

## **Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris***

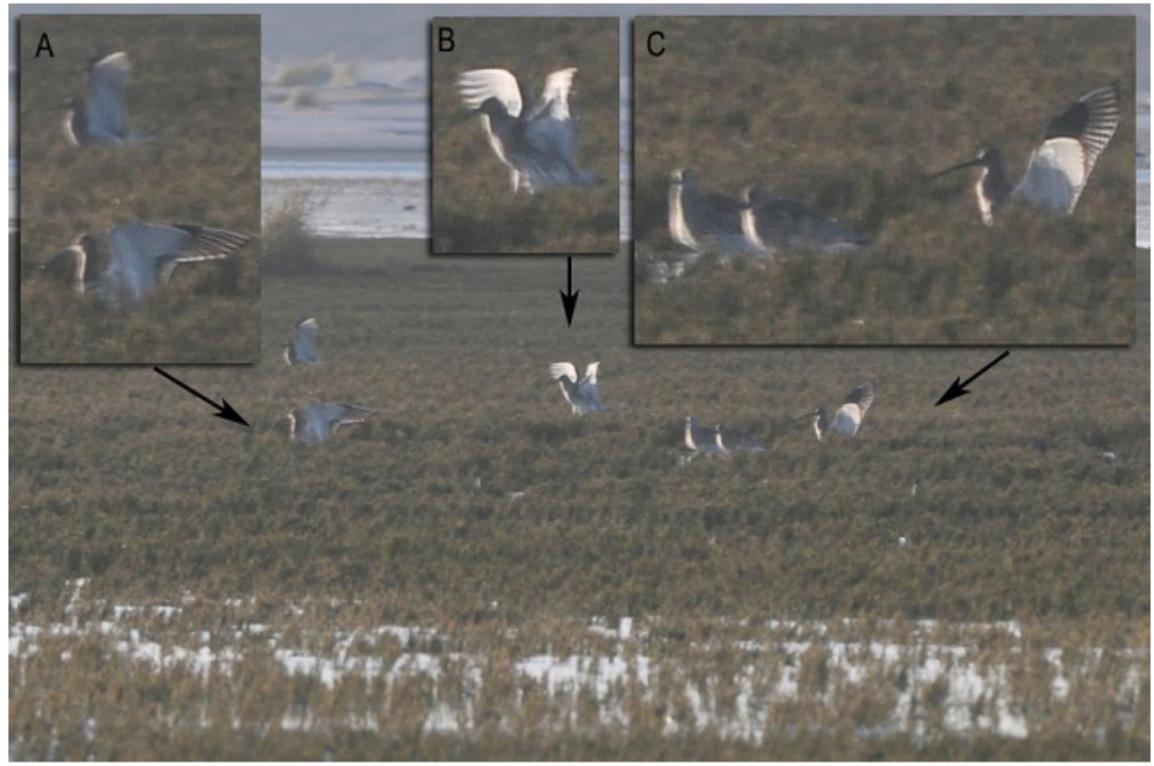
*photography Norman Deans van Swelm & Richard Porter*

Right at the onset of a very cold spell on the 11th of January 2013 I found a group of 11 Slender-billed Curlews *Numenius tenuirostris* on a vegetated part of a mudflat in the Rhine-Meuse delta in the SW Netherlands. Slender-billed Curlews have been recorded or rather shot in The Netherlands before f.i. in the very cold winter 1946-47 when on 23rd of January 1947 this splendid bird was killed alas (collection Nat.His.Museum 'Museon' of The Hague):

