

# Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk (Site 9)



## Australian Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*)



### 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](mailto:cooloolanature@spiderweb.com.au)

"His bill can hold more than his belly can", and it seems to be true. Probably the best known sea bird, the pelican features in many stories and fables, is graceful in flight, clumsy in landing, awkward on land, and believed by many to possess it's own special character.

**Bird Size** - 150-180cm (wingspan 250-260cm)

**Food** - Fish, salt and freshwater crustaceans

**Nest style** - Ground depression.

**Material used** - Dried vegetable matter, small stones, & pieces of coral, either surrounding a depression, or used as a lining. In some inland situations is also known to construct a ground mattress by trampling dry grasses, reeds, rushes, or low bushes.

**Nest Site** - Inland swamps, on islands in temporary or permanent wetlands, and on offshore coastal islands.

**Breeding Season & Details** - Variable, and in all parts of Australia where there are bodies of water. In the inland areas usually depending on flooding, and in Eastern Australia approximately September to March. One to four eggs laid once or twice a year, and in some years no breeding occurs.

**Habits** - Pairs or flocks frequenting inland and coastal waterways, freshwater impoundments, wetlands, coastal islands and estuaries. Forages for food in shallow water, and often soars to great heights for long periods.