



WADER QUEST

THE NEWSLETTER Volume 12; Issue 2 2025



Purple Sandpiper - Elis Simpson

This issue is dedicated to the memory of a dear friend of Wader Quest; Julia Page.

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Grant applications and information:

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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

This issue is dedicated to the memory of a dear friend of Wader Quest; Julia Page.

Julia Page passed away on 19th February.

Julia's daughter Stella wrote:

'She fought until the very end but had been struggling with several difficult health issues for quite a while... Very recently she proudly shared the latest Wader Quest newsletter with me, featuring her wonderful poem, as well as her artworks for sale. She was always so thrilled to be part of the publication, and she treasured her friendship with you both [Rick and Elis] and the shared passion for wader birds for whom she was so fond.

She also often shared with me the very sweet comments you had made about my music, that always meant a lot to her as it did to me.

I want to thank you both for your kindness and friendship to her, she so appreciated having fellow bird lovers to talk to.'

In her message above, Stella mentioned music. In addition to the poems and artworks that Julia shared with us to simply enjoy or to sell to raise funds (see [cards and postcards](#) page in the shop), she was also a composer and talented musician. She wrote a two part piece especially for Wader Quest to accompany some footage of waders in flight, forming inspirations; this she called [Wader Song](#). The two pieces and some footage were put together, after hearing the news, in a rough and ready edit so as not to detract from the music. Julia composed the music and played piano on the soundtrack, the other instruments were played by Stella (Guitar and Cello) and Julia's son Robert (Violin).



Northern Lapwing at Titchwell Marsh - Julia Page; to purchase a copy of this postcard and others by Julia visit our [online shop](#).

Wader Quest news - cont'd

Chair's Comment

After our meeting for the first time, Julia Page and I became good friends, corresponding about many things like our shared interest in trees, plants and gardening for wildlife, indeed she present Elis and I with some saplings she had 'rescued' for our new garden here in North Yorkshire. They are all flourishing well. She would share photographs of the birds and insect she saw in her garden, and we would often discuss music (particularly that of her daughter Stella, who goes by the stage name of Stella La Page. She always took an interest in the development of our garden as Elis and I planned and executed ideas. She was particularly interested in our pond that we created and sadly did not live long enough for us to tell her the exciting news of our first male toad awaiting a female. Sadly his wait was in vain, but it gave us hope for next year. Julia would always exhort us to be patient. You have built it, and they will come in their own good time. Julia always delighted in the twitching tales of new birds seen by Elis and me, and where possible we'd send her a photo of some of the species we saw, it was always fun to have someone to whom I could recount the tales, whether they were superb successes or dismal dips.

Julia was also always there to speak to if I had a particularly vexing question about pretty much anything, and she doled out her wisdom with great humour, despite the great pain she was constantly suffering.

Her passing, apart from being devastating to her family, Rob, her husband, Robert and Stella her son and daughter, deprives the world of a kind, generous and loving soul, whose friendship I came to appreciate greatly, and also a great and multi faceted talent in her art, words, and music. The world is a poorer place without her, that is for sure. Julia Page RIP.

Wader Quest plans for 2025 are advancing well. Preparations for the Global Birdfair are under way. The stand is booked and, as last year, is sponsored by Wildwing / Limosa. The four new pin badges are all designed and in production and will be ready for launch at the Birdfair, we are also having a new FOWQ badge this year. All designs to be revealed at the Birdfair.

We continue to gain new members, so a big thank you to all those who have enrolled as friends of Wader Quest this year, 17 in total thus far. Our transfer of information from the old database to a new automated system is now complete, so there should be fewer mishaps with membership now that yours truly is not so deeply involved.

The automation of the finances is going well with virtually all the systems now set up and in place. All the credit for this goes to our wonderful Chair of the Executive Committee Elizabeth Anderson and our amazing Treasurer, Louise Hathaway. My task of getting the books straight at the end of each month is now just a few clicks of the mouse and does not involve endless copies and scans to be produced and sent. Hooray for technology! I just wish I understood it all!

We will be creating a new gallery system on the website so that people that generously share their photos with us can get a wider viewing of their work. Currently the galleries are buried at the foot of the species account pages and, as a result, take some finding. We plan to make the galleries more visible and so, if anyone out there has any wader photos they'd like to share with us, please send them to info@waderquest.net.



Board of Trustees update

No updates.

Executive Committee updates and news

No updates except that the Grants panel is investigating how to streamline the process of application and acceptance.

Events attended

- **10th May Global Big Day** - Once again we joined this event as a team and our plea for help in improving our third place of last year was answered, and how. For details see page 7.

Further events we will be attending in 2025

- **11-13th July Global Birdfair**; Lyndon Top, Oakham, Rutland LE15 8RN. We will be making our annual visit to Rutland again this year. [More details](#) on stand location will be provided nearer the time. The talk will be *Wader Questing Down under part 2 - New Zealand* and will be on the Curlew Stage on Saturday 12th July at 11.30. We are very pleased to announce that once again the stand will be sponsored by [Limosa / Wildwings](#).
- **12-14th September Spurn Migfest**; North Field Spurn. Another excellent event held in the wonderful Spurn area and always replete with rare birds to see over the weekend as well as the obvious attraction of the Wader Quest stand of course. [Details here](#).
- **18th-19th October Northwest Birdwatching Festival**; We will be giving a talk on both days and look forward to seeing many of the regulars again at this friendly event.
- **1st-2nd November Wader Conservation World Watch** - 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](#).

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

We are pleased to be involved in the funding of a project in Thailand which is looking at wader species movements along the East Asian/Australasian Flyway. The study intends to deploy satellite trackers and identity flags and particularly they hope to include Far Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*), a vulnerable species experiencing rapid declines. We hear that already twenty one trackers are deployed, with two trackers and three flags placed on Far Eastern Curlews.

In Nepal the Wader Quest funded study on the Ibisbill (*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*), has surveyed birds at riverside roosting sites and is developing methods for estimating population sizes.

We will give more details of these and other Wader Quest funded projects and studies in reports and features in future newsletters.

The Grants Panel are currently discussing ways that we can better help wader conservation work, in the field and through outreach, to come up with conservation interventions that work to conserve wader species and populations.



Wilson's Plover chick on Margarita Island, Venezuela - Virginia Sanz

Wader Conservation World Watch

November 1st and/or 2nd 2025



[Details of how to take part](#)
**Wherever you happen to be in
the world.**

**Global Big Day Wader Quest team on top of the
(birding) world - Rick Simpson**

Global Big Day

10 MAY 2025



eBird



**A very big THANK
YOU**

**to everyone who
participated**

see p 7 for details

Global Big Day Wader Quest team - cont'd

What a magnificent display of global unity in support of birds the Global Big Day is.

Each year, Global Birding takes part by encouraging teams and individuals to participate under their banner. Wader Quest enters an international team called, imaginatively, WaderQuestTeam. Last year we achieved third place in the [Global Birding](#) results. Spurred by this success we decided to have a go at winning the category. We wrote to everyone who participated last year and urged them to do so again this year and invited many new people to join the team. We contacted friends and colleagues around the world and asked them to share their checklists with Wader Quest, as well as asking complete strangers through social media to join the fun, and some did.

The result was a resounding success with 1,617 species recorded on the WaderQuestTeam eBird account.

Global Birding's team event is part of the eBird and Cornell's Global Big Day, but, by design, entrant's scores do not necessarily appear on the Big Day lists. Ours didn't, but, had it done so, it appears we would have come out as the top team in that too, so Wader Quest really is on top of the birding world.

Sadly we cannot respond to all contributors individually as their email address is not displayed on eBird, but we had people participating in the following 23 countries; (in alphabetical order) Anguilla, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, England, Ecuador, France, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Paraguay, South Africa, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, USA and Venezuela. A big thank you to all our correspondents and team members.

Elis' and my personal day total reached 99 species, which we found somewhat frustrating as we didn't count them until we had finished and then, despite being tired after a long day, we stayed up until midnight in the hope of hearing the local

Global Big Day 10 May 2025 Global Birding Team Results



1. Wader Quest Team	1617
2. Team Rockjumper	893
3. Team Accipiter	620
4. Eufonias Panama Team	530
5. Go Birding Team	517
6. Casual Birder Podcast Team	508
7. Canopy Family	465
8. Lawsons Team	449
9. Colombia Birdfair Team	437
10. Costa Rica Birding Team	433
11. Dacnis Colombia Team	424
12. Team Zambia	418
13. BirdLife Advisory Group Team	384
14. PAU Colombia Team	352
15. Turquoise Birding Team	322
16. Valle del Cauca Team	315



eBird



If you think your team is missing, maybe you didn't share all your lists to your team account or you don't have the word Team in your Cornell Lab Account. Please check all your details for next time so we include you. Sorry, we can't change these results once they have been published. Teams here have registered with Global Birding

Global Big Day Wader Quest team - cont'd

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* calling to make it a round 100, but alas it stayed silent. We wish to express our thanks to John Money who shared his local knowledge to help us achieve this total.

We should send a big thank you to Iqbal Ahmad who co-ordinated a fantastic effort across India with Asian Adventures India guides adding 450 species between them

A big thank you to the following people who, either sent us a list, or were mentioned as an additional observer by the person who did (the figure in brackets is the number of species seen in that country as accepted by eBird).

Anguilla (53); Jackie Cestero. **Australia (176);** Jake Barker, David Bromet, Broome Bird Observatory (8 observers), Andrea Endecott, Olivia Garcey, Kerry Hadley, Julie Keating (5 observers), Jasmin Pratt, David Secomb, Angus, Ben, Lachie & Will Vasic. **Brazil (360);** Jhonathan Araujo, Karina Ávila, Quetzalli Ávila-Lima, Rogerio Eduardo Almeida Barboza, Pedro Behne, Marcio Carvalho, Bruno Lima, Rafael Lopes, Guto Magalhães, Marcio Motta, Bruno Neri, Rodrigo Passos, Allan Clé Porto, Israel dos Santos, Felipe Henrique Santos, Andrew & Catarina Simpson. **Bulgaria (55);** Liudmila Karukina. **China;** Chris Hassell, Katherine Leung & Yang Liu. **England (128);** Simon Ashley, Chris Balchin, Roberta Goodall, Karen & Phil Hadley, Damian Money, Rob Page, Tim Ridgeway, Ciaran Shaman, Elis & Rick Simpson. **Ecuador (21);** Thalia Grant (Galapagos). **France (35)** Malo Braquier (Mayotte), Jean-François Cornuaille (Réunion), Pascaline Dourthesorin. **Hungary (0 unable to share);** Khawla Bouali. **India (450);** Ajay, Nekib Ali, Dorjee Bachung, Radheshyam Pemani Bishnoi, Rajeev Bisht, Ankit Das, Salil Dutta, Sheikh Haris, K D Kargeti, Suraj Khulal, Deepak Kumar, Kundan Kumar, Pawan Kumar, Prashant Kumar, Vinod KV, Mehmood Multani, Pankaj, Mahesh Rajpoot, Amit Ram, Gajendra Singh, Mahendra Singh, Chetu Sitapara, Phunchok Tsering. **Italy (34);** Chris Newton (Sardinia). **Japan (53);** Rob Edmunds. **Lithuania (99);** Vita Augutė. **New Zealand (57);** Elizabeth Bell, Susan Cook, Kristin House, Paul Garner-Richards, Marie-Louise Ward. **Northern Ireland (77);** Ric Else, Hazel Watson. **Norway (11);** Adrian Boyle. **Paraguay (0 unable to share list);** Rob Clay. **Scotland (26);** Penny Insole, Andrew Whitelee. **South Africa (196);** Celia Human, Sue Oertli, Niall D Perrins, Jenny & Peter Sharland, Amanda & Dennis Walden. **Spain (50);** Chuck Gates, Yanina Maggioletto. **Sweden (97);** Karin Johnson, Oskar Löfgren, Honor Prentice. **Thailand (161);** Wich'yanan Limpারণpatthanakij, Jens Toettrup. **United States (104);** Rainy Cai, Norman Ellstrand, Peter & Rosemary Grant, Tong Mu, Brittney Sheridan, David Wilcove. **Venezuela (34);** Phil Gunson.