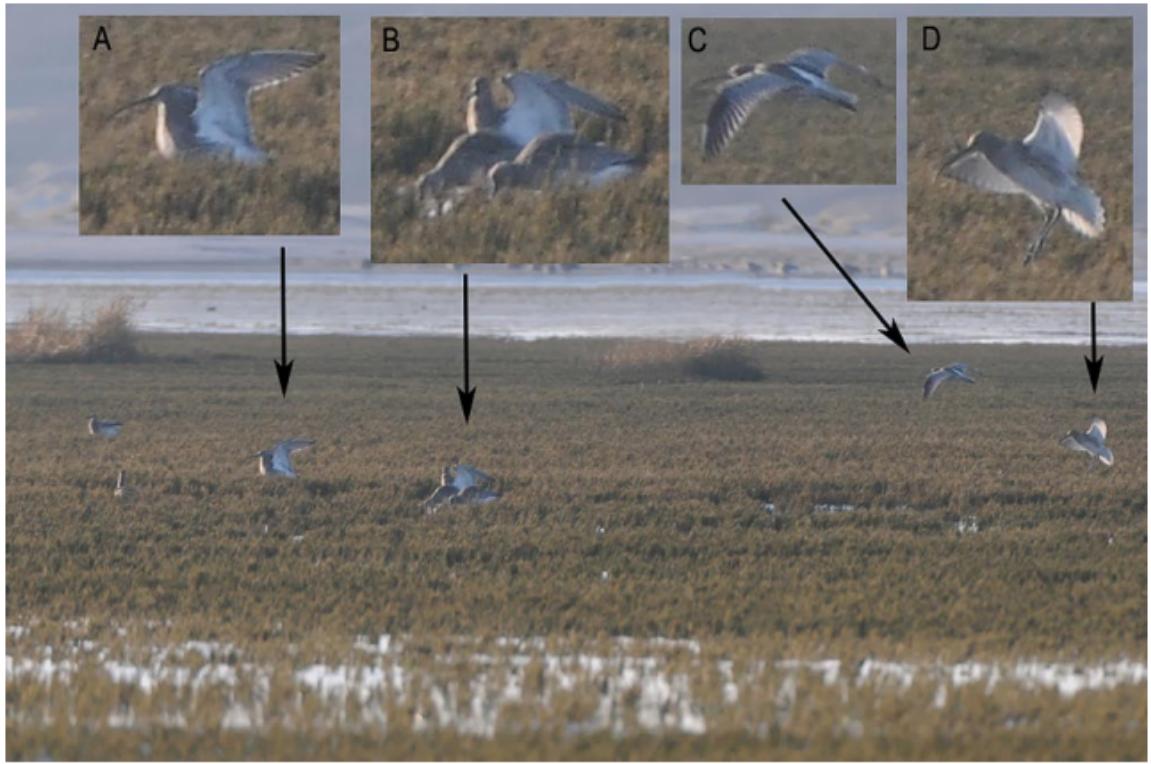
<http://www.wildewijdewereld.nl/?p=7520>

During cold spells like this waterbirds rush from the Waddensea to the south to find milder weather, the Dutch delta is their first port of call to find refuge. If the cold advances the birds continue to fly to France where they face senseless slaughter by hunters.

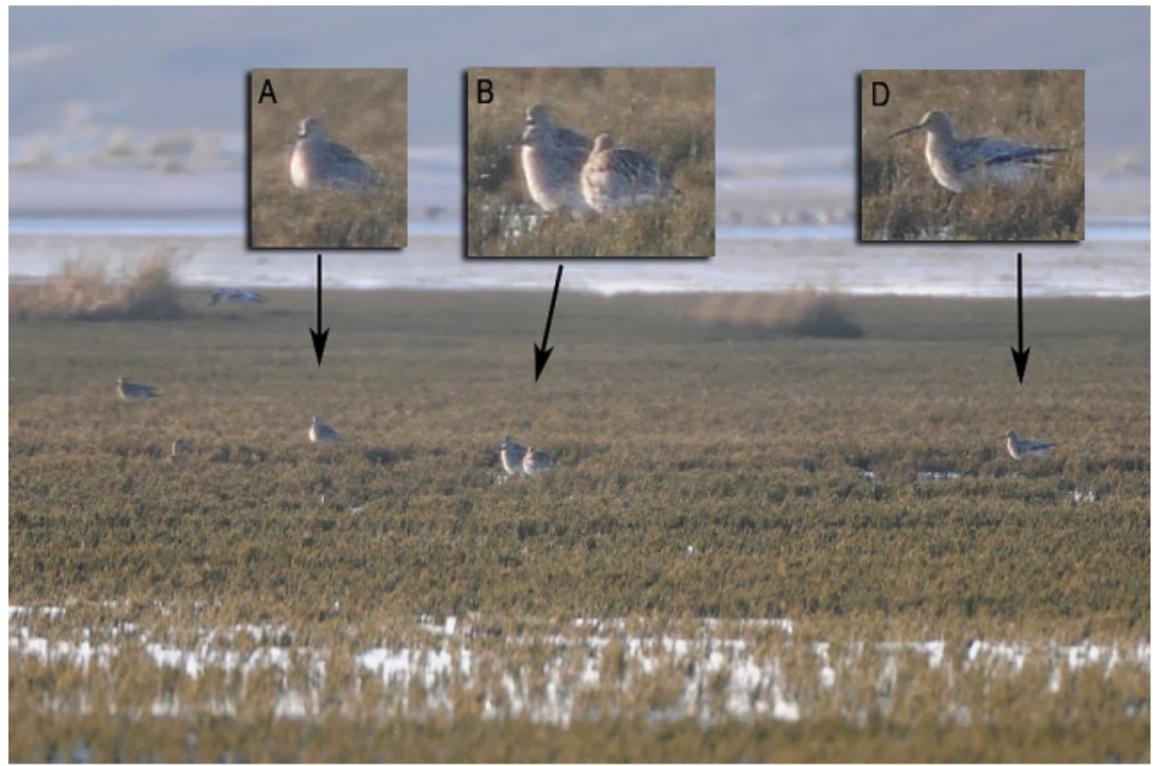
It is likely that small numbers of Slender-billed Curlews (still) spend the winter along the vegetated mudflats of the Waddensea where they are hard to find among the huge number of waders present. This is the NW border of the winter range of Slender-billed Curlews with the Arabian peninsula being on the other end (see picture taken by Richard Porter in January 1984). In between lies the killing zone of Italy and North Africa where so many Slender-billed Curlews were and probably still are shot.



