
Book Review

NEW SHOREBIRD GUIDE: *SHOREBIRDS OF THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE* BY RICHARD CHANDLER
(2009, CHRISTOPHER HELM, LONDON, ISBN 978-1-4081-0790-4, 448 pages, £29.99)

Already there are several photographic guides to waders on the market, so do we really need another? A quick look at Richard Chandlers's recently published *Shorebirds of the Northern Hemisphere* shows that the answer is "Yes, we do!" It is in a class of its own and it is very much more than just a photo-guide. It illustrates all 134 wader species found in the Northern Hemisphere and features more than 850 stunning colour photographs (an average of six per species) as well as colour distribution maps. The photographs concentrate on illustrating the progression of plumages from juvenile to adult and will therefore be a valuable aid to many ecological studies.

The species texts are detailed and authoritative; they describe key identification features, including age and sex differences, variations in plumage, similar species, status, habitat, and distribution. It is an easy-to-use guide that also includes comprehensive primers on plumage patterns and terminology, moulting, feeding and other behaviours, and much more. This premier illustrated guide is suitable for field use and is a must-have for members of the International Wader Study Group. Richard Chandler is a renowned shorebird specialist and photographer and a long-time editorial board member of *British Birds* magazine.

Humphrey Sitters