Of course, the biggest thank you must go to Tim Appleton and Penny Robinson, that hard working and indefatigable duo that are Global Birding. Collating the results and publishing them in such a timely fashion is a painstaking task, as the Wader Quest team knows only too well from the Wader Conservation World Watch event every November. Many birders and teams get to enjoy this event through Global Birding as we do, so we are always grateful to them for setting up the platform that allows us to do so.

Please note that we do not take part in the same way for the October version of this event as it is too close to our own Wader Conservation World Watch for which we will be contacting everyone to ask them to participate. But, if you want to be part of the winning team next year... watch this space.



[Last year's details here.](#)

Wader Quest funding appeal



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
Sign up button or bar!

easyfundraising

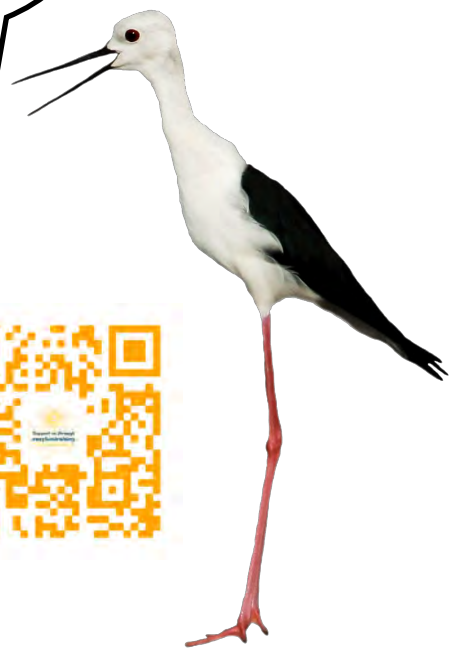
535.0 shops have supported Wader Quest

Sign up

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SCREWFIX TUI
and 8,000+ online brands...

Sign up today and make a difference!

Thanks to our wonderful supporters shopping via #easyfundraising, we've received 535.0 free donations from popular retailers! Please sign up to support us today if you've not already. You can help increase our donations too when you shop and raise with over 8,000 retailers including eBay, TUI, Tesco, Just Eat and more. Plus, join before 30th September and we could win an extra £100 donation! Sign up here: https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/waderquest/LTOYPM/c2s/X4EN2Hqv/CR149/facebook/535_0



Species Focus for 2025; Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*



Common Redshank © Phil Hadley



The Wader Guru's fun facts about... Common Redshank! Food for thought?

In 1992, during a harsh winter, around 50% of the Redshanks population in The Wash, which numbered around 4,000 at that time, died. [OK, so that was not such a FUN fact, but a fact nonetheless - Ed]

'The Redshank is frequently mentioned in L'Estrange accounts, and in the Northumberland Household -book its price is set down as three halfpence a-piece; Sir Thomas Browne also speaks of it as "of common food but no dianty dish" and at present day it is but little esteemed'. History of British Birds Vol III William Yarrell 1884

The number of UK breeding birds is estimated at 25,000 pairs. These birds are of the nominate subspecies *Tringa totanus totanus*.

In the winter, the population expands to around 130,000 individuals. The breeding birds are thought to remain in the UK; the 25,000 pairs and their offspring are bolstered by migrants from Iceland and the Faroe Islands, these will be the subspecies *T. t. robusta* the largest subspecies.

Cover photo; Purple Sandpiper



Purple Sandpiper - Elis Simpson

Always expect the unexpected when it comes to birding. I was using the remains of a WWII construction on the beach at Titchwell, Norfolk, as a hide to photograph waders as they were pushed up the beach by a rising tide. The usual species were on show; godwits, Dunlins, Sanderlings and Ringed Plovers for example. The last species I thought I'd be photographing that day was Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*. However, a movement on the surrounding concrete made me look up and there was a Purple Sandpiper. I got a few shots of it sitting on its outcrop then, as I clicked away, it decided to drop down and I caught it as it launched itself downwards. This is a typical feature of this species as it clammers around rocks, hopping from one to the other,

Purple Sandpiper - Rick Simpson

Purple Sandpiper

Calidris maritima

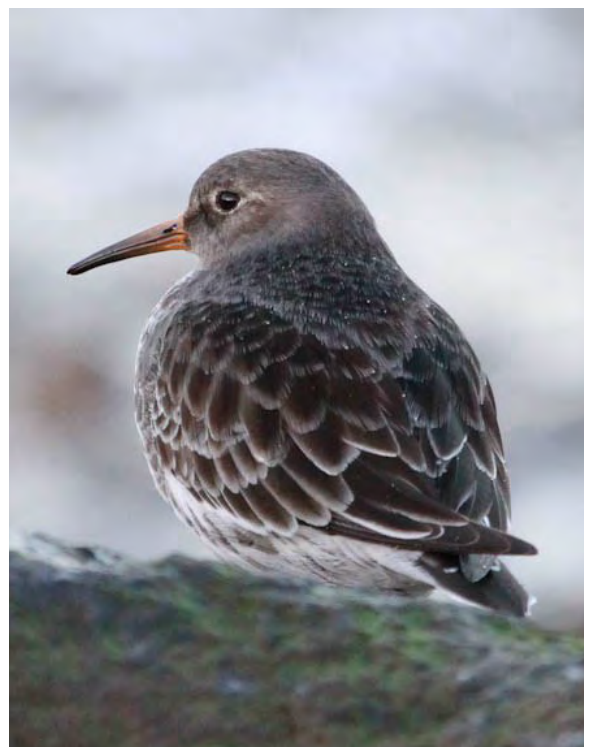
Brünnich, 1764

IUCN Least Concern

Scientific name explained: The genus *Calidris* is from the the Greek *kalidris* sometimes *skalidris* which refers to a grey -coloured waterside bird mentioned by Aristotle. The specific *maritima* literally means maritime from the Latin *maritimus* meaning - of the sea. So this bird's scientific name, basically means sea shore bird, Not a bad description as, unlike many other waders it is seldom found away from sea coasts outside the breeding season.

Alternative English names: Selninger Sandpiper, Rock Tringa, Purple Tringa, Black Sandpiper (refers to immature plumage), Blind Dorbie, Ebb Cock, Ebb Sleeper, Sea Mouse, Stanepecker, Stonepecker, Tinker, winter Snipe (USA).

European language names: Asturian; *Mazaricu de Pedreu, Mazaricu d'Ocle, Mazaricu escuru* Basque; *Territ fosc, Txirri ilun, Txirri iluna* Breton; *Ar sourouc'han du, Sourouc'han du* Cornish; *Pyber ruthlas* Danish; *Sortgrå ryle* Dutch; *Paarse Strandloper* Faeroese; *Grælingur, Grágrælingur, Sjógrælingur, Sjógrælingur* Finnish; *Merisirri* French; *Bécasseau maritime, Bécasseau violet* Frisian; *Wettertjirk* Gaelic;



Purple Sandpiper - Elis Simpson

Luatharan gorm, Luatharan Rioghail Galician; *Pilro*

Purple Sandpiper - cont'd

escuro, *Territ fosc* **German**; *Klippenstrandläufer*, *Meerstrandläufer* **Greenlandic**; *Saarfaarsuk* **Icelandic**; *Sendlingur Inuktitut*; *Saarfaarsuk*, *Segalea*, *Tudlik* **Irish**: *gobadáinín cosbhúí*, *Gobadán Cosbhúí* **Manx**; *Leayrane gorrym*, *Looyran gorrym* **Northern Sami**; *Fierváviroš*, *Gáddeviroš* **Norwegian**; *Fjæremus*, *Fjærepist*, *Fjæreplytt* **Polish**; *biegus morski* **Portuguese**; *Pilrito-escuro* **Russian**; *Morskoj Pesochnik*, *Морско́й песочник* **Spanish**; *Correlimos Oscuro*, *Correlimos pechinegro*, *Playero Dorsirrojo*, *Playero dorso rojo*, *Playero Oscuro* **Swedish**; *Skårsnäppa* **Tatar**; *диңгез ком шөлдуе* **Welsh**; *Pibydd du*, *Pibydd porffor*.

Collective nouns: A number of collective nouns pertain to sandpipers in general, including a cluster, a contradiction, a fling and a time-step, none of which really seem to fit the bill for these birds, except perhaps a cluster, but there is none specifically for Purple Sandpiper.

Order: SCOLOPACIDAE Rafinesque 1815
Suborder: Scolpacia Huxley 1867
Family: Scolopacidae Rafinesque 1815
Subfamily: Calidrinae (Reichenbach 1849)
Synonymy of genus:
Arquatella Baird 1858
Charadrius Linnaeus 1758
Ereunetes Illiger 1811
Erolia Vieillot 1816
Tringa Linnaeus 1758
Totanus Bechstein 1803

Protonym:
Tringa maritima Brünnich 1764

Synonymy of species:
Tringa canadensis Lathm 1801
T. striata Linnaeus 1758
Trynga arquatella Pallas 1826

Taxonomy:
Monotypic, no subspecies recognised.

Synonymy of subspecies:
No current subspecies recognised.

Systematic / Taxonomic history:
Formerly Rock Sandpiper *Calidris ptilocnemis* used to be considered two subspecies of *C. maritima*; *C. m. ptilocnemis* and *C. m. couesi*. They remain subspecies of Rock Sandpiper and two additional subspecies have now been recognised; *C. p. tschuktschorum* and *C. m. quarta*.



Purple Sandpiper - Elis Simpson



Purple Sandpiper - Elis Simpson

Conservation status - IUCN Least Concern; UK Red listed.
No current specific conservation efforts in place.

Population: Decreasing - an estimated 136,000 - 191,000 mature individuals.
Human activities are the main threats to the species including shoreline development, aquaculture, oil contamination, algae harvesting, and disturbance from boat traffic. When you take into account that Purple sandpipers show a marked degree of fidelity to both nesting and wintering sites, any loss or degradation of those sites is detrimental.

Purple Sandpiper - cont'd



Arctic breeding waders, especially juveniles, can be very confiding. This bird at Titchwell was working its way along a tide line. Elis laid down along that line with a view to getting eye level shots of the bird. As it approached her she expected it to turn around or walk around her. Instead it just got closer and closer finally passing alongside her, just inches from her - Rick Simpson

Curiosities:

The first formal description of the Purple Sandpiper in the UK, was made by George Montagu in 1798.

