

Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk (Site 8)



Dollarbird

(Eurystomus orientalis)



Local Status – Common, Summer Migrant

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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A summer migrant arriving in our region mid September and departing late April. This stocky, dark green/grey/brown bird with a thick red bill, received its name from the round whitish spots, seen in flight, under each wing. Also in reference to this feature, it is known by the common name "Starwing". "Roller" is another common name often used, this time in reference to midair acrobatics. The bird often appears near black in dim light, its colours seen to best advantage in full sun.

Bird Size - 27-30cm

Food - Flying insects

Nest style - None made

Material used - Nil

Nest Site - A hollow in a dead tree, or a very large green tree up to thirty metres from the ground. The same hollow may be used in successive seasons.

Breeding Season & Details - October to January with three to five eggs laid once a year.

Habits - Occurring singly or in flocks. Often seen perched on overhead wires, branches of tall dead trees, or some other high perch, using these as a launching pad for the pursuit of insects. Has been seen to flock at dusk, in numbers of up to thirty or more, to hawk the skies. Their call is a harsh staccato "kak-kak-kak", often given in flight. Has been known to use diversionary tactics to ward off intruders from nest sites.