Acknowledgements
I believe this PhD was born in Gaast during one nice evening of spring 2008. After our shared weekly dinner between godwit and ruff team, Theunis, we sat on the dike (then at the doorstep of “our” church) facing the IJsselmeer and for the first time we discussed the opportunity of working together on Ruffs. So, I finished to help Yvonne as a volunteer and stayed longer to help out on the godwit project. I had a wonderful time in the field and couldn’t imagine that a year later I (we) would receive the Ubbo Emmius grant, start the PhD on the Ruff and settle in the Netherlands.

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