway.

One of my favourite shorebirds is the Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*. This resident bird is seen at almost all of our salt ponds year-round.

A two-toned body, long black bill, and striking pink legs are important field markers for this bird. At first glance, it may be difficult to tell the difference between the sexes of this species. The female has brown wings while the male is black. It is easy to capture this difference in the bright sunlight.

Black-necked Stilt courting and nesting activities are visible from April through July. The mating ritual has the male preening and circling the female several times while she awaits the moment. (This moment was interrupted by other birds, but you get the idea.)

The complete process is described here:

"Black-necked Stilts are especially animated during the breeding season, when females select males for mating. Just before mating, the female stretches out the neck and preens; the male faces her and does the same. Both dip the bill in the water and preen the breast, and this action becomes increasingly frenzied, with much splashing just prior to copulation. Afterward, the pair crosses their bills and runs together for a few steps." (Robinson, Julie A., J. Michael Reed, Joseph P. Skorupa and Lewis W. Oring. (1999). *Black-necked Stilt (Himantopus mexicanus)*, version 2.0. In *The Birds of North America* (P. G. Rodewald, editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York, USA.)

The nest site is selected and prepared, by both adults just before egg laying. The site is generally elevated and may be fortified if water levels rise. On our wetlands, rock walls are often used as nest sites. Small pebbles mark the outer edge of the nest cup. Four olive-coloured eggs are laid. The markings on the eggs may be variable.

Birds of the World gives us the following insights about the roles played by the parents during the three to four-week incubation period:

- "Both sexes take turns incubating day or night (Grant 1982a, Sordahl 1996b; Hawaiian Stilt, Woodside 1979b, Coleman 1981). In very hot environments, incubation behaviours serve to cool eggs rather than to warm them. Parents soak belly feathers in water before sitting on nest to facilitate evaporative cooling and to maintain nest humidity, and periods off nest are reduced to minimum (not observed for Hawaiian Stilts, Coleman 1981). Due to belly soaking, eggs often become encrusted with salt and mud."
- "Male and female usually alternate throughout day; incubation bouts become shorter as shaded ambient temperature increases (Grant 1982a). Sexes equally likely to be



Stilt pair crossing bills



incubating at any time (James 1991b; Hawaiian Stilt, [*H. m. knudseni*] Coleman 1981)."

- "During changeover, relieving bird alights in water near nest and walks toward incubating individual. On approach of relieving bird, incubating bird stands and walks toward water. Occasionally departing bird tosses bits of material similar to nest



Anguilla's Summer Shorebird Species

Black-necked Stilt: Part 1 - cont'd

Both parents defend the nest with loud vocalizations and may attack other birds (or humans) who get too close.

I was lucky to observe the nest in the photograph above throughout the incubation period. Even more exciting was watching the third chick hatch from its egg!

When I arrived for my daily nest check a large crack was visible in the third egg (below left). Two chicks had previously hatched and were in and out of the nest.



Over the next hour, I was witness to the birth of a tiny wet chick with both parents attentive to its needs.



While chicks begin to vocalize inside the egg about 3 days before they hatch, the hatching takes place over twenty-four hours. I was lucky to catch it at just the right time!

The other chicks visit the nest regularly and often spend time under a parent until the final egg hatches.



Anguilla's Summer Shorebird Species

Black-necked Stilt: Part 1 - cont'd

Once dry, our little newborn found refuge under mom's wing providing another adorable moment in birding on Anguilla.



The companion video provides some of the live-action I experienced throughout this process. You can even witness the removal of the shell after hatching.

In part two of this series, I will explore the next stages of development for these little ones. Yes, there is more to come with these beautiful birds.



Summer Shorebird Species Spotlight

Black-necked Stilt: Part 2 - Jackie Cestero

Returning to our Black-necked Stilt family, we find the three chicks taking their first walk together in the pond. Stilt chicks are precocial and leave the nest within one to two hours of hatching. They feed on brine shrimp, brine flies, and terrestrial insects. "Precocial" and "altricial," two words describing the degree of development in young birds at hatching, are good examples of useful scientific jargon. They save ornithologists from repeatedly using phrases when single words will do. A precocial bird is "capable of moving around on its own soon after hatching." The word comes from the same Latin root as "precocious." Altricial means "incapable of moving around on its own soon after hatching." It comes from a Latin root meaning "to nourish" a reference to the need for extensive parental care required before fledging in altricial species."

The initial steps are quite wobbly due to their very long legs. They remind me of Weebles with legs. (Okay I'm dating myself!)

Meanwhile, Mom is back at the nest waiting for the fourth egg to hatch and Dad is supervising group outings.



Anguilla's Summer Shorebird Species

Black-necked Stilt: Part 2 - cont'd

Once all four chicks become mobile, they spend their time together under the watchful eye of their parents. If you thought they were vocal protecting the nest, wait until you see them defend the chicks!



While both parents guard their movements, Dad plays a slightly larger role at this stage. With sweltering temps on Anguilla's salt ponds, Dad provides cover. If a predator arrives, the call of the adult will force the chicks to flatten on the ground.



Both parents brood the chicks for the first week, especially in the early morning. By week three, the chicks are more independent.

It is during these periods that the chicks are most vulnerable to predators. While most raptors are not present on Anguilla during the breeding period, feral cats, unleashed dogs, and humans are threats.

Over the next thirty days, the Stilt chicks will transform as they moult into adult plumage. They will forage over a wider range but maintain the family group.



Anguilla's Summer Shorebird Species

Black-necked Stilt: Part 2 - cont'd



At 22 to 23 days, they are capable of short flights. "Sustained flight occurs 27–31 d post-hatching." They also begin to develop the pink/red leg colour that defines their species.

Because our Black-necked Stilts do not migrate here, families remain loosely bonded once they are independent. In this companion reel, you will see a few moments of the chicks and parents on our wetlands.



Don't forget
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2024



**Wader Conservation
World Watch**

The sights and sounds of the Snettisham shore - words Rick Simpson; photography Elis Simpson

It was not as cold as on our last visit, the biting wind was absent. In contrast to this improvement, the cloud cover was less appealing as the birds would not be illuminated by the morning sun in the picturesque way that they had been last time. Although a blood red sun rose over the horizon, it was visible but briefly before it disappeared once more dashing our hopes that the Met Office had got it wrong again. The bonus though, or so we thought, was that this time the tide was going to be very high, and this we anticipated would increase our enjoyment of the spectacle.



Sure enough once we had reached the water from the car park the tide was well and truly in but, arriving a short time later at the vantage point for the wader spectacle, we were a little disappointed to find that the birds were, by necessity, a little further away.



Despite distance and lack of light the patterns described by the birds were no less intriguing and aesthetically pleasing as they had been last time, setting my imagination to work once more. Elis went off to the hide to photograph the roosting birds on the lagoons and I sat and absorbed the scene before me.

As I sat the chill of the morning began to seep into my inert limbs, but at the same time the unfailingly captivating sounds of the estuary started to invade my consciousness; this was a day for the ears to take centre stage, so I closed my eyes in order to maximise the enjoyment of this natural, al fresco, virtuoso performance.

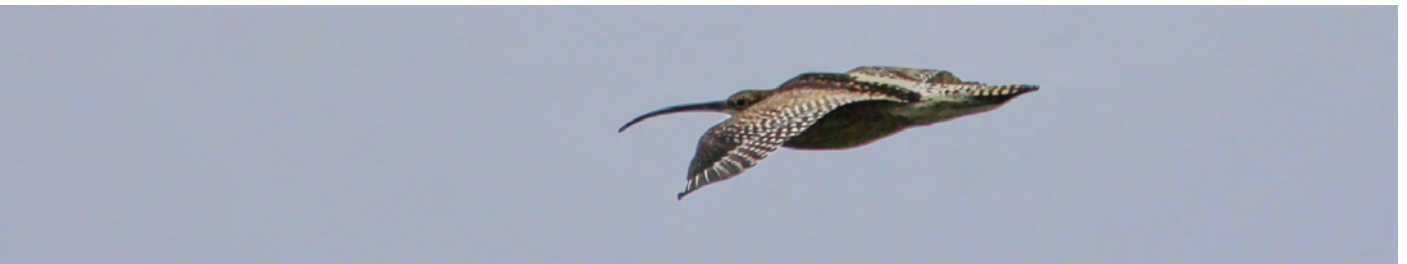


The sights and sounds of the Snettisham shore - cont'd

The most obvious components were those of the gulls as both the myriad Black-headed and the less numerous Herring Gulls gave forth their opinion about the day's affairs. The grunting of Shelducks was rarely off the song sheet. Of the waders the most vociferous were naturally the sentinel of the marsh, the Common Redshank and the pied piper, the Eurasian Oystercatcher. Every now and then the mellifluous call of a Grey Plover would fall upon my ears sounding contrastingly melancholy in the excited tumult.