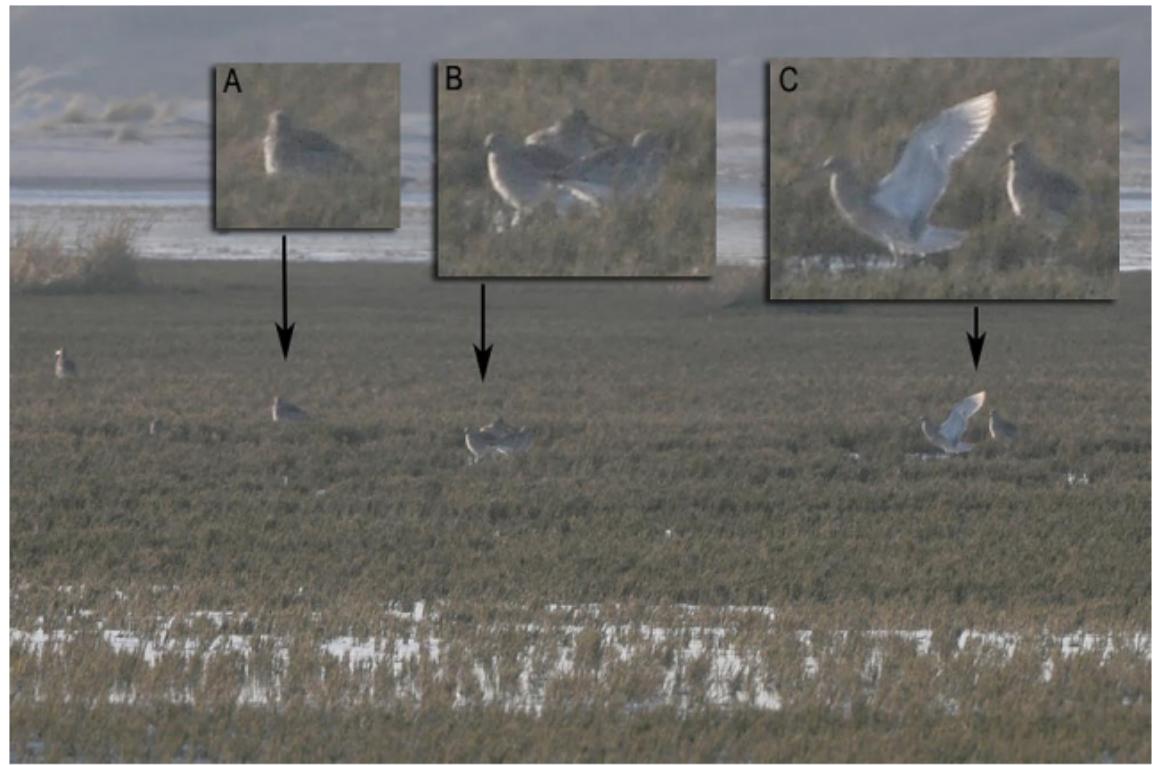
01.SI-bi Cu N tenuirostris 11012013 9225 SW NL-c N.D.v.S



