

# Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk (Site 5)



## **Pacific Baza** (*Aviceda subcristata*)



### **Local Status - Uncommon**

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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Formerly known as the "Crested Hawk" and is our only bird of prey with a true crest. Often persecuted for taking poultry, this beautiful hawk is more inclined to crash into the outer foliage of a tree to catch a "Stick Insect" or phasmid rather than a chicken!

**Bird Size** - Male 43cm, Female 38cm.

**Food** - Mainly insects, but also takes lizards and mice.

**Nest style** - Small and slightly cupped.

**Material used** - Sticks and twigs and lined with leaves, usually green (thought to deter insect pests)

**Nest Site** - A horizontal branch of a tall tree at heights from twenty metres or more and generally in the outer branches. Prefers forest situations to open country for nesting and has been known to utilise large clumps of Mistletoe.

**Breeding Season & Details** - October to December once a year, with two to four eggs laid

**Habits** - Usually in pairs, but does at times form flocks of up to twelve, living in forest and woodlands of coastal lowlands and associated highlands. Thought to maintain permanent territories. Often seen sitting in the outer branches of trees, hopping along branch if disturbed. Spectacular swooping and tumbling aerial displays during mating season.