

World Class Wetland

Welcome to Silverleaves Beach

This beach leads east to a sandy spit known as Observation Point. The Point is an important destination for birds that breed in Siberia and Alaska. It is also home to resident birds.

At high tide, Observation Point provides a safe roost (place to rest) for shorebirds (waders). At low tide, the birds spread out to feed on shrimps, crabs, worms and molluscs that live in the mud.



Whimbrel
Numenius phaeopus



Access to Observation Point is not permitted at any time as it disturbs the birds resting there. The birds live to a tight schedule and must get enough food and rest each day to meet their deadlines. Disturbance makes them take flight and uses up vital energy.

- Shorebirds can be observed without disturbance from the viewing point at McIlwraith Road in Rhyll.
- Viewing is best at high tide.
- High powered binoculars or telescopes are recommended.



Life in the Fast Lane

Migratory shorebirds lead 'double lives' over an endless summer. They have adapted their entire existence to fly across the globe to places where food is plentiful.

In the northern summer (June-August), the adult birds travel mostly to Arctic Siberia: one of the most insect-rich places on earth. They fit the whole cycle of courtship, mating, egg laying and chick rearing into a tight schedule of just six to eight weeks! This allows adults and chicks to be ready for 'take off' to fly to the southern hemisphere to spend the Austral spring and summer feeding in places like this where food is plentiful.

The East Asian Australasian Flyway

The path the birds travel is called a 'flyway'. Birds stop at 'refuelling' points along the way where they rest, feed and accumulate fat reserves for the next stage of their journey. The journey of up to 12 500 km one way takes about two months. Birds on migration fly at around 70 kph and can cover over 1500 km in a day.