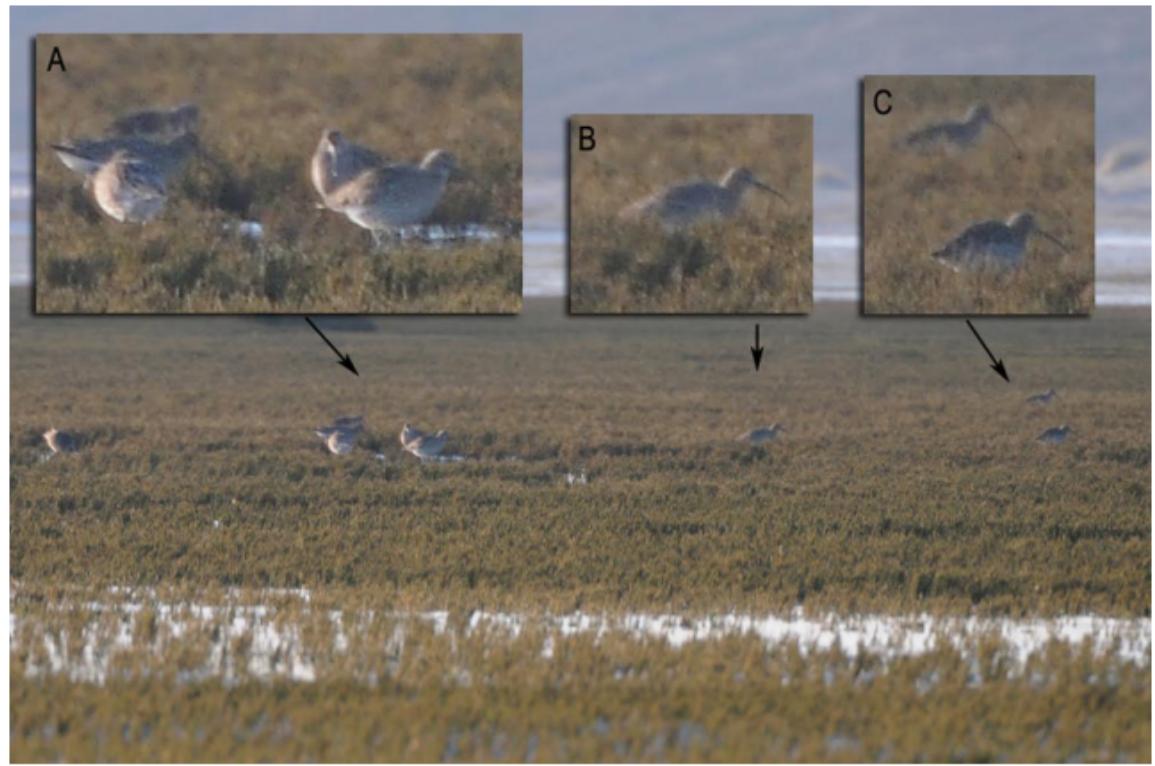
01.SI-bi Cu N tenuirostris 11012013 9226 SW NL-c N.D.v.S



