

A personal view on how waders migrate using the autumn passage of Northern Dunlins as an example

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Using the autumn migration of Northern Dunlin across N Europe as an example, I argue that most wader migration takes place at great heights and across broad fronts and is little influenced by topographical features. This is in contrast to earlier notions that migration routes are limited to rather narrow “corridors” which follow coasts and other “leading lines”. It is also at variance with what is recorded by ground-based field observations which often only record migrating waders that are brought low by weather conditions.