These small, but hardy birds, which live in very challenging environments, can live a surprisingly long time. The maximum age from the date of ringing recorded by the British Trust for Ornithology was set in 1997 and was 15 years 2 months 27 days. However, the average lifespan is 6 years with first breeding typically in the 2nd year



Purple Sandpiper - Elis Simpson

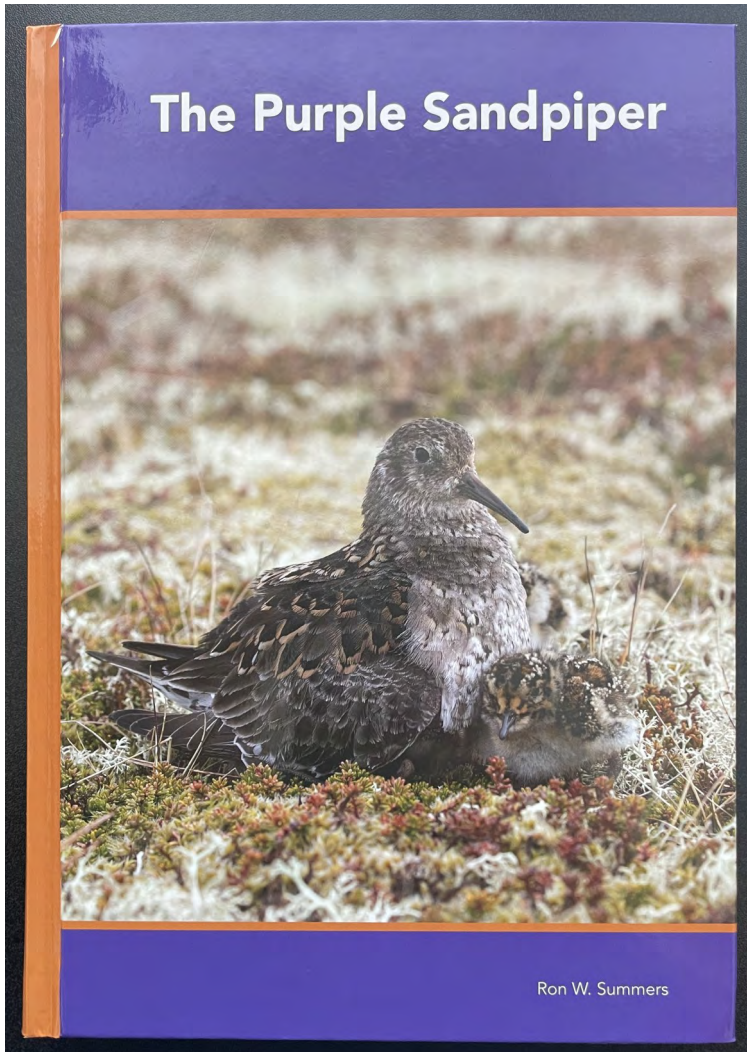


Purple Sandpipers - Elis Simpson

Since 1978 Purple Sandpipers have bred intermittently in Scotland. Until this discovery they were considered to be the only species that bred in the Faroe Islands but not in Britain and Ireland. At least one chick was fledged on that first year.

Pavel Tomkovich found this species breeding on the Franz Josef Islands (Russia). As a population they were smaller than more southerly breeding individuals which would indicate that food sources were limited at this extreme edge of their existence. Indeed Tomkovich found several mummified bodies of the species. In life they tend to behave less flamboyantly with feeding, movement and courtship all reduced before nesting and post breeding they do not form flocks.

Purple Sandpiper - cont'd



A rather splendid monograph of this species was written, and self published, by Ron Summers, who has contributed to the Wader Quest newsletter in the past. A fantastic achievement collecting data from fieldwork over 50 odd years.

The Purple Sandpiper

By Ron W. Summers

Privately published, 2023

Hbk, 352pp; over 150 colour and black & white photos, illustrations, maps and tables

ISBN 978-1-9999882-3-4; £29.

Review in British Birds by Keith Betton [here](#).

Wader Quest Collectables

30. Purple Sandpiper



Wader Quest pin badge number 30

The Purple Sandpiper has appeared on at least two stage stamps. One from Iceland and the other from Saint Pierre et Miquelon, a Territorial Collectivity of France close to Canada in the North Atlantic.



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Seebohm, Henry: The Geographical Distribution of the Family Charadriidae, or, The Plovers, Sandpipers, Snipes, and Their Allies (1888)

Summers, Ron: The Purple Sandpiper (2023)

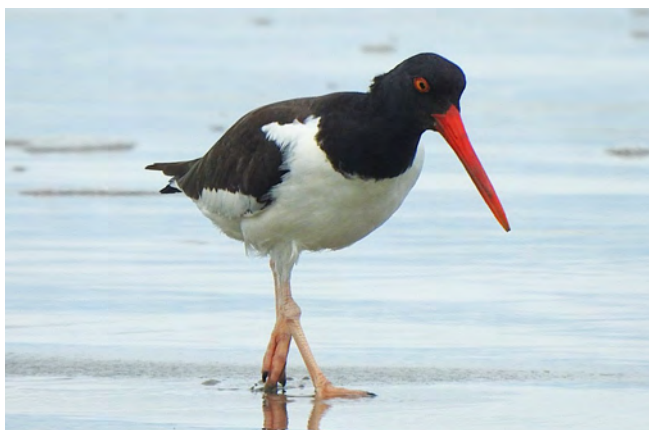
[Avibase](#) - Purple Sandpiper

[Birdlife Datazone](#) Purple Sandpiper

[BTO](#) Purple Sandpiper Factsheet

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Monitoring the American Oystercatcher in Ilha Comprida - Karina Ávila and Bruno Lima



American Oystercatchers - Karina Ávila

Along the way, we were thrilled to find our old friends: pairs of adult birds still firmly holding their traditional territories, defending their areas with the same energy as always. This strong site fidelity underlines how important it is to protect these critical areas to ensure the species' survival.

But a surprise was waiting for us: none of the banded juveniles were spotted this time. The chicks we had followed since birth seem to have started their journeys — perhaps exploring new beaches or joining flocks of young dispersers.

It's a bittersweet feeling: a mix of nostalgia and joy, knowing they are following the natural cycle of wildlife.

One of the day's most special moments was spotting a juvenile still accompanied by its parents in their territory.

On April 23, 2025, we headed back to Ilha Comprida, on the coast of São Paulo, for another survey of the American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus*, locally known as *piru-piru*.



[Versão Brasileiro](#)

With the first light of dawn, we set off by car to cover the entire length of the island — about 70 kilometers of open beaches, dunes, and coastal vegetation. Our mission was to relocate familiar faces: the banded individuals from the 2023 and 2024 breeding seasons.



American Oystercatcher adult right and juvenile with Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* in the foreground - Karina Ávila

This young bird is likely to be one of the last fledglings from the past breeding season — a small but powerful symbol of renewed hope for the species.

This trip also added to the broader picture we've been building: In February, during another survey, we recorded a group of over 50 oystercatchers gathered in Ilha Comprida, about half of them juveniles. Among them, we recognized two of our banded individuals: A1 and A3.

In March, our advisor, Dr. Edison Barbieri, spotted another large group in the nearby city of Cananéia (SP). We believe it's the same flock moving between key areas, emphasizing the regional importance of these coastal zones for the birds' post-breeding movements.

Building Bridges for Conservation

This outing was especially meaningful because we were joined by the manager of the Ilha Comprida Environmental Protection Area (APA) Ellen Fernandes de Freitas. Her presence and enthusiasm throughout the day strengthened our connection with local environmental authorities and opened exciting possibilities for collaboration.

The next day, we presented our work at the APA Ilha Comprida Council Meeting, gathering representatives from Fundação Florestal, the Environmental Secretariat, ICMBio, and local environmental organisations.



Piru-piru Paulista - Karina Ávila

Monitoring the American Oystercatcher in Ilha Comprida - cont'd

During our presentation, we highlighted:

- The environmental education, scientific research, and public policy initiatives carried out by the Shorebird Project in Peruibe.
- The approval of a Municipal Law that recognizes shorebirds as part of Ilha Comprida's natural heritage — a landmark legal victory achieved in 2024 thanks to collective conservation efforts.
- The ongoing progress of the Piru-piru Paulista Project, focused on studying and protecting the American Oystercatcher along the southern coast of São Paulo.

Each meeting, each conversation, and each data point collected strengthens our belief that protecting shorebirds means protecting entire ecosystems that depend on them.



Bruno and Karina presenting at the APA Ilha Comprida Council Meeting



Bruno and Karina with Ellen Fernandes de Freitas

Acknowledgments:

None of this would be possible without the partnerships that lift our wings. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Wader Quest and Manomet, whose support, through Wader Quest's 'Grants Fund' & Monomet's 'Small Grants for Conservation of Neotropical Shorebirds' makes it possible for us to continue studying and protecting American Oystercatchers in Brazil.

Every contribution is a seed carried by the winds — blooming across beaches, inspiring people, and building a future where both birds and humans can thrive.

We move forward, connecting science, communities, and hope with every step!

Luannan Coast 2025 Part 1 - Chris Hassell, Katherine Leung, and Yang Liu.

Let's start with some thanks to people for making the 18th year of GFN scanning at Nanpu happen. As usual, Beijing Normal University via Prof. Zhengwang Zhang and Dr Weipan Lei for support and administrative work to enable our presence at Nanpu. Wetlands International's Flyway Bottleneck Yellow Sea Project for their financial support. Our colleagues Yang Liu and Junfeng Liu for help with organising the accommodation and local logistics and Yang Liu is part of our 3-person scanning team.

The first impressions we have is that 'things are the same'. Of course, there are some small differences but what we have seen so far, in our first days, is that not too much has changed. And that is a good thing for the birds.

We recorded the highest bird numbers on the Nanpu mudflat late yesterday evening, to coincide with World Migratory Birds Day. We watched the spectacle of around 40,000 birds sweeping over the wall from the ponds, mostly in three huge flocks over about 15 minutes. When we roughly counted the birds on the mud there were 50,500. A considerable increase from the previous days. As ever it is difficult to pin down if this is a huge sudden increase, although that is perfectly likely, or because we were at the seawall in the evening when we are usually there very early in the morning. In the mornings the birds have been coming to the mud steadily over an hour or more, not like the spectacular setting yesterday evening. Possibly half the birds were Red Knots *Calidris canutus*.

Scanning has been reasonably successful with marked shorebirds recorded from 19 ringing locations already, but we have only had 5 days of suitable tides so far. We will soon be back to the ideal situation for scanning early next week. This is a high tide between 3 and 5 AM and we can start scanning in the perfect early morning light when the birds land close to the seawall and we then walk and drive the 7 km long seawall and follow the birds along. Some birds seem to favour following the tide directly out and others follow the tide 'along' the seawall. It is impractical to follow the birds on the mudflats out to the tide edge and all our energy goes into scanning the birds that move northwest so we can stay on the seawall.

Luannan Coast 2025 Part 1 - cont'd.



Now that Yang Liu is part of our scanning team it is very efficient on the seawall. He knows when to stop for the birds and at what distance. And if he is scanning, we will drive the van so the three of us are constantly 'rolling' along the wall.



In the ponds, some species are already on eggs, Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*, Kentish Plover *Anarhynchus alexandrinus*, Common Terns *Sterna hirundo* and Little Terns *Sternula albifrons*. Gull-billed Terns *Gelochelidon nilotica* probably are too but we have yet to see any nests.



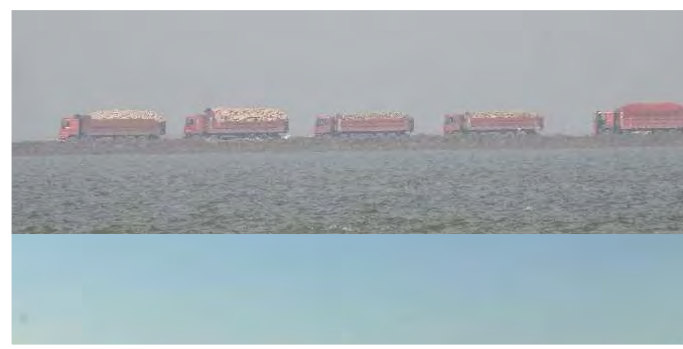
Common Terns nesting on an island in a pond 05 May 2025 - Chris Hassell

Luannan Coast 2025 Part 1 - cont'd.

The ponds are mostly relatively deep as has been the case for many years. But some channels that ferry water between different ponds have good numbers of Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*, Marsh Sandpipers *T. stagnatilis*, and Curlew Sandpipers *Calidris ferruginea*. We have only found one pond so far that holds good numbers. We had 8,113 birds in a pond made up of shorebirds, terns, ducks, and a few gulls on May 10, 2025. The pond adjacent to it, on the evening of May 16, 2013, when it was shallow, had 96,000 birds in it! (Table right)

That pond has since been bisected by a 6-lane highway.