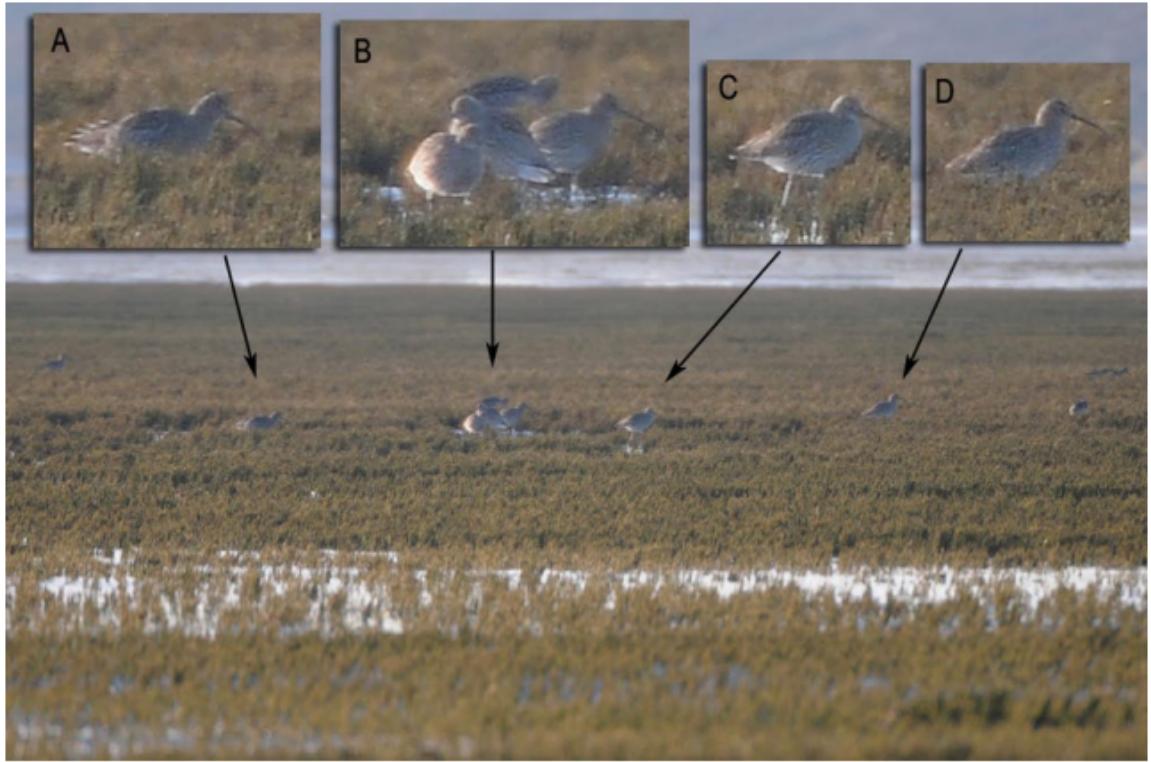
01.SI-bi Cu N tenuirostris 11012013 9227 SW NL-c N.D.v.S



01.SI-bi Cu N tenuirostris 11012013 9229 SW NL-c N.D.v.S



01.SI-bi Cu N tenuirostris 11012013 SW NL-c N.D.v.S



02.SI-bi Cu N tenuirostris 11012013 SW NL-c N.D.v.S



03.SI-bi Cu N tenuirostris 11012013 SW NL-c N.D.v.S



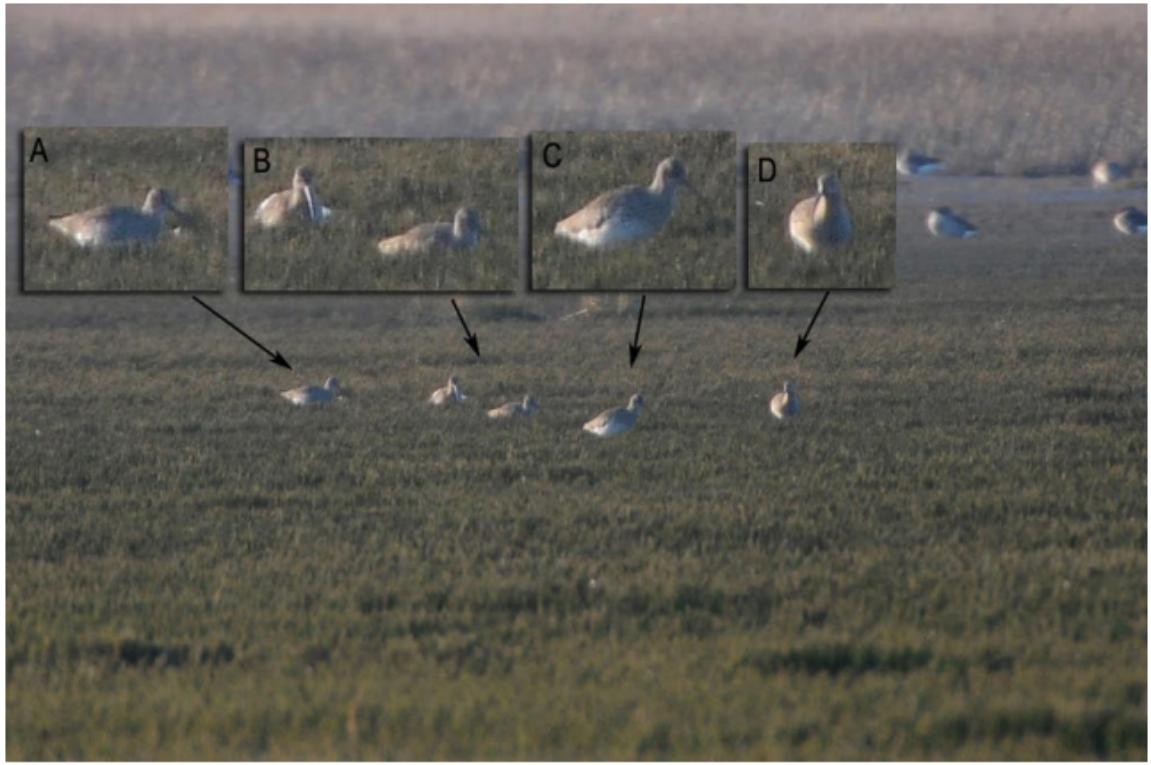
04.SI-bi Cu N *tenuirostris* 11012013 SW NL-c N.D.v.S



