

1.8 Dangerous journey

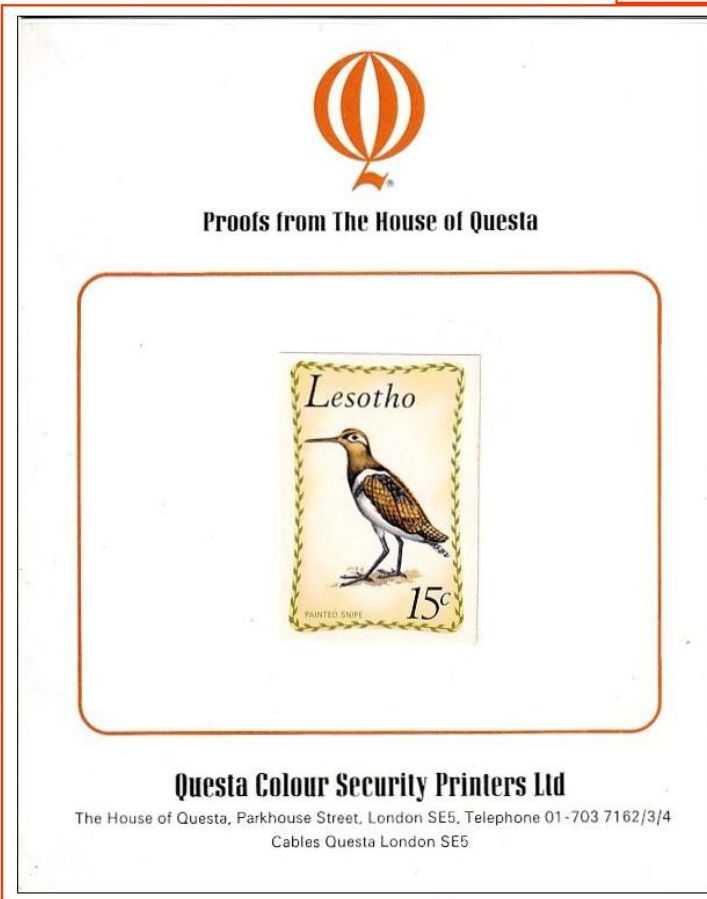
Migratory land birds perform extreme endurance flights when crossing ecological barriers, such as deserts, oceans and ice-caps. When travelling over benign areas, birds are expected to migrate by shorter flight steps, since carrying the heavy fuel loads needed for long non-stop flights comes at considerable cost.



↑ 1961. Speyer, Germany— Bird in flight
Meter Proof / Test strip FRAMA supplier Post Horn

Great snipes *Gallinago media* make long and fast non-stop flights (4300–6800 km in 48–96 h), over deserts and seas. Furthermore, the great snipes achieved very high ground speeds (15–27 m s⁻¹), which was not an effect of strong tailwind support, and we know of no other animal that travels this rapidly over such a long distance. Did you know snipe are a migratory bird much like their cousin the beloved woodcock? ... To no surprise, snipe seasons line up with their migration as they move from their summer breeding grounds in September to their winter grounds on into November and December.

↓ Bromide proof from printer's archives



↑ LESOTHO (1971) Greater Painted Snipe
Imperforate proof mounted on card from
M/s Questa color Security Printers Ltd.

The **common greenshank** (*Tringa nebularia*) is a wader in the large family Scolopacidae, the typical waders. →

It is a migratory species, wintering in Africa, the Indian subcontinent, and Australasia, usually on fresh water. It breeds on dry ground near marshy areas.

This is a subarctic bird, breeding from northern Scotland eastwards across northern Europe and east across the Palearctic.

→ AFARS & ISSAS (1967)
Common Greenshank
(*Tringa nebularia*)
Deluxe Sheet with 'IMPRIMERIE DES TIMBRES-POSTE' -
PARIS, printed at right bottom

