

Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore

Bird Walk (Site 7)



Whistling Kite (*Haliastur sphenurus*)



Local Status – Very Common

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

(Photography by B. & V. O'Leary)

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A large brown kite with a distinctive underwing pattern and long tail. Has a clear shrill call, the first part staccato, the second a shrill whistle with a downward inflection. Often referred to as "Whistling Eagle", and is well known to coastal communities.

Bird Size - 53cm

Food - In coastal districts mainly carrion off beaches, but inland, in addition to carrion, small mammals, birds, lizards, and insects are included. When rabbits were in large numbers, these comprised a large proportion of their prey.

Nest style - Large, bulky, saucer-shaped platform.

Material used - Dry sticks with green leaves, often of Eucalypts, used as a lining for the saucer-shaped centre.

Nest Site - Usually in the horizontal forked limb of a large tall tree up to thirty metres from ground, though sometimes nests in mangroves. Nests are often used over many seasons, and occasionally an old nest of another species is used.

Breeding Season & Details - Variable and in nearly all seasons, with two to four eggs laid once or twice a year.

Habits - Found throughout Australia. It's flight is buoyant, often soaring to a great height. Prey, in nearly all cases, is taken on the ground.