05.SI-bi Cu N tenuirostris 11012013 SW NL-c N.D.v.S



06.SI-bi Cu N tenuirostris 11012013 SW NL-c N.D.v.S



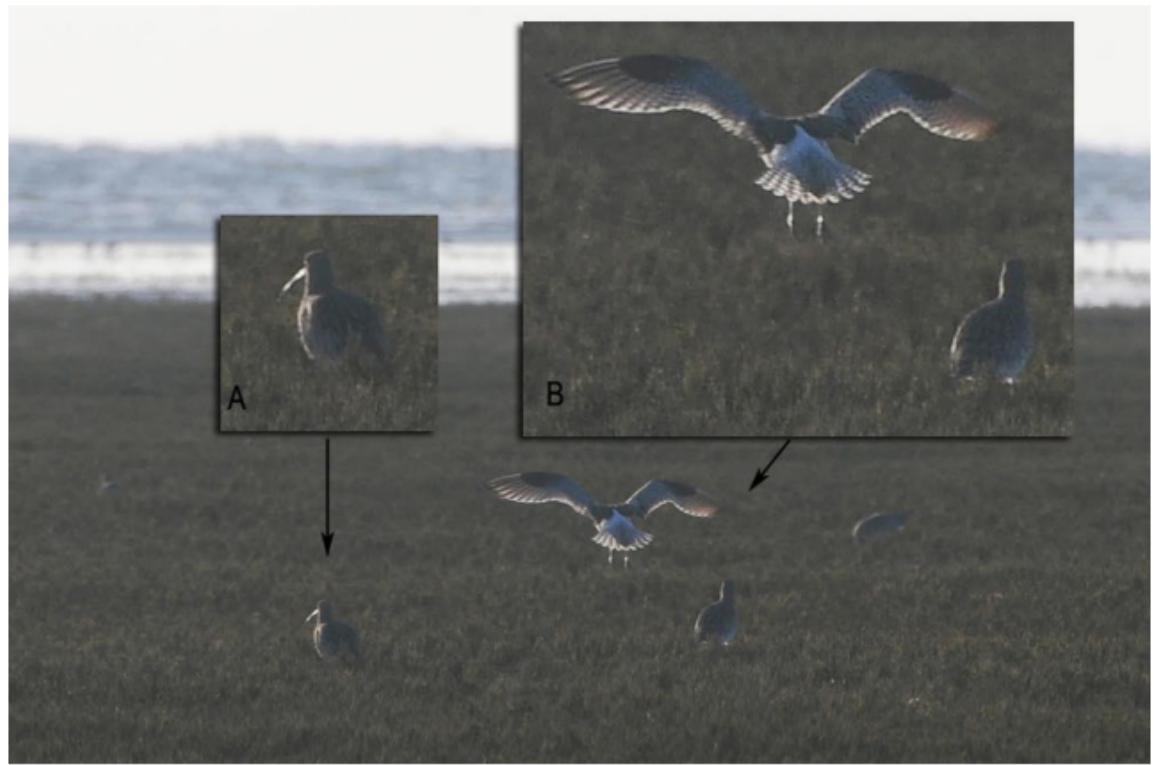
07.SI-bi Cu N tenuirostris 11012013 SW NL-c N.D.v.S