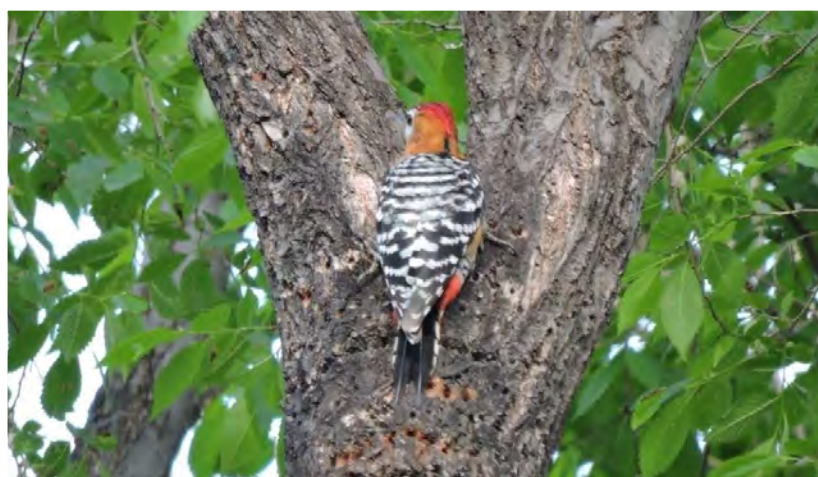
SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ESTIMATE	COUNT
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	61891	
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	20587	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	4196	
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	1478	
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	1196	
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	511	
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	163	
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	130	
Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	141	
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandria</i>	98	
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	43	
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	22	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	11	
Asian Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>	11	
Ruff	<i>philomachus pugnax</i>	11	
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cineris</i>	11	
	SUB-TOTAL	90500	
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		3200
White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>		1226
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		660
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		239
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		8
	SUB-TOTAL		5333
	GRAND TOTAL	95833	



Above May 2015 below May 2025. The island with the nest terns is just to the right of the highway - Chris Hassell

And as you all know when we are not birding for work, we do some birding for fun. Unfortunately, some of the places we used to bird regularly are now not open to us. But Caofei Lake is open and we bird there.

It is a large artificially constructed lake; Adrian, and I saw it being dug out by massive plant machinery in 2009! And it now has Long-eared Owls *Asio otus* in the planted trees among many other species in the trees and on the open water.



Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus* 08 May 2025 - Katherine Leung

Luannan Coast 2025 Part 1 - cont'd

We also bird the tiny park (Nanyan Park) in Nanpu Town that we always have. It seems 'quiet' so far this year. This is possibly an effect that there are now so many more trees in the wider area due to tree planting efforts. But this tiny park still turns up some great birds.

Yesterday we celebrated World Migratory Birds Day to try and observe as many bird species as possible, migratory or not. We do this as part of the Wader Quest Team, in a joint effort with many other birders from around the world, who care about shorebirds. We saw 108 species by the end of the day: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/365559>.

[See Global Birding Big Day Wader Quest Team report on p7].



Long-eared Owl, neither a shorebird nor a migrant. But what a bird! 08 May 2025 - Katherine Leung

Luannan Coast 2025 Part 2

After reading the last update you probably got the impression that we were wandering around birdwatching non-stop.

Well, there was a bit of that for sure. But then the tides turned in favour of scanning and we are on a run of 7 days of 03:30 alarms. Which gives time to make coffee and drive to the Nanpu seawall before sunrise.



15/05/2025 - Chris Hassell

The weather plays a big part in the success of a morning's scanning, and we have had everything from calm, sunny days to a rainstorm and one day with 60 kmph wind! That was bad for scanning but great for watching passerine migration. Our eBird list for that day on the seawall was 77 species. The highlight was 30 Critically Endangered, Yellow-breasted Buntings *Emberiza aureola*, both flying by and landing on the seawall.



Female, Yellow-breasted Bunting 17/05/2025 - Katherine Leung

Overall, these 7 days have been productive for colour bands from the GFN project birds banded in northwest Australia and for many other sites from throughout the EAAF and a few Indian birds in the mix. We do not get the total numbers of marked birds that we used to get in the peak years of 2010 to 2019. This is because some of the main marking projects in the EAAF have, for some years now, been marking much smaller numbers of birds. They have started to focus on more targeted tracking projects.

As of May 19, we have made 809 observations of marked birds from 20 banding locations.

We have recorded 67 individual Red Knots from the GFN project and just 2 Great Knots *Calidris tenuirostris* and 1 Bar-

Luannan Coast 2025 Part 2 cont'd

tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*. But the godwit 1YLYB is an old friend now. He has been seen here, within a 4 km stretch of mudflat for the last 16 years. He possibly departed Nanpu on May 16 this year.

The earliest we have recorded him at Nanpu is April 11 and the latest May 21. But note not all fieldwork has started in early April each year. With the longest known length of stay being 38 days. A remarkable 348 resightings 6, 400 km away from his capture location and 'only' 64 resightings from Roebuck Bay, NW Australia.



1YLYB on 'his' mudflat at Nanpu 16/05/2025 - Katherine Leung

SPECIES	CODE	BANDED DATE	BANDING SITE	AGE AT BANDING	AGE NOW
BAR-TAILED GODWIT	1YLYB	17/02/2007	Roebuck Bay, NW Australia	2+	20+

AT NANPU	FIRST SIGHTING	LAST SIGHTING	# RESIGHTS	MINIMUM # OF DAYS PRESENT
2010	20-Apr	22-May	9	32
2011	14-Apr	15-May	10	32
2012	14-Apr	28-Apr	4	15
2013	11-Apr	18-May	10	38
2014	12-Apr	16-May	14	35
2015	17-Apr	13-May	5	27
2016	14-Apr	10-May	3	27
2017	14-Apr	13-May	7	30
2018	25-Apr	4-May	2	10
2019	22-Apr	2-May	6	11
2020	15-May	21-May	3	7
2021	15-Apr	17-May	8	33
2022	13-May	13-May	1	1
2023	23-Apr	9-May	4	17
2024	29-Apr	15-May	3	17
2025	1-May	16-May	7	16

On May 18 we helped Beijing Normal University with a coordinated waterbird count, and we counted Nanpu mudflat as we are so familiar with it. We had been doing rough estimates of numbers most days as we are focused on scanning for marked birds. And the largest number of Red Knots we have estimated is 25,000. For the past 3 days we have estimated 20,000. The total for the careful count was 20,707! We have had this conversation many times with many shorebird researchers. Why bother with the 3-hour count when a 5-minute estimate at the end of the day seems to be pretty accurate!

We had a total of all shorebirds on the count of 26,345 and 498 terns and gulls. The terns and gulls were dominated by Little Tern (284) and Gull-billed Terns (132). Both breed in the adjacent ponds and forage at the Nanpu coast.

Luannan Coast 2025 Part 2 cont'd

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The moon above the mudflat and knots while the sun rises over behind us 16/05/2025 - Katherine Leung



Pink and shining skin is obviously important to Barn Swallows *Hirundo rustica* 15/05/2025 - Chris Hassell [A joke for Mandarin speakers apparently Ed.]

Reporting colour-ringed birds; message from the International Wader Study Group - Carole Davis

Dear Wader Quest

Thank you for promoting the finding and reporting of colour-ring sightings through your newsletter. IWSG coordinates all sightings for colour-ringed projects for wader species. Any reports of colour-mark sightings where the finder is unable to find the appropriate scheme can be sent to me (sightings@waderstudygroup.org). I will do my best to find the appropriate scheme and to put the finder in touch with the scheme owner.

Metal ring numbers should be reported to the BTO (app/bto.org/euring). Colour-ring sightings can also be submitted via this route but this is just a longer route to me as the BTO forward all wader colour-ring sightings to IWSG.

Kind regards,

Carole Davis Colour-mark Coordinator (Sightings) IWSG



Global Wader: a community-led initiative to centralize shorebird tracking (meta)data - International Wader Study Group

We're thrilled to introduce [Global Wader](#), an initiative by the [International Wader Study Group](#) in partnership with [Movebank](#).

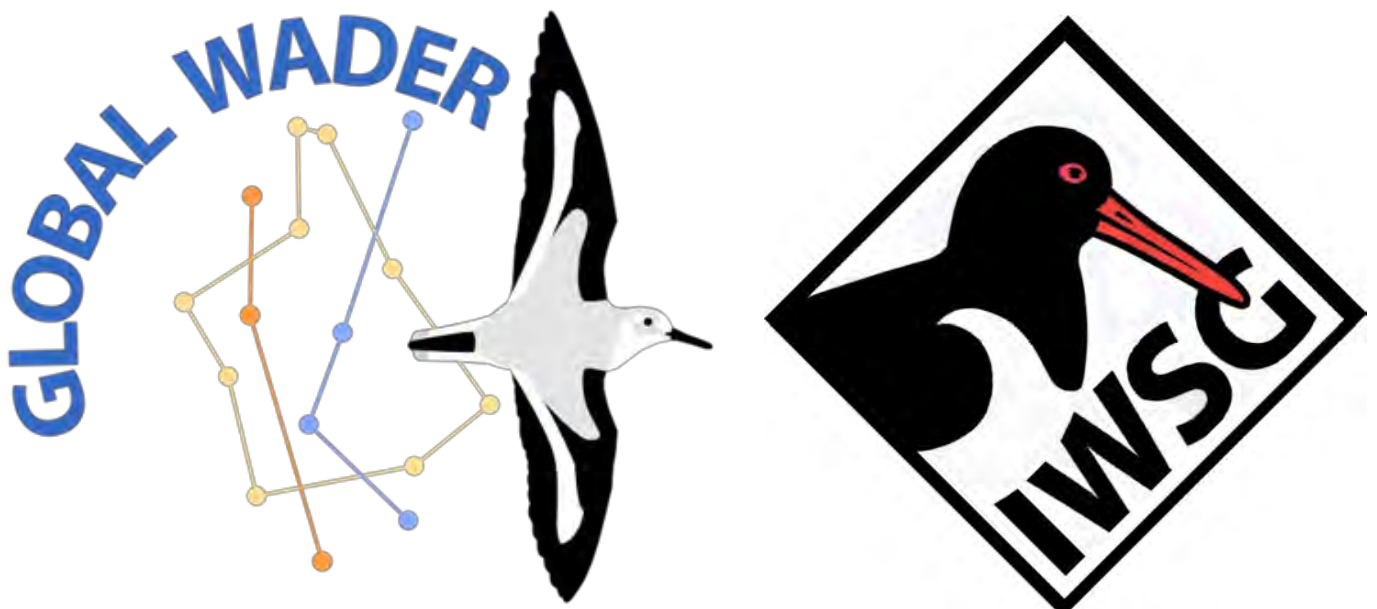
Owing to recent advancements in tracking technology, our understanding of shorebird migration and behaviour is expanding rapidly, but while much tracking data is shared within the scientific community after each study concludes, its potential impact goes far beyond individual research projects.

A core mission of Global Wader is to maintain an up-to-date, accessible [Registry of shorebird tracking data](#), as well as to promote best practices in data management and long-term storage. By cataloguing project metadata, we aim to help scientists, trackers, and conservationists to connect and collaborate on studies with shared goals.

Currently, Global Wader includes [over 100 studies, with more than 50 million data points](#), and has [facilitated collaborations](#), which go from partnering with, promoting and supporting specific projects, to establishing links by providing the contacts of owners of potentially relevant data to the data requesters.

Please note that Global Wader does not store tracking data itself, which we advise should be done on Movebank. Instead, Global Wader catalogues the associated metadata, providing a gateway for researchers to discover existing datasets and explore potential partnerships. Data ownership and control remains in all cases with data owners, as explicitly defined in Global Wader's [data agreement form](#).

If you have tracking data on shorebirds, we invite you to contribute to this initiative. For more information, visit www.globalwader.org, or reach out to us at globalwader@waderstudygroup.org.



