

# Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore

## Bird Walk (Site 11)



### Australian White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*)



#### Local Status - Common

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

(Photography by Amelia Nielsen)

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This large white bird with a bare black head and long curved bill once mainly inhabited wet areas, but has recently expanded in range and numbers, benefiting from pastures and the expansion of urban regions. It is now common in most refuse tips, where the normally clean white plumage becomes quickly soiled. Other common names are "White Ibis" and "Sacred Ibis".

**Bird Size** - 68-75cm

**Food** - Insects, food scraps, and various refuse.

**Nest style** - Saucer-shaped platform.

**Material used** - Dry sticks, reeds, rushes, and sometimes existing reeds simply trampled down.

**Nest Site** - In low bushes or the low branches of trees growing in swamps, margins of streams or lakes, reed beds, or mangroves. Nests in large colonies, usually in association with other water bird species.

**Breeding Season & Details** - August to December, varying with seasonal conditions through its range. Two to five eggs laid once or twice a year.

**Habits** - Singly or in flocks, this Ibis destroys many caterpillars & other insect pests of farm paddocks and lawns in urban parks and gardens, where it is often seen feeding. Numbers increasing in some metropolitan areas, especially around picnic grounds.