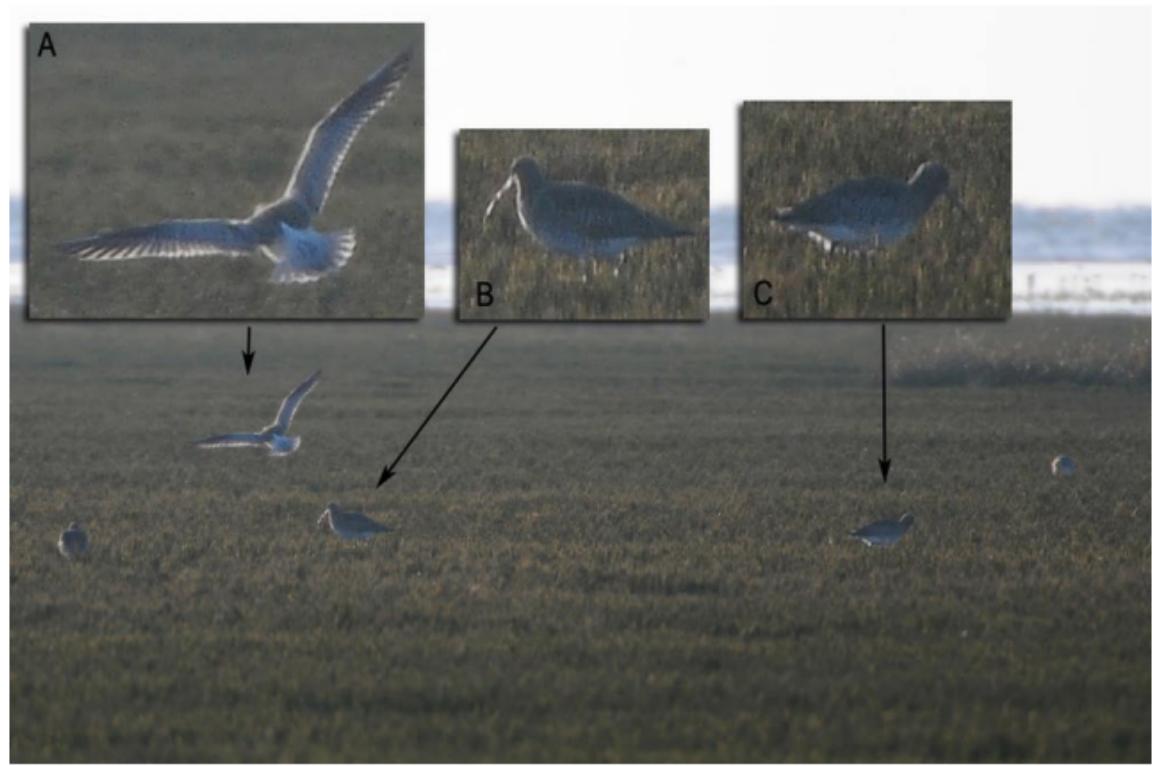
08.SI-bi Cu N tenuirostris 11012013 SW NL-c N.D.v.S



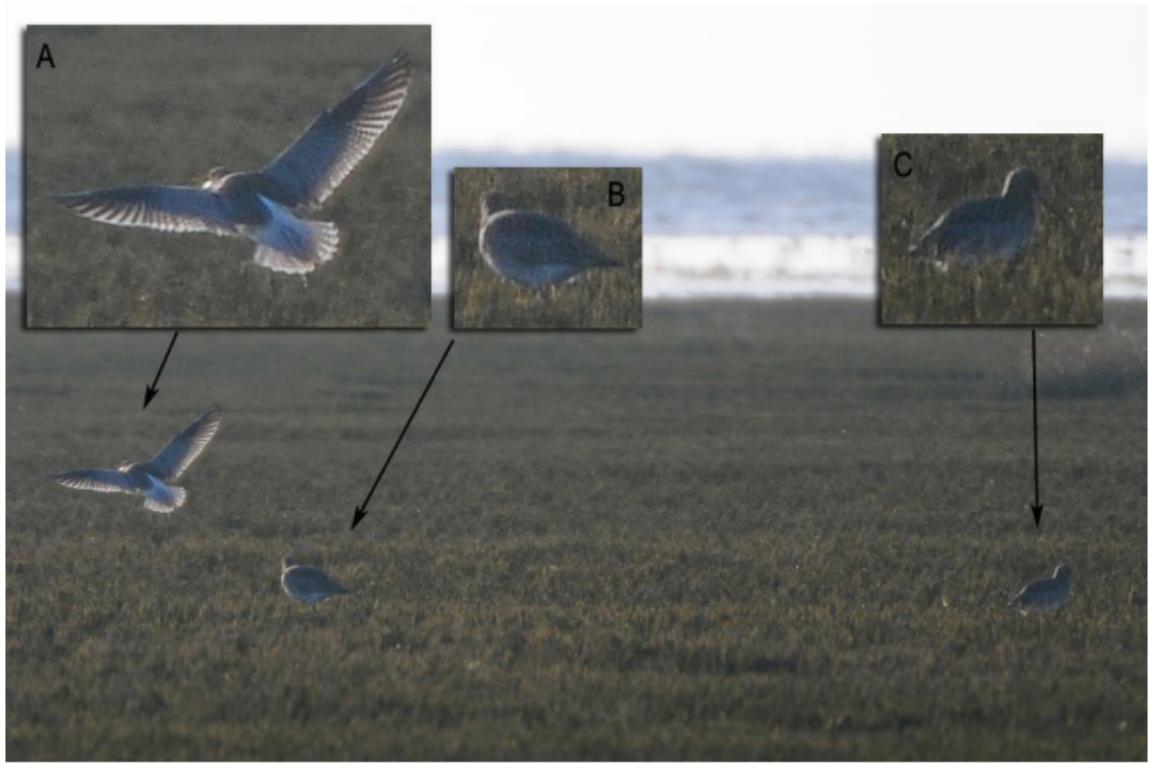
09.SI-bi Cu N tenuirostris 11012013 SW NL-c N.D.v.S