I spent some time in this magnificent state of euphoric bliss. My tranquil daydreaming led me to consider whether sitting there that morning and paying attention to what the estuary around me had so eloquently to say, was the reason I had been set upon this earth. As if to underline this fact a Eurasian Curlew wimpled behind me sending shivers of self-indulgence down my spine. A fleeting moment of perfection and peace in a world harried by doubt and care.



My reverie was broken by the fluting of a single Eurasian Golden Plover. I had rested my head on the back of the bench, upon which I was sitting and merely had to open my eyes in order to gaze skywards. I did so and gradually they focused upon a huge flock of these high-flying beauties. There were many hundreds, if not thousands, of them apparently drifting around the leaden sky with no real purpose. On clear sunny days these flocks look like stars in a bright sky, this time they were small dark flecks against the grey. Every now and then the leading birds resolved to set off in one direction or another, apparently with some design or purpose in mind, these leaders formed a V formation which gathered pace and collected birds as it went looking altogether more purposeful. Eventually though, the impetus seemed to fizzle out, as though they realised this was not such a good idea after all and the flock took another direction resuming the ambling nature of before. Eventually they drifted from view and, considering how many there were, it is surprising they did not make a single utterance between them after that first individual, who seemed like a rebel in a silent monastic order drawing my attention to him and his chagrined brothers.



The sights and sounds of the Snettisham shore - cont'd

I resumed my state of meditation and noted other birds; the cascade of the ubiquitous Eurasian Skylarks, the frail Meadow Pipits and twittering Eurasian Linnets, all were punctuated by the odd whistle from passing Eurasian Wigeons, the rude honking of the Greylag Geese, the barking of their Dark-bellied Brent cousins as they sped by and the piping notes of the small flocks of Eurasian Teal that seemed to be fleeing some unseen foe as they headed out of the marsh.



While all this was taking place Elis was enjoying the high tide roost on the lagoon islands where every square inch of loafing room was occupied with birds spilling down into the shallow water that lapped lazily at their margins. As she glanced across at the seaward bank, she saw what at first she thought was three sides of a square made up of Oystercatchers that appeared to be standing around the perimeter of a large slab of cement.



As her eyes adjusted, she noted that the cement appeared to be shifting in shape and lifting her binoculars realised that she was looking at a huge pack of Red Knots. It dawned on her then just how appropriate this collective noun was, the birds being packed together so tightly that they gave the impression of being one homogeneous grey slab.

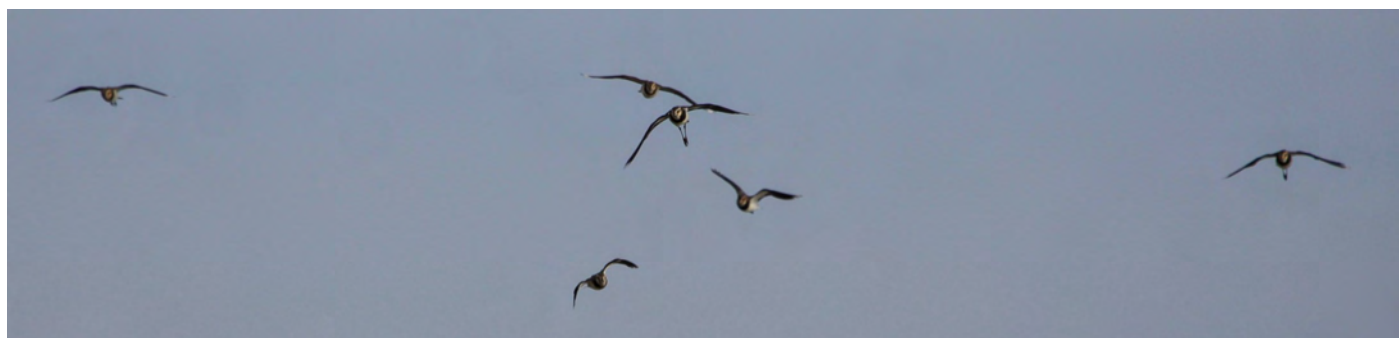


The sights and sounds of the Snettisham shore - cont'd

Every now and then an Oystercatcher would enter the seemingly solid mass of Knots and barge its way through them. If any particularly obstinate Knot were to bar the Oystercatcher's way and refuse to budge it would be rewarded by a prod from a blood red bill that is capable of smashing seashells. Quite what the purpose of these vexatious forays by the Oystercatchers was, remained unclear. They would eventually burst forth from the throng and settle down to rest again as if nothing had happened and having seemingly gained nothing from the excursion, except perhaps a feeling of superiority over their little grey companions. This scenario gave Elis the impression that the Oystercatchers were corralling the Knots and forcing them to remain where they were, huddled together in abject fear of these larger, black and white jailers. This illusion was destroyed somewhat when they suddenly shot in the air and then, completely voluntarily, returned to their cells demonstrating perhaps that, should they feel so disposed, they were at liberty to leave any time.



Tearing her attention away from this entertainment Elis noted many Ruddy Turnstones and Black-tailed Godwits along with a good number of Northern Lapwings which, for no obvious reason would suddenly throw themselves into the air, flop around lazily a few times complaining bitterly, only to settle back down in the exact spot which they had just vacated. A Marsh Harrier flew across the lagoon but was too far away to worry the assemblage of resting waders. About halfway down the lagoon the flock of Pied Avocets, that Elis had hoped would come nearer suddenly rose as one, but far from coming her way, they elected instead to fly noisily out towards the sea. At that point she decided to rejoin me.



I heard those same Avocets and opening my eyes once more I spun my head to the right from whence the sound had come and had the glorious sight of a small flock of these elegant birds flying out from the lagoons, over the estuary and alighting on the mud that was beginning to be exposed by the retreating tide.



The sights and sounds of the Snettisham shore - cont'd

Whilst my eyes had been tightly shut, I had failed to notice that the tide had turned and when it recedes at the end of the Wash it recedes very quickly. Already there was some extent of mud showing and to my delight it was occupied by a great, grey pancake of Bar-tailed Godwits, Red Knots, Dunlins and Oystercatchers which were now much closer. At this point Elis appeared by my side.



We now eagerly anticipated what was perhaps to be the highlight of the morning. As we waited the pancake suddenly morphed into a boiling cloud and the massed ranks of waders was on the move. Once again, the dullness of the day took the edge off the visual intensity of the show, but the sounds emanating from those myriad beating wings, which were now so much closer, stirred our souls as they thrashed hither and yon. The soft throb, like a distant wave breaking on a deserted beach as they turned in unison, was an acoustic feast for us both.



The birds settled once again and as they did the piping of a lone Oystercatcher came from behind us. Glancing back, we saw it coming over the bank from the lagoon and flying out to the mud.



The sights and sounds of the Snettisham shore - cont'd

Gradually more would appear, in small but increasingly cacophonous flocks and speed out to their friends gathering in the ooze, gliding low, mirrored in the shiny, wet mud. Time after time they went, and the jostling flock grew. We knew that what we had been waiting for was now only moments away.



The jailers had abandoned the jail. We turned our attention to the bank between us and the lagoon, on the other side of which we knew thousands of Knots were discussing whether it was time to hit the buffet or not.



The first of them came over the top, 'Here they come' I blurted with undisguised glee, but a mere hundred or so appeared and raced around to our left. Not quite what we had hoped for, but we knew better was potentially still to come.

