



WADER
GURU



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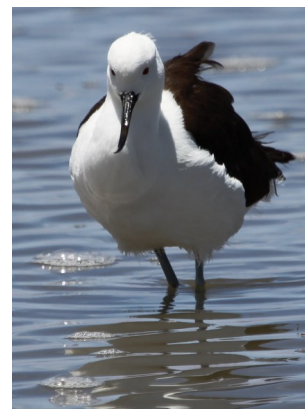
SHORT ANSWER: There are 238 species of wader in the world.

LONG ANSWER: The term 'wader' is synonymous with 'shorebird'; both are used to refer to the same group of birds. In scientific terms we are referring to species in the order Charadriiformes. This includes all the species in the suborder CHARADRII and SCOLOPACI and two families with the suborder LARI; Dromadidae - Crab Plover and Glareolidae - pratincoles and coursers, but we do not concern ourselves with the families Turnicidae – buttonquails, Laridae – gulls, terns, noddies and skimmers, Stercorariidae – skuas and Alcidae – auks also within the suborder LARI.

CHARADRIIFORMES Huxley 1867 – CHARADRII, SCOLOPACI and LARI.

CHARADRII Huxley 1867 – divided into 106 species in the following 8 families;

- **BURHINIDAE** (Mathews 1912) - [stone-curlews and thick-knees](#) 10 species in 3 genera.
- **PLUVIANIDAE** (MacGillivray 1852) - [Egyptian Plover](#) 1 species in 1 genus.
- **CHIONIDAE** (Bonaparte 1832) - [sheathbills](#) 2 species in 1 genus.
- **PLUVIANELLIDAE** (Jehl 1975) - [Magellanic Plover](#) 1 species in 1 genus.
- **CHARADRIIDAE** (Leach 1820) - lapwings, plovers, dotterels and Sandpiper-plover 71 species in 2 subfamilies
 - * Subfamily: VANELLINAE (Bonaparte 1842) - [lapwings](#) 25 species in 2 genera.
 - * Subfamily: CHARADRIINAE (Leach 1820) - [tundra plovers](#), [ringed plovers](#), [other plovers](#) 46 species in 8 genera.
- **RECURVIROSTRIDAE** (Bonaparte 1854) - [avocets and stilts](#) 10 species in 3 genera.
- **IBIDORHYNCHIDAE** (Bonaparte 1856) - [Ibisbill](#) 1 species in 1 genus.
- **HAEMATOPODIDAE** (Bonaparte 1838) - [oystercatchers](#) 12 species in 1 genus.



Andean Avocet © Elis Simpson

SCOLOPACI Strauch - 1978 divided into 114 species in the following 5 families;

- **ROSTRATULIDAE** (Ridgway 1919) - [painted-snipes](#) 3 species in 2 genera. Painted-snipes are closely related to jacanas and are commonly placed in a superfamily with them called Jacanoidea (Chenu & des Muirs, 1854 (1840)).
- **JACANIDAE** (Stejneger 1885) - [jacanas](#) 8 species in 6 genera. Jacanas are closely related to painted-snipes and are commonly placed in a superfamily with them called Jacanoidea (Chenu & des Muirs, 1854 (1840)).
- **PEDIONOMIDAE** (Bonaparte 1856) - [Plains Wanderer](#) 1 species in 1 genus.
- **THINOCORIDAE** (Sundevall 1835) - [seedsnipes](#) 4 species in 2 genera.
- **SCOLOPACIDAE** (Rafinesque 1815) - curlews, godwits, sandpipers, snipes and allies. 99 species in 15 genera.
 - * Subfamily: TRINGINAE (Rafinesque 1815) 35 species in 7 genera.
 - ◇ Tribe: NUMENIINI - [curlews, whimbrels, godwits and Upland Sandpiper](#) 14 species in 3 genera.
 - ◇ Tribe: TRINGINI - [shanks, tattlers](#) 16 species in 3 genera.
 - ◇ Tribe: PROSOBONIINI [Polynesian sandpipers](#) 5 species in 1 genus.
 - * Subfamily: ARENARIINAE (Stejneger, 1885) - [turnstones](#) 2 species in 1 genus.
 - * Subfamily: PHALAROPODINAE (Bonaparte 1831) - [phalaropes](#) 3 species in 1 genus.
 - * Subfamily: SCOLOPACINAE (Rafinesque 1815) - [woodcocks and snipes](#) 35 species in 5 genera.
 - * Subfamily: CALIDRINAE (Reichenbach 1849) - Calidris sandpipers 24 species in 1 genus.



Broad-billed Sandpiper © Elis Simpson

LARI Bowdler Sharpe - 1891 divided into 18 species in the following 2 families;

- **DROMADIDAE** (Gray, G. 1840) - [Crab Plover](#) 1 species in 1 genus.
- **GLAREOLIDAE** (Brehm 1831) - [coursers and pratincoles](#) 17 species in 4 genera.

The following families within Lari are not considered to be waders.

- **TURNICIDAE** (Gray 1840) - buttonquails
- **LARIDAE** (Rafinesque 1815) - gulls, terns, noddies and skimmers
- **STERCORARIIDAE** - (Brisson 1760) SKuas
- **ALCIDAE** - (Leach 1820) Auks

Future changes? Taxonomy is forever evolving as the different forms themselves evolve.



Double-banded Courser © Elis Simpson

So it is reasonable to expect that some taxa may yet be treated differently in the future creating more or fewer species depending on the findings of the research. .

- Blackish Oystercatcher *Haematopus ater* in South America and Black Oystercatcher *H. bachmani* in North America are very similar to look at and would be almost impossible to separate in the field. However the large gap between the species was thought to be sufficient to render them species. A recent DNA study showed that they may be simply subspecies or perhaps disjunct populations of the same taxon.
- A recent study showed that the relationship of the Canary Island Oystercatcher *Haematopus meadewoldoi* with other forms of oystercatcher is complicated. It was considered to be an extinct species with its closest relative being African Oystercatcher *H. moquini*. However a DNA analysis showed that in fact it may be more closely related to Eurasian Oystercatcher *H. ostralegus* and may be a melanistic form of that species.
- An eastern form of Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus osculans* may warrant elevating to specific status.
- Javan Plover *Charadrius javanicus* may prove to be a subspecies of Kentish Plover *C. alexandrinus*.
- The Willet *Tringa semipalmata* has two forms known as Eastern Willet *T. s. semipalmata* and Western Willet *T. s. inornata*. Currently they are subspecies as shown, but in the future there is a school of thought that they should be split to form two species.

Sources:

del Hoyo et al.: *Handbook of the Birds of the World* Vol. III

Hayman et al.: *Shorebirds - An identification guide to the waders of the world.*

www.waderquest.net

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