Black-tailed Godwit RPP-YRY - Tim Ridgeway

Black-tailed Godwit RPP - YRY - Tim Ridgeway



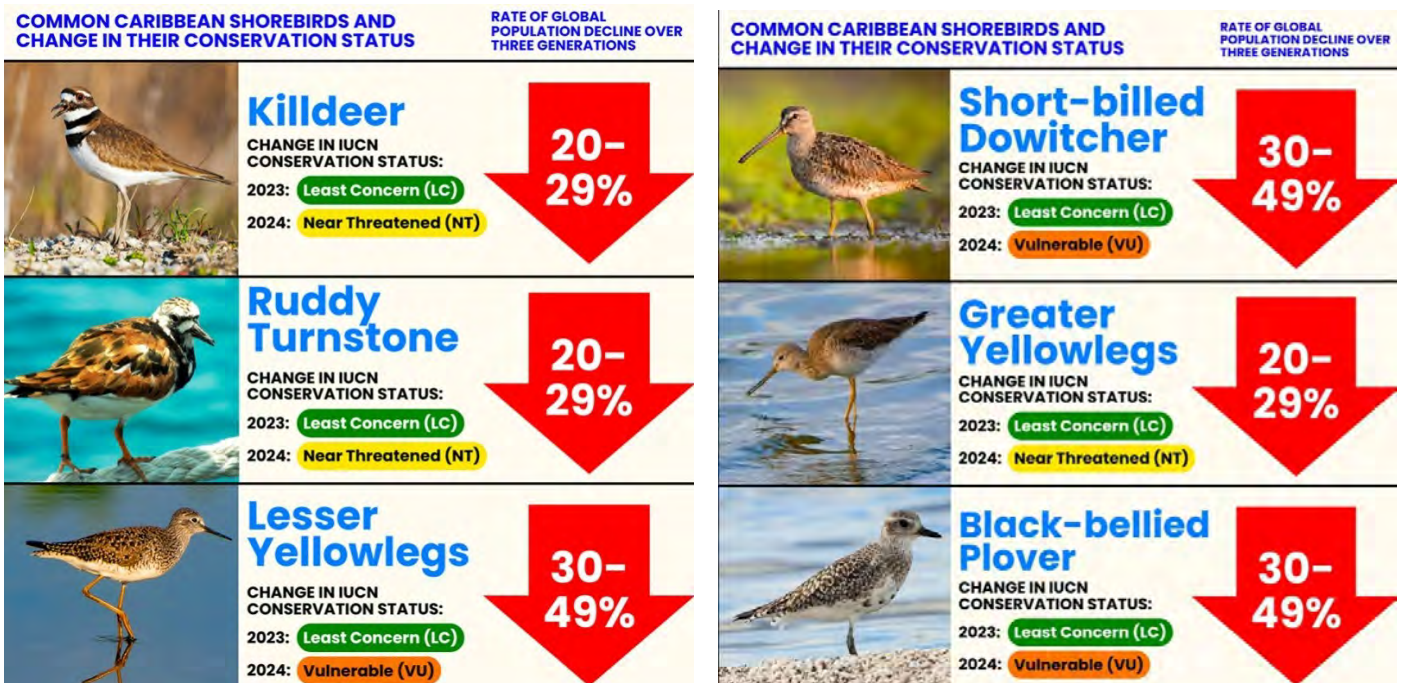
05-Mar-11	Seaton Marshes LNR, Axe Estuary, E Devon, SW England	Axe Estuary Ringing Group (Mike Tyler et al)
15-Sep-11	Bishopburn, Loch Ryan, Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland	Jennifer Grover
07-Oct-11	Ardevon, Beauvoir, Baie du Mont-Saint-Michel, Manche, France	Audrey Hémon
03-Feb-12	River Axe, Axemouth, Devon, S England	John Connolly
28-Aug-12	Marshside, Southport, Robble estuary, Lancashire, NW England	Mark Nightingale
10-Oct-12	National Wetlands Centre, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, Wales	Wendell Thomas
13-Oct-12	Porthmadog Cob, Glaslyn Estuary, Gwynedd, N Wales	Elfyn Lewis
21-Dec-12	Exminster Marshes, Exe Estuary, Exeter, Devon, SW England	James Diamond
27-Dec-12	Bowling Green Marsh, Topsham, Exe Estuary, Exeter, Devon, SW England	Hugh Wright
26-Apr-13	Rutland Water, Leicestershire, E England	Steve Lister & TP Appleton
28-Sep-13	Black Hole Marsh, Axe Estuary, Seaton, E Devon	Victor Froome
11-Apr-14	Minsmere RSPB reserve, Suffolk, E England	David Fairhurst
20-Apr-14	Iken cliffs near Snape, Alde River, Suffolk, E England	Nikolas Bertholdt
14-Oct-14	Axe Estuary, Seaton, E Devon	John Connolly
01-Sep-15	River Otter, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, SW England	Ray Hamilton
12-Apr-16	Holland Haven Country Park, Essex, SE England	Mick Rodwell & Ted Sewell
13-Apr-17	Lower Raypits EWT reserve, Crouch Estuary, Canewdon, Essex, SE England	Jeff Delve
01-Apr-18	Heybridge Basin, Blackwater Estuary, Essex, E England	David Low
08-Nov-18	Blackhole Marsh, Axe Estuary, E Devon, S England	Mike Lock
11-Nov-18	Axe Estuary, E Devon, S England	Caroline Leatherdale
13-Nov-18	Axe Estuary, E Devon, S England	Pete Potts & Ruth Croger
30-Dec-18	Axe Estuary, E Devon, S England	Pete Potts
10-Feb-19	Seaton Marshes LNR, Axe Estuary, E Devon, SW England	Pauline Chapman
12-Apr-19	East Tilbury, River Thames, Essex, SE England	Graham Glombek
11-Sep-19	Seaton Marshes LNR, Axe Estuary, E Devon, SW England	Stephen Howe
15-Sep-19	Seaton Marshes LNR, Axe Estuary, E Devon, SW England	Dorothy Jones
06-Nov-19	Exminster Marshes, Exe Estuary, Exeter, Devon, SW England	James Diamond
01-Dec-19	Exminster Marshes, Exe Estuary, Exeter, Devon, SW England	James Diamond
19-Dec-20	Exminster Marshes, Exe Estuary, Exeter, Devon, SW England	James Diamond
28-Mar-21	Heybridge Basin, Maldon, Blackwater Estuary, Essex, SE England	George Sabiniak
11-Apr-21	Heybridge Basin, Blackwater Estuary, Essex, E England	Simon Cox
19-Apr-21	Heybridge Basin, Maldon, Blackwater Estuary, Essex, SE England	George Sabiniak
19-Sep-21	Axe Estuary, E Devon, S England	Gary Hibberd
10-Oct-21	Axe Estuary, E Devon, S England	Pete Potts
23-Nov-21	Axe Estuary, E Devon, S England	Gary Hibberd
30-Mar-23	Seaton Marshes LNR, Axe Estuary, E Devon, SW England	Clare Harrison
16-Apr-23	Seaton Marshes LNR, Axe Estuary, E Devon, SW England	Tim Ridgeway
26-Sep-23	Axe Estuary, E Devon, S England	Steve Dewey
28-Jul-24	Balmar, Reykholar, NW Iceland	Pete Potts
13-Oct-24	Seaton Marshes LNR, Axe Estuary, E Devon, SW England	David White
08-Feb-25	Seaton Marshes LNR, Axe Estuary, E Devon, SW England	Michael Ixer
25-Feb-25	Seaton Marshes LNR, Axe Estuary, E Devon, SW England	Patrick Collins
25-Feb-25	Seaton Marshes LNR, Axe Estuary, E Devon, SW England	Tim Ridgeway

Caribbean shorebirds at risk - Jackie Cestero



Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* (front) and Lesser Yellowlegs *T. flavipes* - Jackie Cestero.

In their December 2024 newsletter, Birds Caribbean alerted us to the devastating decline in several shorebird species that overwinter in the Caribbean.



Common Caribbean Shorebirds Conservation Status Change - Birds Caribbean Graphics December 2024

All six species in the graphics above spend at least part of the year in Anguilla. The Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* is a breeding resident.

As a reminder, the threat categories are as follows:

Data Deficient (DD)

Least Concern (LC)

Near Threatened (NT)

Vulnerable (VU)

Endangered (EN)

Critically Endangered (CR)

Extinct in the Wild (EW)

Extinct (EX)

Caribbean shorebirds at risk - cont'd



Killdeer and Chick Road Salt Pond - Jackie Cestero.

Lisa Sorenson, Executive Director of Birds Caribbean puts the problem into perspective in the following quote:

'This is a wake-up call... the Caribbean is a lifeline for migratory shorebirds, providing critical stopover and wintering sites along the Atlantic Flyway. When these habitats are lost or degraded, or disappear, these birds face severe challenges.'



Mixed Shorebirds feeding in the Sargassum, Savannah Bay - Jackie Cestero.

One of the major problems for these birds is development, particularly for tourism.

The APM government prioritizes development over conservation. Work has begun on a ['Yacht Marina at Altamer Resort.'](#) This project will impact two salt ponds: Gull Pond and Cove Pond ([Important Bird Area](#) - IBA).

On the eastern portion of the island, the Government of Anguilla signed another MOU to develop 215 acres of coastal land under the name [Savannah Bay Resort](#). This development borders Grey Pond (IBA) and Junks Hole Pond. I have little doubt that there will be severe impacts on these wetlands and the coastal area. Grey Pond IBA is a critical nesting habitat for Least Terns *Sternula antillarum* and resident Snowy *Anarhynchus nivosus* and Wilson's Plovers *A. wilsonia*.

Speaking with a fourth-generation fisherman from the east, he noted that the development would eliminate access to the property they use to monitor fish movement and make it difficult to fish the area he and his forefathers relied on to provide for their families.

Further, the shores of Savannah Bay provide habitat for migratory shore and seabirds.

In my humble opinion, both projects are incompatible with responsible development in Anguilla. This is especially true when we see many vacancies in existing high-end properties.

Without a say in these projects, I can only continue to monitor the bird population by participating in scheduled counts throughout the year. I was involved in the Great Backyard Bird Count (February 14-17, 2025) sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Perhaps in the future, the Government of Anguilla will utilize the eBird data collected to manage Anguilla's precious resources more responsibly.

Chile in the winter - no pun intended!

- Dougie Dickson



Lauca National Park, Chile - Dougie Dickson

Since our return from Australia and New Zealand in April 2023, I had been harping on to my wife about the benefits of Chile. Apart from the wine, there are mountains. Oh, and a potential eight new waders I said! It went in one ear and out the other. Not even the wine, I thought, could convince her to go! Then one day, six months later, after I'd left the Field Guide to the Birds of Chile in the sunroom, she turned to me and asked, 'what's the best time to visit Chile?' Oh, I said, anytime between late November and February. 'Well, we could go, and you could get your birds'. We could go? I asked. Do you realise the distances involved in flying, not to mention driving?

After clocking up what I thought was 77.5% of the world's waders, I thought I might be in with a chance of a few more and my thoughts turned to David Rosair and his remarkable wader-clocking journeys and where I could possibly get another eight species. Chile was always a target country so Chile it was. I had missed Diademed Sandpiper-plover *Phegornis mitchellii* in Chile on a trip there in 1995 despite a huge effort at Putre and Yeso Valley. Our team then wasn't wader-driven but all wanted to see that bird.

And so, after three months of meticulous planning and online bookings, we headed back to a country I had previously birded, this time with only my wife. Even with such resolute planning, double checking and constant research, I was sceptical if such an involved trip could be undertaken without a hitch. In the end, my fears were unfounded as each piece of the plan unfolded and all travel and transport arrangements ran like clockwork.

Flying Edinburgh-London, London-Madrid next morning and on to Santiago, we arrived reasonably fresh, having had a good sleep on the plane. We spent the next two days in Santiago, basing ourselves at an airport hotel for convenience. Next day we headed south to windswept Patagonia.