Then suddenly more came over, this time the vanguard dragged several hundred of their cohort with them streaming out like bats from a cave. They flew directly at us and right over our heads, we felt we could have reached up and touched them. The ripple of their collective wings was mesmerising, and we could almost feel their presence. In wave after wave they came, and with each the same, almost tactile, birding experience was repeated, I felt myself absorbing the energy generated by these tiny world travellers in a form of ornithological tree hugging.



The sights and sounds of the Snettisham shore - cont'd

After many such pulses of avian vitality we were quite exhausted by the pure pleasure that they had given us and, after one really protracted stream, I surmised that the show was over. As the last of them went over I spun with them to watch the rearguard performing distraction manoeuvres with chaotic trajectories designed to disorientate even the most determined, and single minded, of pursuers. They spread out across the mud in an exuberant display of what could easily be misconstrued as playful glee.



We began to gather our things in order to return to our waiting car, as we did so small bursts came over stopping us in our tasks. After each I proclaimed again that it must have been the last, surely, this time. As we walked away, we were forced to turn by the flurry of wings proving me wrong for the umpteenth time.

We walked back along the track quietly, still revelling in the encounter we had just shared. Then a Mediterranean Gull called over our heads. I looked up and saw that beyond it, the Golden Plovers had returned and were accompanying us along the beach. We stopped to observe them in their loose flock. As we did so they began to descend and then, as though being poured onto the mud like tiny fragments of glitter, they alighted, each new arrival landing just in front of the previous bird spreading across the mud like the turgid flow of the edge of a lava field. As they landed, they seemed to form a solid line which spread like someone drawing a 2B pencil across the mudflats. Previously silent, the congregation had now become noisy, their twittering and tweeting enriching the sound scape adding a new dimension to the symphony.



The sights and sounds of the Snettisham shore - cont'd

Then a skirmish in front of us drew our attention to a trio of Common Ringed Plovers who were noisily disputing something or other. They called and displayed, crouched and ran about holding our attention for some time until they eventually sped away to another arena in which to do battle.



Sadly, our waderfest was drawing to a close. Before heading away, I turned for one last look at the now almost waterless vista, I would have liked to have stayed there forever and watched the tides ebb and flow, bringing with them the birds and the sights and sounds of one of the world's most wonderful, yet unappreciated, environments and one that seems to register as worthless in far too many people's mind.



If only everyone who has dominion over the fate of these incredible places, could come and share in their constantly moving vitality. There they could savour the sounds and marvel at the sights so redolent of them and witness their beauty first hand. Maybe then they would realise just how very important these places are to so many millions of living beings which depend upon them for absolutely everything in their simple and pure lives.

Beware the calls for tidal power, the movement of the water is worth so much more than a few megawatts of electricity.

Who's who in wader nomenclature, fame and obscurity; Brisson and Armstrong – Rick Simpson

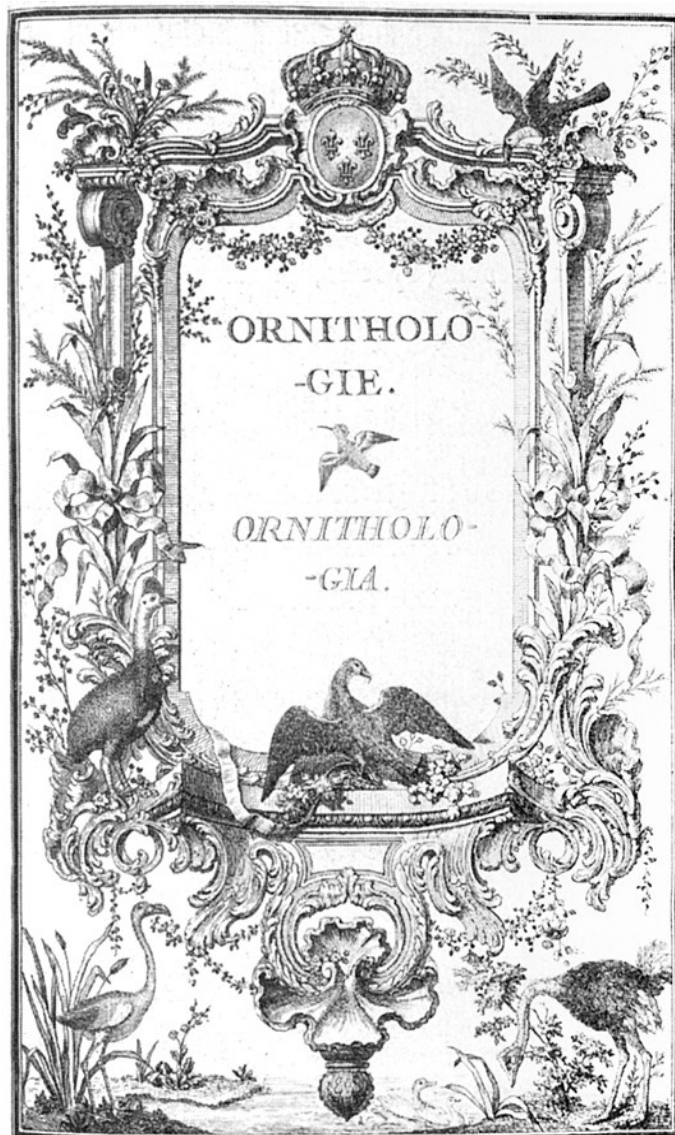
Fame: Mathurin Jacques Brisson, (1723–1806) French zoologist and natural philosopher.

Brisson was born in the town of Fontenay-le-Comte. He abandoned his ecclesiastical studies to work for a wealthy French naturalist by the name of René Antoine Ferchault de Réaumur. His job was to curate de Réaumur's natural history collection. In doing so Brisson's interest in the classification of the Animal Kingdom grew and he was greatly influenced by Carl Linnaeus. He wrote a book on the subject called *Le Règne Animal*, which was published in 1756, and more importantly for us, a six-volume work called *Ornithologie* in 1760.

In that tome, he named various wader species, some names have stuck with us today, and others have not. He did not follow Linnaeus' binomial system, although he did name birds in Latin, and so much of his work was ignored when that system became the standard although Linnaeus himself used many of his names. One example is where Brisson, erroneously, referred to the Far Eastern Curlew as *Courly de Madagascar* when he mis-read a label that actually read Macassar (now Sulawesi). Far Eastern Curlew has never occurred in Madagascar and Madagascar is not in the Far East. Linnaeus, having never seen a specimen of Far Eastern Curlew, used Brisson's name to create his binomial for the species *Scolopax madagascariensis*, unwittingly condemning the species to be named erroneously forever more due to the rules of scientific nomenclature insisting that the first valid binomial name becomes the species type name, even if it is clearly absurd.

Linnaeus' *Scolopax* didn't hold up either as the various scolopacids got separated, so a new genus was needed, and it was in Brisson's work that the answer was found; *Numenius* widely supposed to mean 'new moon' but see XXX. This name Brisson had found mentioned in ancient Greek literature by Hesychius referring to a bird with a crescent shaped bill and it was widely supposed to be the Curlew by scholars.

When de de Réaumur died in 1757 Brisson abandoned Natural History and took up natural philosophy instead.



Frontispiece *Ornithologie* Brisson 1760

Obscurity: Frank Bradley Armstrong, (1863–

Genera currently in use:

- Jacana* 1760 Jacanas
- Himantopus* 1760 Stilts
- Glareola* 1760 Pratincoles
- Vanellus* 1760 Lapwings
- Pluvialis* 1760 Tundra plovers
- Limosa* 1760 Godwits
- Numenius* 1760 Curlews and Whimbrels
- Arenaria* 1760 Turnstones
- Phalaropus* 1760 Phalaropes
- Gallinago* 1760 Snipes

Genera no longer in use:

Squatarola 1760 now species name for Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*.



