

Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore

Bird Walk (Site 4)



Silver Gull (adult) (*Larus novaehollandiae*)



Local Status - Very Common

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

Common, silver-grey “seagull” with scarlet beak and legs, tail feathers tipped black. Immature has dull brown - yellow beak and legs. Gregarious, noisy, quarrelsome, and feeds on anything that is offered. Numbers increase around human settlements where food scavenging is assured. Mainly sedentary, leaving to breed on offshore islands, and returning to same spot each year.

Bird Size - 38-40cm; wingspan 94cm.

Food - Includes plankton or fish scavenged behind boats, crustaceans on washed up seaweed, scavenges on invertebrates in paddocks, in rubbish dumps, food scraps in parks and on beaches, chicks of other birds, including their own species.

Nest style - Saucer shaped ground scrape.

Material used - Seaweed, rootlets and other local grasses.

Nest Site - Ground or grass tussocks, sometimes uses jetties, old boats or rock piles.

Breeding Season & Details - August to December. Lays 2-4 eggs and both parents are involved in all stages of nesting. May raise two broods annually.

Habits - Usually in large flocks, depending on food abundance, gathering at night at large communal roosts on sheltered waters. Mainly on the coast, also on inland river systems and lakes. Flocks can be a hazard to aircraft. Each flock establishes a dominate hierarchy, with the dominate member driving off other birds, especially noticeable during a feeding frenzy.