I concentrated fully on the eight waders I wanted to see. Anything else that I hadn't seen on my previous trip was a bonus and there was no emphasis on any passerines, birds of prey or ducks, although a few came my way. After picking up the rental car at Punta Arenas airport, we headed north on Route Nine for some 40kms and checked over the well-known pool famous for Magellanic Plover *Pluvianellus socialis*. Hmm... A Magellanic Snipe *Gallinago magellanica*, some Baird's Sandpipers *Calidris bairdii* and Two-banded Plovers *Anarhynchus falklandicus* were barely managing to feed, having to lean into the howling north-westerly. I could not keep the camera steady and had to scope the lake from within the car! Forty minutes later I still hadn't managed to pick up a Magellanic Plover and weather conditions were far from ideal with showers now coming fast. This was not in the script! Fortunately, I had a backup site further north so I drove there with that horrible feeling a birder gets when dipping



Baird's Sandpiper and (insert) Magellanic Snipe - Dougie Dickson.

Chile in the winter - no pun intended! - cont'd

a bird! After Another 40km drive, we arrived at the huge white lake where many ducks, swans and waders were feeding close to the road. I stayed in the car and scanned for 30 minutes when I caught the movement of a wader which was definitely not one of the ubiquitous Baird's Sandpipers. It looked good but it was at least 100 metres away. Scoping from the back seat, my first and long-awaited Magellanic Plover was in the bag! Phew! Panic over. Only one distant bird but it will have to do. No full-frame photos of this species as I had hoped, and it was the only one of the trip. Time was moving on, so we headed to Punta Arenas and checked into our hotel. Perhaps there would be other chances at these sites.

My next target birds were the somewhat scarcely distributed Tawny-throated Dotterel *Oreopholus ruficollis* and the unmapped and difficult Fuegian Snipe *G. stricklandii*. I had done my research and spoken to friends who had preceded me on Chilean birding trips, so I knew what to expect. Next day, Sunday, we headed north then east and into the grasslands beyond San Gregorio. Turning off the main route onto a gravel track, I realised the enormity of my quest, as we drove slowly uphill then onto a vast plain, with the track disappearing on the horizon! It was a matter of finding the right habitat, I assured myself. Slowly we made our way, carefully checking and scanning at every stop, noting Two-banded Plovers with young and Baird's Sandpipers on muddy pools. Many hundreds of wary Guanacos *Lama guanicoe* were feeding at different distances. At Km 25, my wife noticed movement at the side of the road, and I slammed the brakes on! A wader, a juvenile at that but where's the adult? No sooner said than a superb Tawny-throated Dotterel appeared from nowhere, too close to focus my camera! Frantically trying to obtain a photo, it struck me that the camera was malfunctioning, and the bird was walking away, last seen at about 100 metres and no capture...but it was in the bag! No others were located that day, but Chocolate-vented Tyrant *Neoxolmis rufiventris* was seen along with many Lesser Rheas *Rhea pennata*.

The following day was a fine, sunny and warm day so we headed south on Route Nine as far as we could go before running out of road a few kilometres north of Faro San Isidro. *En route*, eight Magellanic Oystercatchers *Haematopus leucopodus*, three Southern Giant Petrels *Macronectes giganteus* and an albatross sp. were seen. I had a couple of known sites for my target bird, Fuegian Snipe, but I knew that I would have to get lucky. Stopping at what I thought were suitable sites along the way, most were too dry and not wet enough for snipe. I spent four hours checking over areas that were accessible but as time went by, I had that sinking feeling. In the end I realised that I should've checked further west at Parrillar which is a national reserve, a wetter area overall but I had missed the sign heading south! In hindsight allocating more time would have been prudent to find such a tricky bird.



Magellanic Oystercatcher - Dougie Dickson



Peruvian Thick-knee - Dougie Dickson

Returning the next day to Santiago for a night, we then headed north the following day to Arica on the Peruvian border. I had been here 30 years ago when it was a large town, but it is now a massive city with infinitely better, but busy, roads, with crazy drivers! The target bird here was Peruvian Thick-knee *Hesperoburhinus superciliosus*, which would be my last Burhinidae! A quick spin around the River Lluta area after landing and picking up the rental car was enough to give me an idea where to search and more importantly where not to search! The heat was oppressive during the day, and I had worked out areas to search and later that day at around six pm, at the first productive-looking area, I picked up a pair of Peruvian Thick-knees in some mixed scrub. A very young chick was noted when I moved closer. The adults were unperturbed, and some good photos were obtained.

Elsewhere, 80 Hudsonian Whimbrels *Numenius hudsonicus* and Grey Plovers *Pluvialis squatarola* were noted on the beach along with around 50 Semipalmated Plovers *Charadrius semipalmata*, Blackish *Haematopus ater* and American Oystercatchers *Haematopus palliatus*, Surf-bird *Calidris virgata* and 20 Willets *Tringa semipalmata*. The airspace over the shore was alive with Franklin's Gulls *Leucophaeus pipixcan* and Elegant Terns *Thalasseus elegans*, literally uncountable in their thousands. A similar scenario occurred over the next two days on the rocks in north Arica! What a spectacle!



Hudsonian Whimbrel - Dougie Dickson

Chile in the winter - no pun intended! - cont'd



American Oystercatcher - Dougie Dickson



Willet - Dougie Dickson

Day ten of the trip saw us heading north-east to Putre in the Andes where we encountered a weather and temperature change. Next morning, the light headedness had kicked in and a slight headache nagged away as we set off for the altiplano towards Bolivia. My first stop brought back some memories of all those years ago when I first ticked Andean Goose *Chloephaga melanoptera*, Puna Teal *Anas puna*, Giant Coot *Fulica gigantea*, Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus* and Andean Ruddy Duck *Oxyura ferruginea*. My target bird was at Lake Chungara, a well-known site for Puna Plover *Anarhynchus alticola* and this did not disappoint. I was fortunate to get one fly in and land close to where I was standing. The lake was buzzing with birds. Things were coming together nicely, visiting other open water and bog plant areas and several of the high Andes passerines were seen. I had planned to check out some areas for Puna Snipe *Gallinago andina* and two sites for the much-wanted Diademed Sandpiper-plover, but my wife was beginning to suffer from altitude sickness. I had to make a decision. Either spend time on a difficult bird for probably no return or do the right thing and go down to sea level where she'll recover. I had been very ill many years ago at this very spot, so it was a no-brainer. We returned to Putre, packed and drove the two and a half-hour drive to Arica where she soon recovered. I had to re-think my strategy for DSP...and Puna Snipe. I had plenty of time to do so and to make arrangements with Birding Chile if I saw the need.



Puna Plover - Dougie Dickson



Andean Avocet - Dougie Dickson

The next five days were taken up driving to Iquique on the fantastic coastal desert that is Route 1, then on to Calama via a dead straight 64-mile section of desert road, thereafter on to San Pedro de Atacama, a tourist dustbowl if ever there was one! Only here at this last town were there possible sites for the waders I wanted, higher up near the hot springs of Taito, where there were also small roadside lakes. Next day we set off on Route 245. My thoughts turned to the altitude that the springs were at, so I had hoped to connect before that. Sure enough, checking Google maps to refresh my memory, I noted a couple of good lakes, one large, one small. The first, the small lake was right by the road and provided easy viewing of the many species of ducks and waders along with ibis, coots and flamingos. I picked up two Andean Avocets *Recurvirostra andina*, six Puna Plovers and 10+ Baird's Sandpipers before driving further along the road where my attention was drawn to an obvious sitting snipe! I leapt out the car and set up my scope. Bingo, Puna Snipe asleep and then... alert! I managed a few photos before it flew into the long sedge followed

Chile in the winter - no pun intended! - cont'd

instantly by another. Wader number five was on the list with a possible two left, and I felt very relieved that I had this one as I didn't know how numerous they are. Moving on to the large lake at Machuca, I spent more time here and managed many waders and more of the high-altitude passerines. Of note were, Greater *Tringa melanoleuca* and Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes* Andean Avocet, American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*, Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*, Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* and Grey-breasted Seedsnipe *Thincorus orbignyianus*. One notable omission, as was the case at Lauca National Park, was Andean Lapwing *Vanellus resplendens*. Let's hope they're not in trouble! A further attempt was made the next day to connect with a Diademed Sandpiper-plover which was posted on ebird yesterday, but the location couldn't be pinned down so with great regret, I gave up.



Puna Snipe - Dougie Dickson

The next few days involved driving to Antofagasta on the coast, then flying the next day to Santiago for two nights at San Jose de Maipo. The following day we had a two-hour drive to Santo Domingo on the coast. The River Maipo Estuary here has hosted a wader which has seemingly declined or moved south due to drought in its former range, South American Painted-snipe. I knew this was a major challenge, as the sites I had checked were all historical and there had been no recent sightings here for some time. What's more, it was an estuary, so it was tidal! Unless there were areas where the saltmarsh could be viewed, it would be nigh on impossible. This turned out to be the case, with no obvious areas to access and roadworks on the bridge meaning one lane only thus preventing views from here. I learned from two Chilean birders that none have been seen here for a while with Concepcion the best area, an eight-hour drive south of Santo Domingo. This was not an option, given our timeframe now and more research on this very elusive wader in Chile is required. In the days thereafter, checking the saltmarsh roost at the local reserve and nearby Lollole lagoons, I saw White-backed Stilt *Himantopus melanurus*, Red Knot *Calidris canutus*, over 250 American Black Skimmers *Rynchops niger* and a lifer in the shape of Black-headed Duck *Heteronetta atricapilla*, along with a whole host of ducks, swans, grebes and herons. The beachfront provided still more gorgeous Grey Gulls *Leucophaeus modestus*, Franklin's Gulls, Elegant Terns, Peruvian Pelicans *Pelecanus thagus*, Peruvian Boobies *Sula variegata* and Hudsonian Whimbrels.

We moved on the next day for a trip to Valparaiso, famous for its painted building art, then drove out the next morning in dense fog, which we had witnessed creeping in the night before. It took around eight miles on the route west for the fog to clear. We arrived at our destination in the lower Andean town of San Jose de Maipo.



Diademed Sandpiper-plover - Dougie Dickson

I still had one wader to see, and I desperately wanted to see it so I played my trump card by organising a driver/guide from Birding Chile two days previously. So, at 8am on the penultimate day of the four-week trip, we were picked up at our hotel for the four-hour drive to the Yeso Valley. It was a pleasant drive; the guide spoke excellent English, and the food and park passes were included. At around one o'clock on 8th February I finally added Diademed Sandpiper-plover to my wader list! Two adults and one juvenile were present and gave ridiculously close views for over an hour. I was a happy man! Other birds included Grey-breasted Seedsnipe, Variable Hawk *Geranoaetus polyosoma* and a stunning male Yellow-rumped Siskin *Spinus uropygialis*.

A total of 29 species of wader was seen on the trip in covering much of Chile, with six of the possible eight new birds seen. The trip list was 130 species. I had seen many of the other birds on a trip here in 1995, so I concentrated my time on 'new' waders. As to what my world wader list is now? I've still to work that out accurately, given that there have been changes to what constitutes a wader, it will be around 80%... and that includes Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris*.

Sambhar Ramsar Site: Potential wader habitat yet conservation measures found missing

- Harsh Vardhan

Owing to avian botulism, suspected again during 2024/5 early winter, Sambhar lake got adverse publicity all over. Details of this are outlined in a separate feature in [Wader Quest newsletter Volume 12 Issue 1](#) (pp 32-34) as written by Rohit Gangwal, President of RAKSDHA, a non government organization in India. This feature attempts to highlight the potential of Sambhar lake for wader species.