Species - none of which are in use today:

- Numenius numenius* 1760 Eurasian Curlew *N. arquata*
- Pluvialis aurea* 1760 European Golden Plover *P. apricaria*
- Pluvialis major* 1760 Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*
- Vanellus griseus* 1760 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
- Vanellus helveticus* 1760 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
- Vanellus varius* 1760 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Subspecies:

- Pluvialis dominicensis aurea* 1760 American Golden Plover
- Pluvialis dominica*

Who's who in wader nomenclature, fame and obscurity; Brisson and Armstrong – cont'd

1915) Canadian ornithologist and taxidermist.

Frank Armstrong was born in St. Johns, New Brunswick, Canada. His father was trained as a lawyer but was also an amateur naturalist, unfortunately he died in 1868 when Frank was still very young. However, some of the Natural History genes must have been inherited as after a family move to Boston, Armstrong graduated and then studied taxidermy for two years with Professor Charles Johnson Maynard (1845–1929). (Maynard was an American naturalist and ornithologist who, in 1899, named a species of oystercatcher *Haematopus prattii*. This was destined to become a synonym of American Oystercatchers of the nominate race *H. palliatus palliatus*. (As this is the obscure section Maynard fits in rather well with his erstwhile student in this article.) It was in Boston that Armstrong wrote his first essays on ornithology, mammalogy, and oology.

He travelled the southwest USA and spent several years in the field in Mexico based in Laredo, Texas. He later travelled to Brownsville and was so enamoured of the wildlife there that he moved his collection and taxidermy studio there. He studied subtropical bird life, upon which his later reputation was mainly based.

So, when it came to waders his area of study didn't give him much opportunity for becoming noted and indeed the species that he did name *Totanus haughtoni* in 1876 doesn't occur in the region and is a synonym for Nordmann's or Spotted Greenshank, now *Tringa guttifer*. (He named the species after Professor Reverend Samuel Haughton (1821–1897) an Irish zoologist priest and Professor of Geology - who also fits well in this article since this was *his* only entry in the waderologists hall of fame.)

Despite Nordmann becoming the person associated with the species in modern times, there were those in the past who called the species Armstrong's Sandpiper or Armstrong's Yellowlegs.



Frank B. Armstrong 1891. Photo courtesy of Frank B. Armstrong III – Bulletin Texas Ornithological Society_v27n01-02, 1994

Waders in poetry; *The Sentinel* - Julia Page

It starts as Zephyrs gently blow a herald introduction theme,
Whilst distant waves come rolling in with rhythmic regularity.
A million grains of tinkling sand blow horizontally inland,
The swish and sway of marram grass will add the perfect background sound.

Mother Nature's orchestra now plays its best accompaniment,
Across the marsh, top C cries out with magical accomplishment.
It's hard to see how one top C preceded by a brief top D
Could really be the finest song in Mother Nature's repertoire.

For those of us hemmed in by concrete, plastic grass and crowded streets,
This poignant treat is long awaited, unsurpassed, evocative.
A soloist of salt marsh shallows, wind swept skies, quite like no other.
Common redshank sounds so lowly, without merit, ordinary.

City folk who cherish peace revere this priceless marshland gem,
It lifts tired hearts to breath again, to hear the joy of lonely places,
Wild flower dykes by tidal channels, tranquil untamed open space.
This haunting note will always mean sweet freedom from our urban traces.



Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* - Elis Simpson

Cover photo; European Golden Plover - Elis Simpson



European Golden Plover - Elis Simpson

The European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* is one of the abiding symbols of moorland. Their plaintive and thin cries piercing the ever present sound of wind often being the first indication that they are nearby. Despite their brilliant colours they blend in well with their surroundings during the breeding season.

As we drove back from a trip across the moors we came across this individual in a perfect setting, the bird gloriously highlighted by the sun set against the dark, clouded moorland behind with just the very top lit by the sun providing a balance with the brighter foreground. Sometimes you can spend hours setting up or waiting for conditions to be just right, and sometimes, like in this case, you just stop the car and it all comes together.

What made this moment all the more special was being told that the scientific species name for this bird is *apricaria*, which means 'basking in the sun', which is exactly what this bird was doing.

European Golden Plover - Rick Simpson

European Golden Plover

Pluvialis apricaria

Linnaeus 1758

IUCN Least Concern

Scientific name explained: *Pluvialis*: Latin; relating to rain (*pluvia* rain). (Brisson 1760): *apricaria* Latin *apricaria* to bask in the sun (*apricus* sunny).

Alternative English names: Baltic Golden Plover, Black-breasted Plover, British Golden Plover, Bullhead, Bullseye, Eurasian Golden Plover, Greater Golden Plover, Green Plover, Grey Plover, Hill Plover, Invisible Piper, Oh Dee-Ar, Old Man, Rainbird, Rain Cuckow [sic], Saw-beer, Sheep's Guide, Squealer Wandering Jew, Western Golden Plover, Whistle of the waste, Whistling Plover, Yellow Plover.

Non-English names: (Europe) Albanian; *Gjelaci pikalosh ngjyrtë, Gjelaci pikalosh ngjyrë ari* **Breton;** *Ar morlivid-lann, Morlivid-lann* **Catalan;** *Daurada grossa, Fuell* **Cornish;** *Cornwhysten owr* **Croatian;** *Troprsti Zlatar* **Czech;** *kulík zlatý* **Danish;** *Hjejle* **Dutch;** *Goudplevier* **Finnish;** *kapustarinta* **French;** *Pluvier doré, Pluvier doré d'Eurasie* **Gaelic;** *Feadag* **German;** *Goldregenpfeifer* **Hungarian;** *Aranylile* **Icelandic;** *Heiðlóa* **Irish;** *Feadóg Bhuí, Feadóg rua* **Italian;** *Piviere dorato* **Latvian;** *Dzeltenais tārtiņš* **Lithuanian;** *Dirvinis sejikas, Dirvinis sėjikas, Pūdymėlis, Vingiras*



European Golden Plover - Elis Simpson

European Golden Plover - cont'd

Norwegian; *Akerlo, Heilo, Helun* **Macedonian;** *златно блатарче, Тропски дождосвирец, Тропски златар* **Maltese;** *Pluviera* **Manx;** *Feddag reasht, Fedjag Reeast, Ushag reasht, Ushag Reeast* **Moldavian;** *Ploier auriu* **Montenegrin;** *златни вивак (zlatni vivak)* **Polish;** *siewka złota* **Portuguese;** *Tarambola-dourada* **Romanian;** *Ploier auriu* **Russian;** *Золотистая ржанка (Zolotistaya Rzhanka)* **Serbian;** *Zlatni vivak* **Slovak;** *kulík zlatý* **Slovenian;** *zlata prosenka* **Spanish;** *Chorlito Dorado Europeo* **Swedish;** *Ljungpipare, Regnpipare, Alvar-grimen* (ghost of the heath) **Ukrainian;** *Сивка звичайна* **Welsh;** *Chwilgorn y mynydd, Cornicyll aur, Cornicyll y mynydd, Cwtiad aur, Cwtyn aur, Cwtyn yr aur.*

Collective nouns: There are a number of collective nouns that refer to plovers in general; a congregation, a band, a ponderance, a concentration, a wing, a brace, a leash, a stand, an invisibility, a trip. The last now being generally for the Eurasian Dotterel *Eudromius morinellus*. The penultimate, an invisibility, is intriguing. As stated, this could equally refer to many plover species, a Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* on a stony beach is undetectable unless it moves for example. However, the origin may come from a local name for the Golden Plover 'invisible piper'. This may in turn refer to the fact that they all but disappear in certain habitats (see photo below) but may possibly come from their song flight.

On the island of Öland in Sweden Golden Plovers have been called *Alvar-grimen*. *Alvar* means heath, and *grimen*, ghost. This comes from the fact that, when in display flight, their call can often be heard but the bird itself, very hard to find as they glide slowly, flapping very little. The bird can be clearly heard, but not seen, giving a ghostly feeling to the sound emanating from an invisible source. The effect is apparently magnified if a number of birds are displaying simultaneously.



There are 11 'invisible plovers' in this picture, can you find them? (Solution on p49) - Elis Simpson

Of the options above I prefer a congregation. Looking at the picture below the birds look like a congregation on the backside-polished pews of a rural church. They all face the same way, one or two seem more interested in what is going on around them than listening to the silent sermon and one or two look like they are about to doze off completing the simile.