10.SI-bi Cu N tenuirostris 11012013 SW NL-c N.D.v.S



11.SI-bi Cu N tenuirostris 11012013 SW NL-c N.D.v.S



12.SI-bi Cu N tenuirostris 11012013 SW NL-c N.D.v.S



13.Sl-bi Cu-sideview i.c. left bird&eastern Curlw N.a.orientalis bird right Jan1984 Jemen cRichard Porter



14.SI-bi Cu Num ten coll RMNH Naturalis.Leiden NL



15.SI-bi Cu Num ten coll RMNH Naturalis.Leiden.NL 9826



16.SI-bi Cu Num ten origin Dalmatia,Italy & Egypt, coll RMNH Naturalis.Leiden NL



17.SI-bi Cu N.tenuirostris female Oct.1897 Tunisia coll RNMH Naturalis.Leiden NL



18.SI-bi Cu N.tenuirostris head female Oct.1897 Tunisia coll RNMH Naturalis.Leiden NL



19.SI-bi Cu Num ten male Oct.1897 Tunisia coll RMNH Naturalis.Leiden NL



20.SI-bi Cu Num ten head male Oct. 1897 Tunesia coll RMNH Naturalis.Leiden NL



21.SI-bi Cu Num ten male Oct.1897 Tunisia coll RMNH Naturalis.Leiden NL



22.SI-bi Cu Num ten female 1CY 22111922 Friesland, NL coll RMNH Naturalis Leiden NL



23.Sl-bi Cu Num ten female 1CY head 22111922 Friesland, NL coll RMNH Naturalis.Leiden NL



24.Sl-bi Cu Num ten female 1CY 22111922 Friesland, NL coll RMNH Naturalis.Leiden NL



25.SI-bi Cu Num ten female1CT 22111922 Friesland, NL coll RMNH Naturalis.Leiden NL



26.SI-bi Cu Num ten female 1CY 22111922 Friesland, NL coll RMNH Naturalis.Leiden NL a



27.SI-bi Cu Num ten female 1CY 22111922 Friesland, NL coll RMNH Naturalis.Leiden NL



28.SI-bi Cu Num ten female 28021893 Oude Biltzijl, NL coll RMNH Naturalis.Leiden NL



29.SI-bi Cu Num ten female 28021893 Oude Biltzijl, NL coll RMNH Naturalis.Leiden NL



30.SI-bi Cu Num ten female 28021893 Oude Biltzijl, NL coll RMNH Naturalis.Leiden NL



31.Sl-bi Cu *N.tenuirostris* male head March 1923 Foggia Italy coll RNMH Naturalis.Leiden NL



32.SI-bi Cu N.tenuirostris March 1923 Foggia Italy coll RNMN Naturalis.Leiden NL



33.SI-bi Cu Num ten male March 1923 Foggia,Italy coll RMNH Naturalis.Leiden NL