

Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore

Bird Walk (Site 10)



Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*)



Local Status - Very common (Summer Migrant)

Status relates only to the relative abundance of species on the Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk

(Photography by Amelia Nielsen)

For further information, email cooloolanature@spiderweb.com.au

A Summer migrant arriving September-October & departing March-April, some birds overwintering. "Bee-eater" refers to its' taste for these insects, other common names of "Spine-tail" & "Pin-tail" refer to the extended shafts of its' central tail feathers. Its bright colours are seen to best advantage in full sun.

Bird Size - 23cm

Food - Insects

Nest style - An earthen tunnel.

Material used - Nil, though the wings & shells of insects may be found in the chamber.

Nest Site - Sandy or loamy earthen banks or cliffs, the tunnel often being up to one metre or more in length, depending on conditions.

Breeding Season & Details - September to February with four to seven eggs laid once or twice a year, depending on seasonal conditions.

Habits - In flocks or small groups throughout Australia, though preferring more open habitats. The main call is a rippling whistle, often given in flight, which is undulating & erratic. Perching on telephone wires or in other open positions, it takes its' prey of insects on the wing.