Of course, they actually congregate facing the same way as they face the wind because, should they need to, they are given instant uplift if they need to take flight in a hurry.



A congregation of Golden Plovers - Elis Simpson

European Golden Plover - cont'd

Suborder: Charadrii [Huxley](#) 1867
Family: Charadriidae [Leach](#) 1820
Subfamily: Pluvianellae [MacGillivray](#) 1852

Synonymy of genus:
Charadrius Linnaeus 1758

Protonym:
Charadrius apricarius Linnaeus 1758

Synonymy of species :
C. pluvialis Linnaeus 1758
Pluvialis aurea Brisson 1760
C. auratus Suckow (1801)
C. campestris Nilsson 1814
C. altifrons Brehm 1831
P. apricarius Bonaparte 1842



European Golden Plovers - Elis Simpson

Taxonomy: Monotypic - formerly two subspecies were recognised *P. a. apricaria* and *P. a. atrifrons* but see below.

Systematic / Taxonomic history: Originally described by Linnaeus as *Charadrius apricaria*, based on artwork from his mentor, Olof Rudbeck the younger, of an adult breeding specimen from Öland, Sweden [Fig 1]. However, Linnaeus also described a bird in juvenile plumage as a separate species, *C. Pluvialis* [sic] from another plate by the same mentor [Fig 2]. This mistake was soon recognised and, as *apricaria* was described first, it took priority over *Pluvialis*.

In 1760 Brisson introduced *Pluvialis* as the genus to separate the golden plovers from the ringed plovers (*Charadrius*). The gender of the genus and species, according to the rules of nomenclature, need to match. However, *Pluvialis* is neither masculine nor feminine so *apricarius* the masculine form, which matched *Charadrius* as described by Linnaeus, could be applied to *Pluvialis*. However, it seems that Monsieur Brisson considered *Pluvialis* to be feminine so applied *apricaria*, the feminine form.

The species name thus decided confusion about subspecies raised its ugly head later on. Seebohm wrote in 1888 'Although Brehm subdivided the Golden Plover into four species, there seems to be no evidence of the existence of any local races of this bird. Few species vary so little.' This assertion did not however deter later ornithologists from trying to do so.

In 1921 Mrs A. C. Meinhertzhagen gave subspecific status to what she thought to be the southern, paler, form of the species. Her type locality was Orkney, Scotland. She named this subspecies *P. a. oreophilus*, meaning mountain loving, a nod to its habit of breeding on uplands. This then made the nominate *P. a. apricaria* that of Linnaeus, from Öland.

However, the BOU begged to differ in 1924. They argued that since some individuals in the type locality for *apricaria* i.e. Öland were of the paler persuasion referred to as the southern form, they decided that the birds from there should be *P. a. apricaria*, despite the type specimen being clearly the darker form from further north in Lapland. That decided, they adopted a completely new subspecific name *P. a. altifrons* (one of Brehm's splits in 1831 meaning high - *altus* forehead *frons*) for the northern form.

This caused chaos in the literature of bird nomenclature:
Peters 1934 (Did not include English names): *P. a. apricaria* [northern] & *P. a. oreophilus* [southern].

Witherby 1940: Southern Golden Plover *P. a. apricaria* & Northern Golden Plover *P. a. altifrons*.

Bannerman in Birds of Cyprus 1958 wrote; 'Endless confusion now exists over the correct name to be used for the bird which breeds in the extreme north, as the List Committee applied Linnaeus' name to the southern race, and Witherby in his widely read Handbook of British Birds followed the list Committee's ruling. So did the B. O. U, List sub-committee 1952, making confusion doubly confounded!'



Fig 1



Fig 2

European Golden Plover - cont'd

A mere three years later in 1961, he wrote in *The Birds of the British Isles* '... the nomenclature of this species is still in a state of confusion, leading ornithologists unable to agree as to which bird (if two subspecies are recognised) should bear Linnaeus' name *apricarius*.

However, since northern-like birds have been found to occur in Orkney, Meinertzhagen's type locality for *oreophilus* and southern type birds occur in the Faeroes, Brehm's type locality for *altifrons*, increasingly, ornithologists thought the whole thing needed reconsidering.

Further studies were suggested to get to the bottom of this mess but, in the meantime, thankfully, European Golden Plover is considered monotypic... *by most...* for now!



'Southern' Golden Plover - Elis Simpson

Conservation status: Cultivation and afforestation of heathlands is the species major threat as it has reduced its range. Climate change could affect the range still further. On its wintering quarters, it is also vulnerable to extremely cold weather conditions and in some European countries it is still hunted. In the UK it is the only wader species outside of the Snipes and Woodcock family still to be legally hunted. The open season is between September and January but the bird is protected on the Isle of Man (BASC). It is also hunted in France.

Population:

The European population is estimated at 630,000-860,000 pairs, which equates to 1,260,000-1,720,000 mature individuals or 1,890,000-2,600,000 individuals (BirdLife International 2015). For this, the estimated increase in individuals and the large range size, this species is considered to be of Least Concern.



'Resting Golden Plovers - Elis Simpson

Curiosities:

- It is very interesting that both parts of the bird's name relate to weather, and opposite weather at that, one rain, the other sun. It is immediately obvious when catching a glimpse of this birds' back why it is associated with the sun, its bright golden yellow, spangled upperparts appear to glint in the light, even if there is no actual sunshine. The genus name is not so obvious, and we have to look to folklore for the connection between the bird and its name. *Pluvialis* was initially given to the Golden Plovers by Linnaeus (see Systematic / Taxonomic history:;) and he, in turn had attended the ornithological lectures of his mentor, one Olof Rudbeck the Younger, who said in his lectures, the notes for which still exist, that these birds are called *regnpipare* or rain-caller [a now disused name, the Swedish now being *ljungpipare*, *ljung* meaning heather] due to flocking together before rain.
- Golden Plovers ceased to breed in the Netherlands in 1937. Whether or not this was due to the wilsterflappers is unclear, but unlikely as they were still able to catch large numbers suggesting most, if not all, of their catch was of migrant birds. In Friesland the Golden Plover is known as a *wilster*, hence the name of their trappers. The trappers would use enormous nets that would catch birds in flight and those alighted on the ground where they had been attracted by whistled imitations of their voice, live captive birds that were induced to flap by the judicious tugging of a string attached to them, and also by stuffed decoys set about the trapping area. When the birds arrived the trapper, who was behind a screen would operate the net catching many birds simultaneously, sometimes as many as 20 at a time. In the winter of 1938-1939 it was calculated that 16,185 birds were caught. The upside is that using the same method, researchers trapped and ringed 296 Golden Plovers, the beginning of scientific trapping of these birds had begun, and fewer and fewer were sent to market, which at that time, was mostly in England.
- There is a myth known as the 'seven whistlers', where six birds (generally Eurasian Whimbrels *Numenius phaeopus* search the night sky whilst whistling for the seventh. Should they find the seventh then Armageddon will occur. However, it is not just whimbrels that have had this epithet attached to them. The European Golden Plover is also supposed, in some parts, to carry the same burden. It is also said to be a bad omen if you hear them. In his English

European Golden Plover - cont'd

Folklore (1878) the Rev. Thomas Firminger Thiselton-Dyer informs us that the superstition in Lancashire tells a similar story to that of the Whimbrels;

'There is a Lancashire superstition which identifies the plover with the transmuted soul of a Jew. When seven of them are seen together, they are called the 'seven whistlers,' and their sound, it is said, foretells misfortune to those who hear it. A correspondent of Notes and Queries thus alludes to this odd piece of superstition: 'One evening a few years ago, when crossing one of our Lancashire moors, in company with an intelligent old man, we were suddenly startled by the whistling over-head of a covey of plovers. My companion remarked that, when a boy, the old people considered such a circumstance a bad omen, 'as the person who heard the wandering Jews,' as he called the plovers, 'was sure to be overtaken with some ill-luck.'

