



Nature's Web

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Photo © Clive Timmons

Sanderlings are one of the many birds to be seen all year round on estuaries (see page 15).

Where Waters Meet!

On these hot summer days, many of us will be out enjoying country walks and strolls along the water front. Flowers are in full bloom and many birds are visiting Ireland for the summer months. In this issue we are taking a look at estuaries (page 15) and the wonderful life there. In this environment, where the river meets the sea, there is a constant mix of fresh and salt water. Many animals can tolerate this ever-changing environment and it is a great place to see such animals as shore crabs, cockles, oystercatchers, migrating geese, not to forget the odd seal or two bobbing about in the water.

Many animals found in estuaries also use camouflage to help protect themselves. We explain how and why this works and describe some of the animals that use camouflage (page 4).

We also look at cacti, plants which are typical of hot, dry climates. These plants are capable of storing water for long periods, making them ideal plants for areas of drought (as well as for household plants, for those who forget to water them!)