Little is known about a British government officer who was posted at Sambhar during the late 19th century. R. M. Adam was Assistant Commissioner for Salt extraction at this water body. Like true British habits, he kept an eye on birds in this vicinity and so became the first record holder for birds at Sambhar. His notes were published in *Stray Feathers*, a journal run by A.O. Hume, the leading ornithologist who remained in India as a civil servant for a long period and earned the name to set up Congress, a political party that became responsible for making India free from the British yoke: “(*Stray Feathers* 1 (5): 361–404. Adam, R. M. 1874a. Additional notes on the birds of Sambhur Lake and its vicinity. *Stray Feathers* 2 (4&5): 337–341. Adam, R. M. 1874b.”



Greater Painted Snipe - Naveen Kumar Singh

Harkirat's work: Subsequently, Harkirat Singh Sangha, an Indian government officer, undertook assessments and came out with a total of 83 species of waterfowl recorded at Sambhar (2009). Naveen Kumar Singh, my volunteer colleague at TWSI, carried out assessments in recent years (2018-24) to record 198 bird species at Sambhar and its adjoining semi arid habitat.

Of these, 28 species of birds belong to the wader group. It is obvious that Sambhar lake has immense potential for such aquatic birds that are confined to the edges of water only. It is about 15% of the total number of species in this group. For water birds, the percentage of waders stands at more than 30%.



Eurasian Curlew - Naveen Kumar Singh

Harkirat Singh, a long time colleague of mine in conservation, described Sambhar as a “playa” having a maximum depth of 3 m with average depth not exceeding 0.16 m. The lake basin is 22.5 km long while its width ranges from 3.2 to 11.2 km. The lakebed (360 m alt.) is almost flat with a slope of 10 cm per km. The lake was divided into two unequal parts by a 5.16 km long embankment erected in 1924 between the settlements of Jhapok in the south and Gudha in the north.

Four seasonal streams—Mendha, Rupangarh, Kharian and Khandel—besides numerous rivulets and surface runoff, feed the lake. With the onset of rains, the lake starts filling gradually and the water is almost fresh, with salinity less than 2 ppt. The salinity of the lake, however, increases through the winter due to evaporation and salt-encrustation of the lakebed. Salinity rises sharply during spring or early summer when salt crystallisation starts.

Flamingos: Sambhar supports a highly specialised group of organisms, including the algae *Dunaliella salina* and the bacterium *Serratia sambhariana*. Both Greater and Lesser Flamingos regularly visit the lake. This lake happens to be the most important area for flamingos on

Sambhar Ramsar site: potential wader habitat yet conservation measures found missing - cont'd



Marsh Sandpiper - Naveen Kumar Singh

Plover *Charadrius dubius*, Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*, Ruff *Calidris pugnax*, Temminck's Stint *C. temmincki*, Dunlin *C. alpina*, Little Stint *C. minuta*, Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*, Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*, Spotted Redshank *T. erythropus*, Common Greenshank *T. nebularia*, Marsh Sandpiper *T. stagnatilis*, Wood Sandpiper *T. glareola*, Common Redshank *T. totanus* and Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea*. Indian courser *Cursorius coromandelicus* is another in this group though it remains restricted to semi-arid dry habitat in adjoining areas of this lake and breeds there.

At nearly 200 sq. km the area of Sambhar lake is administratively divided among three districts (Counties in England): Jaipur, Nagaur and Ajmer. So, it is ironic that this lake has no singular administrative machinery to this date. This writer has attended numerous meetings staged by the Government of Rajasthan, India, to discuss the future of this important water body. The Forest Department is authorized to administer all wild species in India, whether aquatic or terrestrial. Here, officials of this department have to remain silent as their jurisdiction is not acknowledged across the lake bed and its adjoining habitat.



Little Stint - Naveen Kumar Singh

Hindustan Salt Limited, a public sector undertaking belonging to the Government of India, is in charge of the entire lake as per an agreement. Its objective is to extract salt from saline water. It has no concern for birds. Thanks to lobbying by forest officials over the past three decades, Sambhar has received the significant status of being a Ramsar Site. What does it mean to its birds or its overall habitat? Nothing, to say the least. There is not a single bit of signage there to pronounce it as a Ramsar Site or its significance. Nor is there any bird centric imagery caused by the Government to let a visitor get educated about avian importance. One has to face challenges from the salt company's guards while approaching lake shores for bird watching as they object to them, saying it is the company's property and one ought to obtain permission to enter that area.

Authority set up: The salt company has leased out a chunk of land to a private hotelier and it also runs a train along the southern periphery of the lake. It is aimed at increasing visitors' foot fall at this site. However, the hotelier conveys his tale of woe – no visitors to stay overnight. The train remains suspended for most times of the week – no one to travel.

The Government of Rajasthan established a State Wetland Authority, thanks to a senior officer's initiative (Mr. Shikhar Agrawal) who is presently posted as Additional Chief Secretary in Chief Minister of Rajasthan's office. This writer happens to be a member of this Authority. I must confess that nothing has progressed in the past eleven months since the Authority was set up though one meeting did take place. It listed a few measures which were passed over to various government officers.

This writer has prepared a strategy note on Sambhar as a new bird watching destination in India aiming at its species

Sambhar Ramsar site: potential wader habitat yet conservation measures found missing - cont'd

diversity, concentration of some rare and endangered species besides those breeding in its semi arid vicinity. It highlights some basic facilities to be created at its southern rim, maybe beside a village named Jhapok: A Visitor Centre as is experienced in Britain and the USA, with a hide for visitors to sit in, a café, a rest room among others is proposed. It emphasizes that local village youth, boys and girls, should be given training to become Nature Guides. They may be stationed on a daily basis at the Visitor Centre to go with visitors into the lake areas to convey to them all about birds. Bicycles should be kept there for use by visitors. Auto-rickshaws run by battery, could also be deployed. Check-lists of birds should be published and made available at a small cost to visitors reaching there. Signages would add to educational content.

Who will bell the cat: Who should do it? The Forest department, undoubtedly, as I like to outline. I gather a budget was sanctioned by the Authority to be utilized at Sambhar. I Wonder who is designated to put it to actual use.

The Forest department in India has attained numerous firsts by devising sets of facilities at several national parks and Sanctuaries. Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, is a glaring example where this writer contributed to improving infrastructure for the past four decades. Facilities there can be compared to any bird reserve across the globe. I had visited Hong Kong Wetland as well as Mi Po in that international city. The Wetlands and Wildfowl Trust (WWT) has a string of reserves in Britain. I visited its *sanctum sanctorum* at Slimbridge, and I spent time at its wetland centre in the heart of London. RSPB's Minsmere is an example which was showcased to me by my friend, Robert Oates who served as Executive Director of The Thames Restoration Trust. I have been a regular visitor to Rutland where the annual British Birdwatching Fair was, and the Global Birdfairnow is staged as a global example in conservation cum tourism. I wish Sambhar to attain similar stature, one day.

Is Sambharis waiting for Godot? I hope this statement, scripted by Samuel Beckett, is proved wrong at this fascinating landscape teeming with birds. We live in hope and I leave it to a new generation of forest officers to prove their mettle.

Harsh Vardhan indianbirdfair1@gmail.com is the Honorary Secretary of the Tourism & Wildlife Society of India (TWSI), www.birdfair.org



White-tailed Lapwing - Naveen Kumar Singh

Wader Guru question

Does the female Eurasian Dotterel display? If not how are the honours for mating resolved?

Chris Balchin - Essex, UK



Female Eurasian Dotterel incubating © Vojtěch Kubelka



Female Eurasian Dotterel © Ian Davies



The short answer is; yes, they do.

Background: Eurasian Dotterels exhibit unusual plumage and behavioural differences to most bird species. The female birds are brighter and more colourful, usually the preserve of the males.

For more northerly breeding populations pairing starts before the birds reach their breeding grounds. In this case they will select flat areas where they gather, usually near water. Southern breeding pairs will reach their breeding grounds before they are paired, and it may be several days after arrival before the rituals begin.

Pairs are formed from 'trips' (the collective noun for a group of Dotterels). It is usual for the female to initiate proceedings. This is manifested in the frequent raising and refolding of both wings, or maybe stretching a single wing whilst spreading the tail simultaneously, as she pursues a male that she is trying to separate from the trip. Sometimes the male will respond by raising his wings too.

Males have also been seen to strut around the females raising their wings so that they meet above their backs.

If a female is having difficulty with separating her chosen male, she will draw attention to herself by running away from the trip and then squatting down as though she were brooding. presumably in the hope that a male will be encouraged by her desire to breed. If she is unsuccessful

Wader Guru question - cont'd.

in attracting attention the first time she will repeat the process, returning to the trip raising her wings and running off once again.

If during this ritual the male flies away, the female, if she is serious, will pursue him and together they may then do a display flight, flying fast with synchronised twists and turns, crossing each other. Alternatively, they may fly with slow deliberate wing beats instead. Sometimes the male will follow the female with these slower wingbeats dangling his legs underneath him. As pair bonds grow, males sometimes take the initiative and chase females.

If it is the case that there are few other Dotterels in the vicinity, either early in the season or perhaps the habitat is not optimal, when no trip exists from which to select a mate, a female may establish a 'display centre' from which she will launch song flights. Here she flies with shallow, shivering wings, a habit known as winnow-gliding. At times this flight will be level and at others it may be undulating, either way it follows a circular, elliptical or straight path over a wide area. These different flights are carried out between 30 and 100 m from the ground. Throughout the flight the female gives a series of peeping calls. If she is fortunate enough to attract a male then the chasing flight described above may ensue.

After incubation, by the male, commences, the female sometimes starts song flights again to seek new males with whom she can breed. Interestingly a female ringed in Scotland was also found breeding with a different male in Scandinavia the same season taking advantage of two breeding time frames at different locations. Visit the [Wader Guru webpage](#).

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Part of a small trip of Eurasian Dotterels © Elis Simpson



Male Eurasian Dotterel incubating © Vojtěch Kubelka



Male Eurasian Dotterels © Elis Simpson

Who's who in wader nomenclature, fame and obscurity; Pallas and Roux – Rick Simpson

Fame: Pallas, Peter Simon (1741–1811) German-Russian zoologist.

Born in Berlin in 1741, then in the Kingdom of Prussia, he was privately tutored and gained an interest in natural history. He passed his medical exams at the age of 19.

He later travelled across Europe to London but settled in The Hague. In 1767 he was invited by Catherine II of Russia, better known as Catherine the Great, to become a professor at the St Petersburg Academy of sciences from where he led a specimen collecting expedition to the central Russian provinces, Povolzhye, Urals, West Siberia, Altay, and Transbaikal. He settled in St Petersburg on this return and became a favourite of Catherine II, teaching natural history to the Grand Dukes Alexander and Constantine. Such was his favour with the Empress that she bought Pallas's large natural history collection for 2,000 rubles, 500 more than his asking price, and allowed him to keep them for life.

Between 1793 and 1794, Pallas led a second expedition to southern Russia, visiting the Crimea and the Black Sea. He left St Petersburg in 1810 and returned to Berlin where he died the following year.

13 species of bird named after him, but none of them are waders. However, he did successfully name five wader species; Spotted Redshank (protonym *Scolopax erythropus* 1764) *Tringa erythropus*, Sanderling (*Tringa alba* 1764) *Calidris alba*, Caspian Plover (*Charadrius asiaticus* 1773) *Anarhynchus asiaticus*, Red-necked Stint (*Tryngra ruficollis* 1776) *Calidris ruficollis*, and Siberian Sand Plover (*Charadrius mongolus* 1776) *Anarhynchus mongolus*.

He was less successful with two later attempts where he named *Charadrius hypolemus* in 1778 and posthumously in 1826 *Charadrius pardela*, both of which now refer to Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*.



Peter Simon Pallas by A. Tardier, an 18th century artist, picture digitalised by Alexei Kouprianov, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



Spotted Redshank - Elis Simpson

Who's who in wader nomenclature, fame and obscurity; Pallas and Roux – cont'd

Obscurity: Roux, Dr Jean (1876–1939) Swiss herpetologist and zoologist.