Colliers in Leicestershire had a superstition that if the call of the Golden Plover was heard it was a portent of a calamity of some kind and they would refuse to go down the pit that day. This followed a previous mining disaster where many men died, when the 'seven whistlers' were blamed as Golden Plovers had been heard on the evening before the disaster.

This superstition, did though, serve to highlight the dangerous nature of working in the pits and led, ultimately, to industrial disputes. These led to reforms that were carried out to make the miner's lives less hazardous; so, you could argue that Golden Plovers have even inspired industrial action and safety reform.

- In the early 1950s, Sir Hugh Beaver and his friends were out for a day's shooting on Wexford Slobbs in Ireland. During the course of the day, a Golden Plover flew past at such speed that none there had time to raise their guns, much less loose off a shot at the bird. By the end of the day Sir Hugh had failed to bag a single one. This rankled him somewhat and it led to a discussion, and much conjecture, as to which of the European game birds had the swiftest flight. Surely, he suggested, it must be the Golden Plover?

Later that evening, and in the days that followed, scouring the literature on the subject at the time did not produce a satisfactory answer. In 1954 Sir Hugh, who was then Managing Director of the Guinness Brewery, remembered the galling episode and was inspired to come up with the idea of creating a book that contained the superlative facts and figures of the world. It was a book he envisaged that would be placed in every pub the length and breadth of the country to settle arguments without recourse to fisticuffs. So it was that in 1955 the Guinness Book of Records, later to become Guinness World Records, was launched.

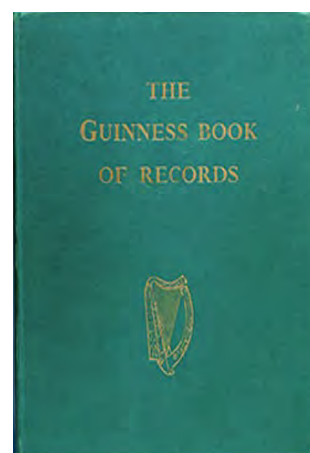
- There are records of this species going back to the 13th century at least, mainly as food, although in 1555 Belon wrote of the '*Pluvier*'. *'It seems that is it so named it can be taken better in rainy weather than in any other season.'* In 1520 the price of Golden Plovers appears to have been as high as 2d each, a high price indeed for that time.

- The European Golden Plover spends the boreal summer in Iceland, and in Icelandic folklore, the appearance of the first plover in the country means that spring has arrived. The Icelandic media always covers the first plover sighting. The average date of arrival is March 25th, based on arrivals since 1998. The first golden plover (*Lóa*) was spotted in Iceland in 2024 on March 24th in Garður, a town in the western part of Suðurnes peninsula.

This is reflected in Icelandic folklore as well. Perhaps the most famous example of this is the poem *Lóan er komin* by the Icelandic poet Páll Ólafsson, who penned this verse in around 1875:

*The plover has arrived to bid the snow farewell
to bid boredom farewell, that she does.
She has told me that soon the whimbrel will
come,
sunshine in valleys and blossoms in fields.
She has told me of my sins,
I sleep too much and I don't work much.
She has told me to wake up and work
and with great hopefulness welcome the
summer.*

- The Dunlin *Calidris alpina* is sometimes called 'Plover's page' because of its close association with the European Golden Plover. Dunlins have been observed keeping in close contact with Golden Plovers, giving the impression that they are 'in the service' of the Golden Plover. In fact, there is almost certainly no benefit to the Golden Plover at all and this relationship is probably detrimental to their well-being. So, instead of being the plover's page, they are more likely a pain in the cloaca! For more details read [What is a plover's page?](#)



European Golden Plover and Dunlin (montage) © Elis Simpson

European Golden Plover - cont'd

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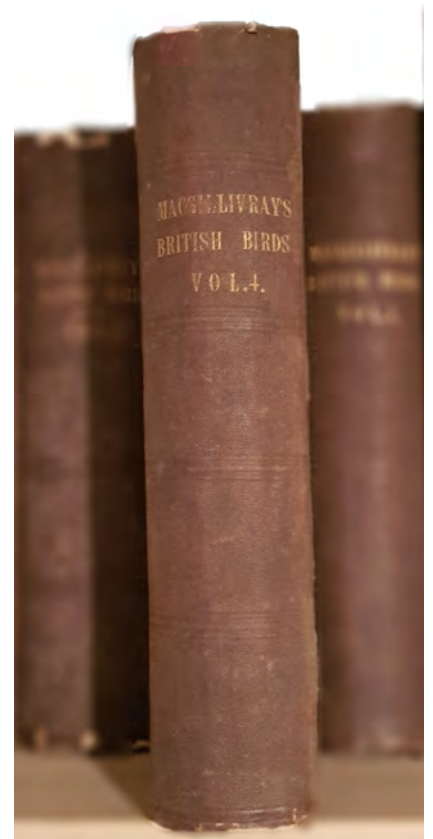
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[Wader Quest](#)

[Wikipedia](#)

From the library: A History of British Birds (1852) - William Macgillivray

Many a time and oft, in the days of my youth, when the cares of life were few, and the spirits expansile, and often too in later years, when I have made a temporary escape to the wilderness, to breathe an atmosphere untainted by the effluvia of cities, and ponder in silence on the wonders of creative power, have I stood on the high moor, and listened to the mellow notes of the [Golden] Plover, that seemed to come from the grey slopes of the neighbouring hills. Except the soft note of the Ring-Plover, I know none so pleasing from the Gallatorial tribes. Amid the wild scenery of the rugged hills and sedgy valleys, it comes gently and soothingly on the ear, and you feel, without being altogether conscious of its power, that it soothes the troubled mind, as water cools the burning brow. How unlike the shriek of the Heron—but why should we think of it, for it reminds us of the cracked and creaking voice of some village beldame of the Saxon race. The clear gentle tones of the Celtic maiden could not be more pleasant to any one, or perhaps much more welcome to her lover, than the summer note of the Golden Plover to the lover of birds and of nature. As you listen to it, now distant, now nearer, and near, and see the birds with short flights approaching as if to greet you, though in reality with more fear than confidence, with anxiety and apprehension, the bright sunshine that glances on their jetty breasts is faintly obscured by the white vapours that have crept up from the western valley, and presently all around us is suffused with an opaline light, into the confines of which a bird is dimly seen to advance, then another, and a third. Who could represent the scene on canvas or card? —a hollow hemisphere of white shining mist, on which are depicted two dark human figures, their heads surrounded with a radiant halo, and these black-breasted Golden Plovers, magnified to twice their natural size, and gazing upon us, each from its mossy tuft. It is as if two mortals had a conference on the heath with three celestial messengers—and so they have.



Book Review: The Norfolk Plover: A study of the Stone-curlew By Chris Knights - Keith Betton

The Norfolk Plover

A study of the Stone-curlew

Chris Knights



With a Foreword by Nick Acheson

Stone-curlews *Burhinus oedicnemus* are brilliant at the art of hiding and so relatively few of us see them regularly. I am lucky to live close to where they breed in Hampshire, but even as volunteer on the RSPB's Stone-curlew monitoring team I rarely get closer than 100 metres from their nests. Their lives are mostly about camouflage, whether it is their eggs, their chicks – or themselves. So to be faced with a book that is full of close-up images such as the one on its cover feels very special.

No British photographer has spent more time studying the species than Chris Knights. He has lived in the Breckland area of Norfolk for most of his life and took his first photograph of a Stone-curlew over 60 years ago. In fact in 1993, his image of an adult standing tall and challenging an approaching sheep won him third place in British Birds' Bird Photographer of the Year competition (BB 86: 247). As a farmer, Knights educated his workers to look out for nests so that they were protected against nearby farming operations. He even paid them for every nest they could find. Alongside his efforts, conservation organisations worked with other farmers in the area to create suitable nesting plots within the busy farming landscape. Gradually over the last forty years the numbers both in East Anglia and Wessex have increased, even though in that time their breeding range has contracted.

