

## **Professor Theunis Piersma (Winner of the Marsh Award for International Ornithology)**

Theunis Piersma is Professor of Global Flyway Ecology at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. He has established a very successful research group, and acquired wide international recognition for his scientific work on migration, ecology, and evolution of birds and other taxa. He was one of the driving forces in establishing the Global Flyway Network, which focuses on long-term demographic studies of shorebirds to identify natural selection pressures on this group of birds, with work carried out in The Netherlands, Africa, Australia, North and South America and Asia. As well as a leading academic, Theunis is also a dedicated mentor to the younger generation of scientists. He has supervised 50 PhD students and 20 postdocs, and his team hosts visiting students and scientists from all over the world. He is also a prolific science communicator with 14 books in his name, including the BTO-published *Guests of Summer* on House Martin, on top of many seminal scientific papers.