

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



Red-backed Fairy-wren (*Malurus melanocephalus*)



Female

Male



Local Status - 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

This is the smallest of the fairy-wrens, the jenny being the only female fairy-wren with no blue in the tail.

Bird Size - 12-13cm.

Food - Insects

Nest style - Dome shaped with large entrance in the side towards the top.

Material used - Dried grasses bound by spider webbing, and lined with finer grass and plant down.

Nest Site - Usually close to the ground at heights from 0.2 - 0.8 metres in grass tufts, thick grass or low vegetation, sometimes over water.

Breeding Season & Details - July to February, but may extend to other months, with two to four eggs laid.

Habits - In pairs or family parties, preferring grasslands and open forests, but does frequent the edges of rainforest and sometimes mangroves. Often found in the rank vegetation of swamplands. The male has been seen to carry red or brightly coloured petals in its beak to enhance the display for the female during courtship.