

Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore

Bird Walk (Site 10)



Eastern Whipbird (*Psophodes olivaceus*)



© B & V O'Leary

Local Status – Very Rare

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

(Photography by B & V O'Leary)

For further information, email cooloolanature@spiderweb.com.au

A distinctive Australian bush sound is the "whipcrack" given by the male of this species, which is then followed by the "choo-choo" or "choee" of the female. If the female does not answer or is too slow responding, the male gives this last part of the call. Easily recognisable with its' black head and breast, olive-green back, prominent crest, long tail and white cheek patch. The cheek patch is lacking in immature birds.

Bird Size - 25-30cm

Food - Insects

Nest style - Sparse open bowl.

Material used - Dry sticks, twigs, bark and fern fronds, lined with fine grass and rootlets.

Nest Site - In the thick foliage of a shrub, bush, vine, or in dense undergrowth. Sometimes in the topmost branches of a small tree

Breeding Season & Details - July to December, sometimes later, with two eggs laid.

Habits - Generally in pairs, it is a shy bird feeding on the ground amongst dense foliage, occasionally seen darting across a cleared area or bush track. More often heard than seen. Besides the whip call also gives a "chuckle" call with variations when feeding. Sometimes frequents overgrown gullies in urban areas.