The opening chapter introduces us to the Breckland habitat and the birds to be found there throughout the year. The remainder is mostly split into the seasons, covering the birds' early arrival in early spring, through two nesting cycles, autumn flocking and then departure. In particular there are photo sequences for individual pairs showing aspects of display, nesting and defence. Stone-curlews normally lay two eggs in each clutch, but Knights includes photographs of two clutches of three eggs, and one of four. In each case it is thought that two females used the same nest, although full details of the outcomes are not given.

There is also a surprising section on wintering, which became a regular occurrence in Norfolk for up to 12 birds in most years from 2000 until 2018. That last year saw an anticyclone bring deep snow and two weeks of exceptionally cold weather at

Book Review: The Norfolk Plover: A study of the Stone-curlew By Chris Knights - cont'd

the end of February, and it is likely that all of those wintering Stone-curlews perished. There have been no further sightings in winter, but if milder autumn temperatures become the norm, perhaps the wintering trend will recommence.

The book closes with a chapter on interactions with people. The future for Stone-curlews depends very much on the co-operation of farmers to adjust their operations to give the birds a better chance of success. In some places that is helped through the creation of government-funded nesting plots, but in Norfolk many birds nest among the fields of sugar beet. This has proved to be an ideal habitat for them, and the existence of nearby pig farms often provides ideal foraging. In my experience, Stone-curlews are opportunistic, and while traditional sites are maintained by regular pairs, others manage to find small areas of temporary habitat and grab a chance at nesting. If they are on land that is managed by a farmer who wants them to win, then their chances of success are so much higher. This book can only help to make farmers feel proud to have these birds nesting alongside them.

Privately published. 2023 - Hbk, 215 pp. Nearly 400 colour photographs - ISBN: 978-1-3999-5569-0 - [£27.95](#) - [Wildsounds](#)

Wader news from the internet

Notable national records of waders (subject to acceptance by national committees)

- 1st [Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* April Tunisia](#)
- 1st [breeding record of White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus* for Georgia](#)
- 1st [Siberian Sand Plover *Anarhynchus mongolus* for Finland](#)
- 1st [Greater Sand plover *Anarhynchus leschenaultii* for São Tomé e Príncipe](#)
- 2nd [Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* for New Zealand](#)
- 2nd [Stilt Sandpiper for Denmark](#)
- 2nd [Western Sandpiper *Calidris maura* for the Netherlands](#)
- 2nd [Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* for the Netherlands](#)



Wilson's Phalarope - Elis Simpson

Second record of Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* in Columbia

In July, a team from the Calidris Association had a day of birding in Iscuandé, Nariño in Colombia. There they encountered an odd-looking bird they had not seen before, a very pale plover.

The bird was apparently resting and preening among the other waders at high tide when all of a sudden, they started to harass the plover.

The previous record in Colombia was on the 11th of September 2023 in Boca de Camarones, in Los Flamencos Flora and Fauna Sanctuary, in the department of La Guajira on the Gulf coast. This then is the first record of the species on the Columbian Pacific coast.

Our observation team comprised biologists from the Calidris Association and inhabitants of the Juanchillo village, one of the communities of the CC Esfuerzo Pescador. [Original article](#) (Spanish) and [more information](#) (Spanish).



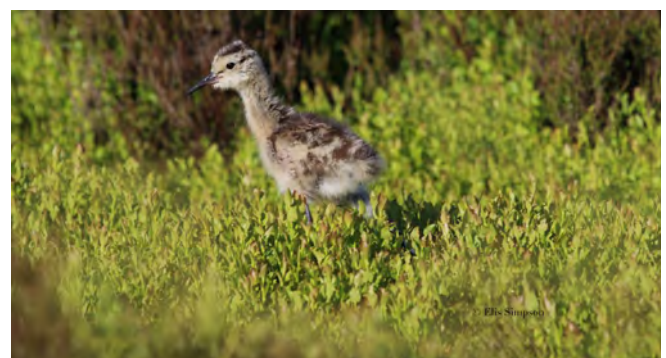
Piping Plover - Dina Estupiñán /Asociación Calidris

Thermal imaging drones used to help Eurasian Curlew conservation

Thermal imaging drones were used to find Eurasian Curlew nests this year in Wales. Curlew nests are notoriously difficult to find so this new technology will speed up the process and hopefully be more efficient swiftly covering a greater area than the current observation methods are able to achieve.

This should enable conservationists to find and protect more nests by erecting predator exclusion fences around the nest site.

This is of course only part of the battle as the fences do not defend against aerial predators and when the birds have hatched, they will leave the protected zone and become vulnerable to predators. [Birdguides summary here.](#)



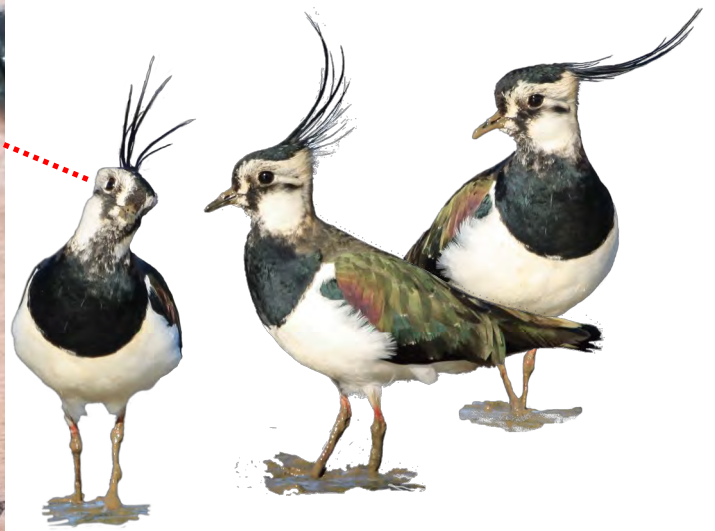
Eurasian Curlew chick - Elis Simpson

Did you find all 11 Golden Plovers?



Solution to the invisible plover puzzle on p42 - Elis Simpson

And the real Lapwing egg is...



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.)

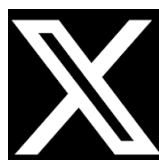
If you have ever wondered who all these people who have named waders are, or thought about the people behind the names given in honour of someone, then this is the place to look for your answers.

How you can help Wader Quest:

Help us raise awareness

Join [Wader Conservation World Watch](#) 2nd/3rd November 2024

Share our social media



Help us raise funds to support wader conservation

Charity number; 1193674

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Use QR code on the right to make a donation



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Red Dragon Metal Art

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)

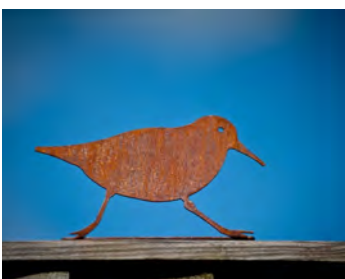
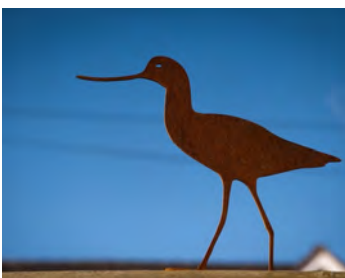
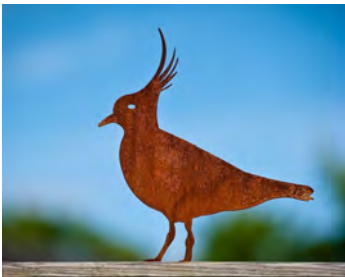
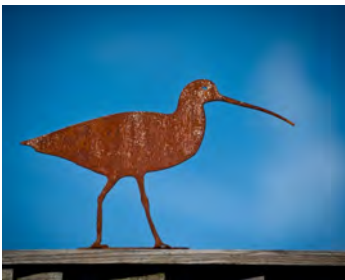
Curlew (small)

Lapwing

Avocet

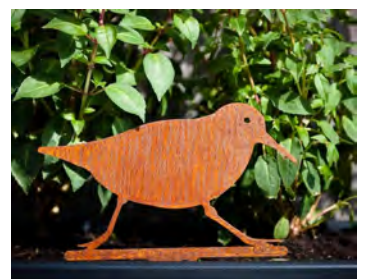
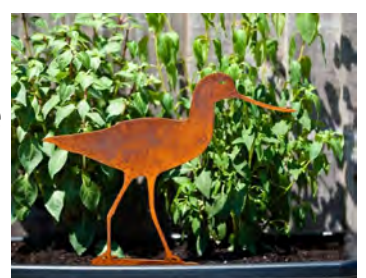
Sanderling

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.