Roux studied at the University of Geneva and gained his Doctorate in 1899. Later he became a curator at the Basel Natural History Museum. Roux's main research was in herpetology, and he authored 35 papers on the subject. He joined expeditions to the Aru and Kei Islands, as well as New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands. He had several species named after him including Roux's emo skink *Emoia loyaltiensis*, Roux's giant gecko *Rhacodactylus sarasinorum*, and *Lipinia rouxi*.

However, his one attempt at waderology went awry when he described a new species of Thick-knee or Stone-curlew. *Ædicnemus belonii* 1825, which is now considered synonymous with Eurasian Stone-Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*.



Eurasian Stone-curlew - Elis Simpson

From the library: Bird Facts and Fallacies (1933) - Lewis R. W. Loyd

'Swainson, on the authority of Lloyd, gives Skillili as a Lapp name for the Sandpiper and quotes the lines:

*Skillili! Skillili! I carry, I carry,
An egg large as that of a Ripa,
So that my tail cocks in the air.*

As the Ripa is the Ptarmigan it is probable that the name Skillili may be more correctly applied to the Redshank.

Before the erection of weirs on the Severn, and the consequent disappearance of the Shad which used to be caught therein, Sandpipers were known by the local fishermen as Shad-birds, owing, no doubt, to their annual arrival coinciding with that of the fish. There is a saying in Brittany that "when les cus blancs fly low it is a sign of wind." Swainson applies this to the Green Sandpiper but it might equally well (and perhaps more probably) refer to the Redshank.



Wader Guru 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:

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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)

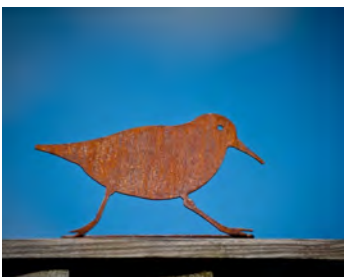
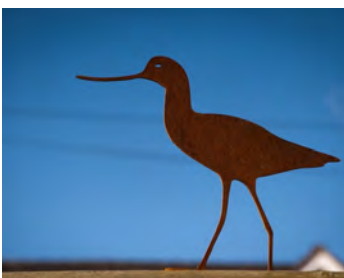
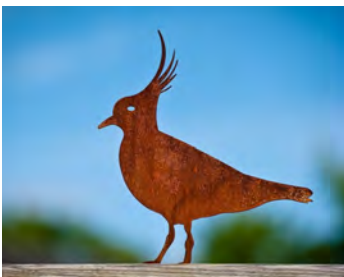
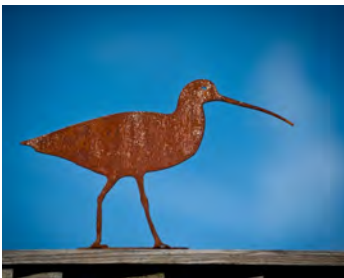
Curlew (small)

Lapwing

Avocet

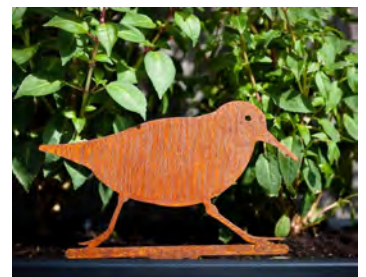
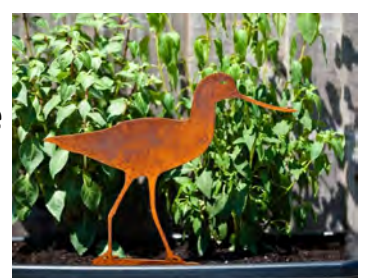
Sanderling

Fence toppers



Large Curlew only available as fence topper

Lawn/pot ornament



[All available from the Red Dragon Metal Art website shop](#)

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.

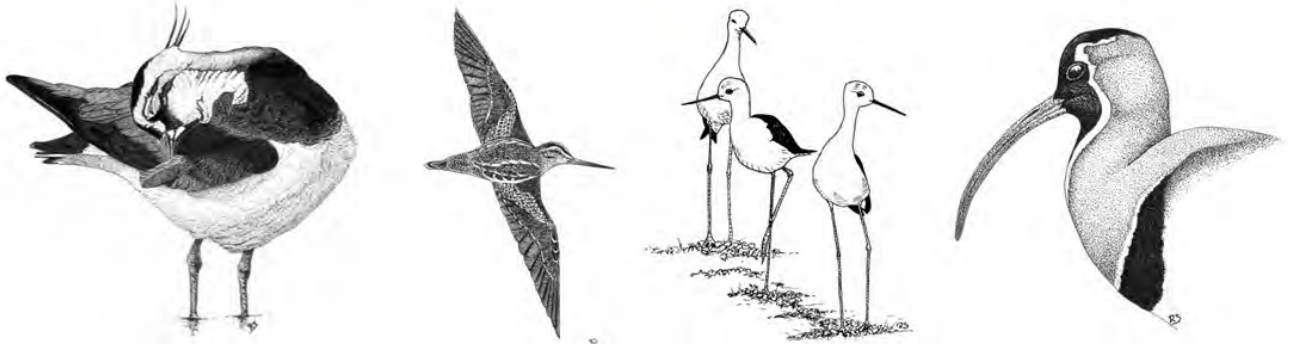


WWW.RedDragonMetalArt.co.uk

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.

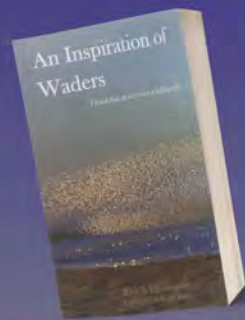
BUY NOW!



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

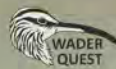
The foreword is by Keith Betton



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



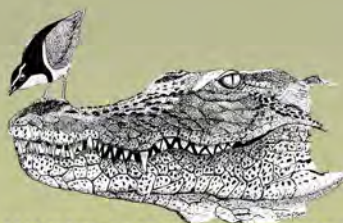
BY RICK AND ELIS SIMPSON



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

sales@waderquest.net

£8.50
+pand



WADER QUEST PUBLISHING
All profits will go to Wader Quest

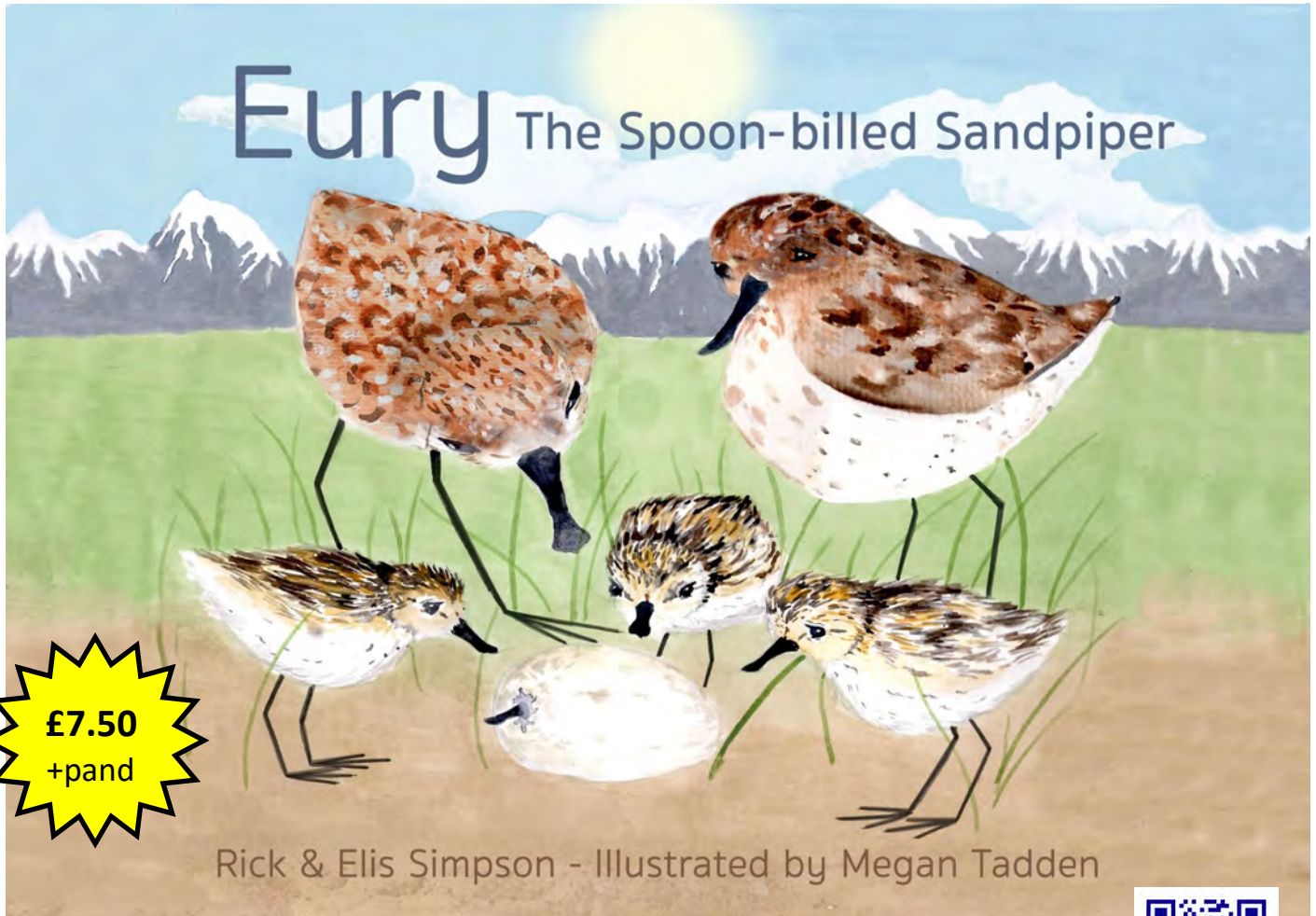
BUY NOW!

Wader Quest merchandising

Eury The Spoon-billed Sandpiper

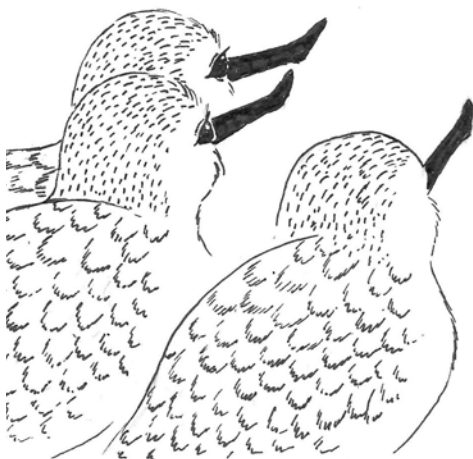
A Wader Quest Publishing book By Rick and Elis Simpson

Children 6 -11 years



BUY NOW!

sales@waderquest.net



Wader Quest merchandising

Wader Quest Collectables - Pin Badges

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



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

0-23 DESIGNS STILL



2021-23 DESIGNS

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

ORDERS FOR ALL WADER QUEST MERCHANDISING sales@waderquest.net



NEW FOWQ 2024 BADGE
Exclusive to 2024 subscribers.



Wader Quest Collectables - Enamelled



Earrings

Wader Quest merchandising

NIK BORROW DESIGNED WADER GREETING CARDS

100 X 150 MM

PACK OF 12 + 1 FREE £10.00

sales@waderquest.net



Wader Quest merchandising

JULIA PAGE POSTCARDS

100 X 150 MM

£1.00 EACH

£4.00 A SET OF 5

+P&P



Pied Avocets over Titchwell RSPB reserve © Julia Page

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



Eurasian Oystercatchers © Julia Page

Back in stock!



Common Snipe © Julia Page



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

Designs by
Julia Page



sales@waderquest.net



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

Guidelines for applications for Wader Quest grants

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

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

Priority will be given to projects:

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

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

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

£62,684.89

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