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Arabian muds

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Arabian Muds

A 21st-century natural history on crab plovers, crabs and molluscs

Roeland Bom

1. Barr Al Hikman in the Sultanate of Oman probably harbours the most shorebirds of all wintering sites in the West-Asian East-African flyway.
Chapter 5
2. The dagger-like bill of both the crab plover and the beach thick-knee and the near absence of red knots from Barr Al Hikman are consequences of escalated evolutionary arms races.
After Geerat Vermeij, Evolution and escalation: an ecological history of life, 1987, Princeton University Press, Princeton NJ; Theunis Piersma, Waarom nonnetjes samen klaarkomen en andere wonderen van het Wad, 2006, KNNV Uitgeverij, Utrecht; Chapter 2, 8 and 12
3. "A detailed study of any species is likely to throw up some novel problems of wider interest".
Nick Davies, Dunnock Behaviour and Social Evolution, 1992; this thesis
4. The advantage as well as the disadvantage of studying unexplored species and ecosystems is that everything you study is new.
This thesis
5. Depending on the density of swimming crabs, crab plovers should either predominantly search for swimming crabs, or wait for burrowing crabs.
Chapter 8
6. There is a tide in the affairs of crab plovers. Which, taken at the right moment, leads on to fortune.
Chapter 10; after William Shakespeare, 1599, in Julius Caesar
7. "There is no substitute for actual observation".
Richard Lewontin, The Triple Helix, 2001, Harvard University Press, Harvard
8. The question is not how children gain an interest in natural history, the question is how they lose it.
David Attenborough, meets Barack Obama, BBC One, May 2015
9. "All that is best in the Arabs has come to them from the desert: (...) their sense of fellowship (...); their generosity and sense of hospitality; their dignity (...); their humor, their courage and patience and the language which they speak."
Wilfred Thesiger, Arabian Sands, 1959, Penguin UK
10. "Truth should have an 's' in the end".
Tom Waits, Volkskrant, 21 October 2011
11. Naast inzetten op energie 'vergroening' moeten we veel meer inzetten op minder energieverbruik.