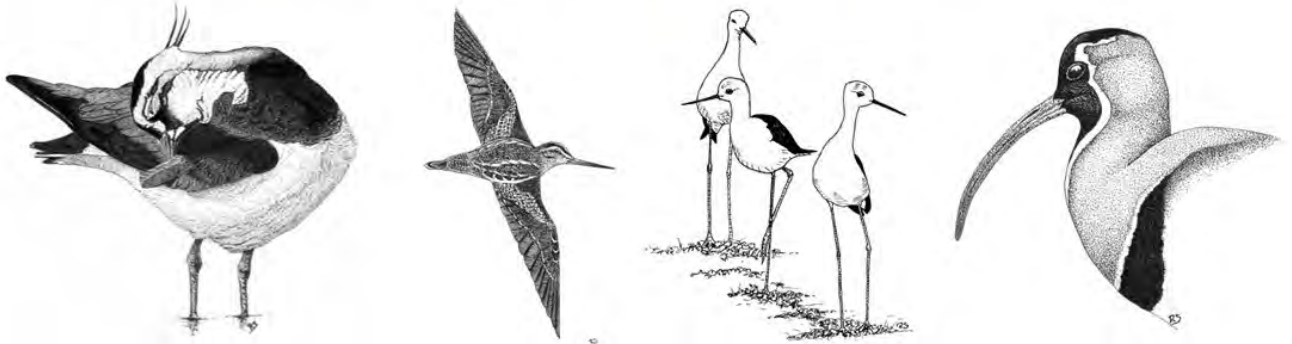


[WWW.RedDragonMetalArt.co.uk](http://www.RedDragonMetalArt.co.uk)

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



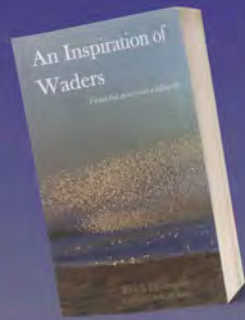
'Breathtakingly excellent - like a birding Michael Palin. The photographs and drawings are fantastic, and the text is fast-moving and endlessly entertaining and amusing.' Jim Wright.

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.



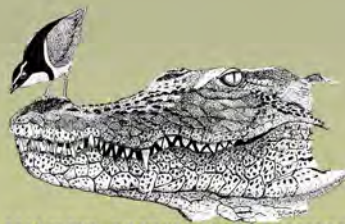
BY RICK AND ELIS SIMPSON



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

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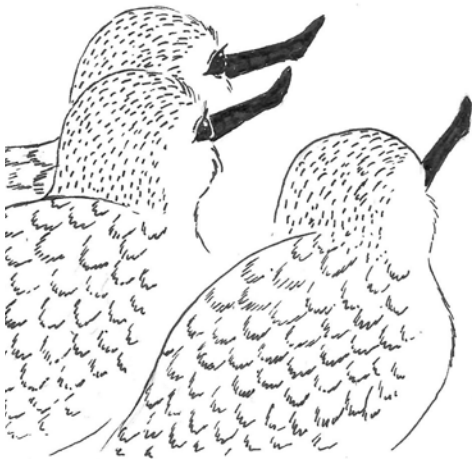
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34. Common Snipe
35. American Avocet
36. Grey Phalarope
37. Killdeer
39. Common Redshank
40. Asian Dowitcher
41. Red Knot
42. Red-wattled Lapwing

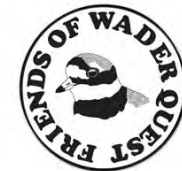
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**NEW FOWQ 2024
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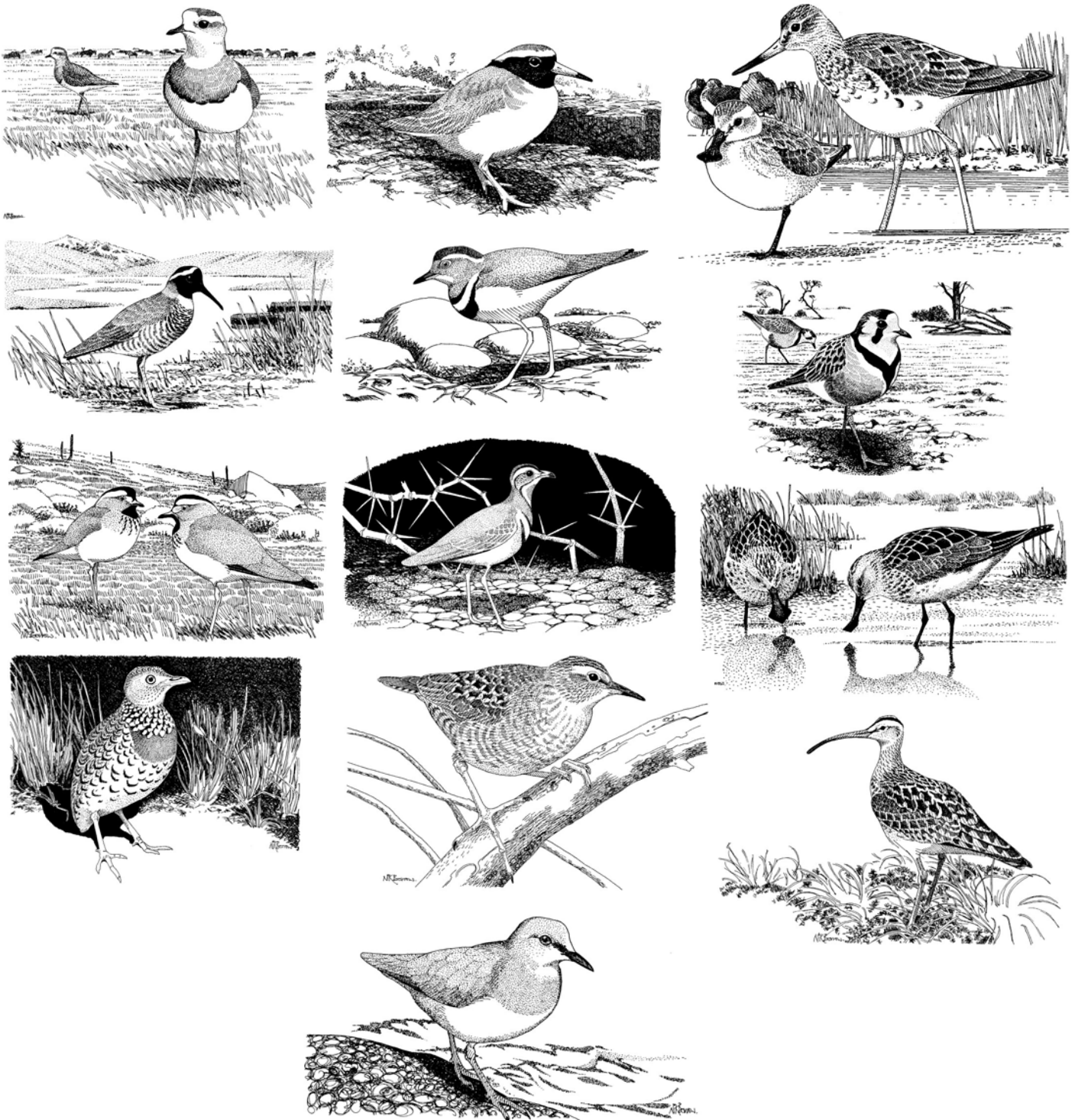
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100 X 150 MM

£1.00 EACH

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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



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

**Designs by
Julia Page**

sales@waderquest.net

Guidelines for applications for Wader Quest grants

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

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

Priority will be given to projects:

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

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

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

£61,023.44

Species supported

African Oystercatcher
American Oystercatcher
Collared Plover
Eurasian Curlew
Great Knot
Hooded Plover
Ibisbill
Jack Snipe
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