## Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk (Site 1)

## Whimbrel (Numenius phaeopus)



**Local Status - Common (Summer Migrant)** 

Status relates only to the relative abundance of species on the Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk (*Photography by Vernon Kretschmann*) (*Birds Queensland*) For further information, email cooloolanature@spiderweb.com.au Summer migrant. Migrates over a two week period, up to 13,000 kms, departing Australia in May and returning in September. Some old and immature birds over-winter in Australia. Male and female are very similar with downward curved beak, (smaller than Eastern Curlew). Variegated dark to light brown plumage with a light grey stripe running down the middle of the head and above the eye, heavily streaked light brown stripes on breast and throat. Abdomen white, rump whitish, and sometimes barred.

**Bird Size** - 38-43cm.

**Food** - Molluscs and worms, may pick up insects and invertebrates.

**Nest style** - Hollow in ground with soft surface.

Material used - Moss and other plant matter.

Nest Site - Ground in highland tundra of Eastern Siberia.

**Breeding Season & Details** - June, laying 3-5 eggs.

**Habits** - Solitary or small flocks with other waders. Roosts in trees, mangroves, and on samphire flats. Feeds in coastal environments with a preference to mangrove mudflats, using its' long beak to probe for food. Also feeds on grassy areas such as sports grounds and lawns.