

Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk (Site 4)



Channel-billed Cuckoo (*Scythrops novaehollandiae*)



Showing juvenile plumage



Adult

Local Status – Uncommon (Summer Migrant)

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

(Photography by Peter Boyd & Vincent Bugeja)

(Birds Queensland)

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

Large pale grey bird with long wings and tail, and a large curved beak. Migrates from New Guinea and Indonesia to Australia during August - September to breed, and departs March - April. Has commonly been referred to as "storm bird" or "flood bird", as it arrives ahead of the wet season, and the raucous 'kork ork ork' cry has become known as an omen of rain.

Bird Size - 59-65cm.

Food - Fruit, mainly figs, and large insects.

Nest style - Parasitic, commonly using nest of crows, currawongs, and magpies.

Material used - Same as host

Nest Site - Same as host

Breeding Season & Details - August to December, may lay up to five eggs in one nest. Young reared with the host's chicks, which are usually starved out and removed by the foster-parents.

Habits - Solitary and small parties, gathering together after breeding. It has been noted that juveniles have been re-claimed by the parents from the host family. Inhabits open woodland, swamp woodland, farmland, and rainforests keeping to the upper canopy. Often harassed by other birds. Calls often heard at night.