

Wexford Wildfowl Reserve,
North Slob, Ardcavan,
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An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,
 Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Department of Arts, Heritage,
 Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

The reserve is run by the National Parks and
 Wildlife Service, part of the Department of Arts,
 Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2, D02 TW98.
 Tel: + 353 (0)1 8883242
 LoCall: 1890 383000 (from Republic of Ireland only)



BirdWatch Ireland, joint owner of
 Wexford Wildfowl Reserve,
 is a national organisation
 concerned with protecting
 Ireland's wild birds and their habitats.

Tel: + 353 (0)1 2819878
 Email: info@birdwatchireland.ie
www.birdwatchireland.ie



DIRECTIONS: From Wexford Town: Cross Wexford
 bridge and travel 2.9 km; turn right at brown sign
 marked 'Wexford Wildfowl Reserve' and drive
 2.5 km to the reserve opposite sea wall.

From Dublin: Take the M11/N11 south for 120 km.
 Turn left 4 km past Oilgate, after the brown
 directional sign, on to the L3005 at Kyle Cross
 and continue through Castlebridge. Passing
 another brown directional sign, turn left after the
 fuel station on the left side.



- 1 Pat Walsh Hide
- 2 Pump House Hide
- 3 Robert Jobson Hide
- 4 Observation Tower
- Pump House
- Visitor Centre
- Picnic Area
- Parking

VISITING THE RESERVE

OPENING TIMES: 9am to 5pm. All year round
 except Christmas Day. Car park and hides are
 locked at 5pm. **Entry is free.**

At the visitor centre there is a picnic area and two
 ponds for up-close bird viewing. Inside there is an
 interpretive exhibit, information video, and toilet
 facilities. School groups are welcome and should
 be booked with the Education Office. Please enter
 the observation tower and the bird hides quietly
 so as not to disturb any nearby birds.

**Please do not walk on the sea wall as this
 scares birds off much of the reserve.**

Please do not feed the birds.



PLEASE KEEP OFF SEA WALL



~ THE ~
WEXFORD WILDFOWL
 ~ RESERVE ~

Áit d'Éin
**A Place
 For Birds**





Áit d'Éin
A Place
For Birds



BIRDS ON THE RESERVE

Over **250 bird species** have been recorded on the reserve, **69** of them considered to be common in winter. Many wintering birds found on the reserve cross the Atlantic from Greenland and Arctic Canada on the East Atlantic Flyway, assisted by favourable wind currents that cross over Iceland, a convenient halfway resting and recovery station. Many winter migrants to Ireland also summer in Scandinavia and Arctic Russia. Our summer visitors such as swallows, martins and a host of songbirds come from Southern Europe and Western Africa.

The reserve is located on the North Slob. In the 1840's it was walled off from Wexford Harbour and reclaimed from the sea for farmland.

The word 'slob' means mud or oozy mire. As much of the area lies two metres below sea level, water levels in the channels are controlled using a pump located in the pump house near the wildfowl reserve visitor centre.

Established in 1969, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve now covers some 200 hectares, about a quarter of the North Slob. Today the reserve forms part of the larger Wexford Slob and Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA) for birds, one of a number of such protected sites found across Europe and known collectively as the Natura 2000 network.



Maor - Ranger



GEESE

The North Slob holds 45% (about 8500 individuals) of the current world population of the **Greenland White-fronted Goose**, a species that winters in Ireland and Scotland from October to April. They breed each summer in Western Greenland beyond the ice sheet that covers 80% of the world's largest island and reaches 3 kilometres high. Their migration path takes them through Iceland as a staging point in spring and autumn. Each stage, Ireland-Iceland and Iceland-Greenland, takes about 18 hours so the flocks migrate on favourable winds. Still they burn off a sixth of their bodyweight on the flight. Other geese including 3000 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** from Arctic Canada also winter here.



Irish Hare

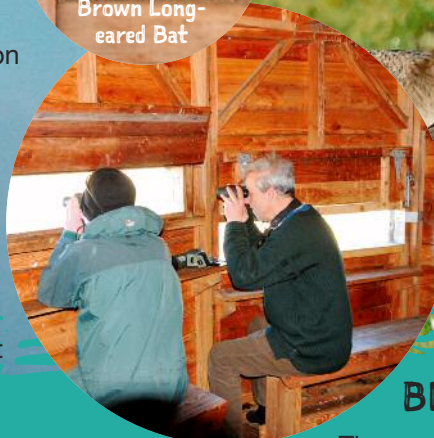


MAMMALS

The North Slob is also a hare sanctuary, founded to protect the Irish Hare, a distinctive race of the European Mountain Hare. At least nine species of bat have been recorded here.



Brown Long-eared Bat



BIRD HIDES

There are three bird hides and an observation tower at the reserve. Birds you can expect to see from our hides are listed below.

- 1 The Pat Walsh and 2 Pump House Ground Floor Hides** both overlook the main channel and surrounding fields. **Birds Seen All Year:** Mute Swan, Black-tailed Godwit, Mallard, Little Egret, Coot, Little Grebe, Moorhen, Water Rail, Cormorant, Reed Bunting. **Summer:** Great-crested Grebe, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Barn Swallow. **Winter:** Greenland White-fronted Goose, Pale-bellied Brent Goose, Whooper Swan, Tufted Duck, Goldeneye, Scaup, Lapwing, Hen Harrier, Curlew, Shoveler.
- 2 The Pump House Upper Floor Hide** overlooks Wexford Harbour. **Birds Seen All Year:** Cormorant, Oystercatcher, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Heron, Redshank, Gannet.

Short-eared Owl



Níl aon chead isteach thar an bpointe seo



Kestrel



Lapwing



Redshank

- 3 The Robert Jobson Hide** overlooks a pool surrounded by a reed bed, with views over a grass field towards the main channel. **Birds Seen All Year:** Water Rail, Moorhen, Heron, Mallard, Reed Bunting. **Summer:** Sedge Warbler, Barn Swallow, Mute Swan. **Winter:** Greenland White-fronted Goose, Pale-bellied Brent Goose, Teal, Shoveler, Hen Harrier, Lapwing, Curlew, Snipe.
- 4 The Observation Tower** in the visitor centre stands eight metres tall and gives the best overall view of the reserve (almost 360 degrees) and provides the only elevated view to the north and east. All of the aforementioned bird species and many more can be seen from the tower.



Hen Harrier

Brown Long-eared Bat image: Courtesy of Edward W. Delaney 2013