

# Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore

## Bird Walk (Site 5)



### **Pallid Cuckoo** (*Cuculus pallidus*)



Sub-adult



Adult

### **Local Status – Rare (Summer Migrant)**

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

(Photography by Brian & Val O'Leary & Ken Morcom)

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A summer migrant, the Pallid Cuckoo arrives from July to August, departing February to March, though some birds remain throughout the year. Other common names are "Harbinger of Spring", "Brain-fever Bird", & "Semitone Bird", these last two referring to it's persistent call, often given at night.

**Bird Size** - 30-33cm.

**Food** - Insects & caterpillars, particularly those with hair-like bristles that other species will not eat.

**Nest style** - None built, it being parasitic. Hosts recorded number eighty species or more, mostly builders of open, cup shaped nests.

**Material used** - As per host's nests.

**Nest Site** - As per host's.

**Breeding Season & Details** - August to January, with probably a number of nests parasitised each year. Eggs closely resembling those of the host species. Hosts include honeyeaters, orioles, flycatchers, & Magpie-Larks.

**Habits** - Singly to 3-4 birds. Except during breeding, usually quiet, unobtrusive and solitary. Inhabits woodlands, mangroves, farmlands, roadside reserves, and gardens. Prey is usually captured on the ground or in low foliage by pouncing from vantage points such as wires, fences, or an exposed branch.