

Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore

Bird Walk (Site 10)



Mistletoebird

Female

(*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*)



Local Status - Common

Male

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

(Photography by Kev Bowring & B & V O'Leary)

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Sexes different, male is a small iridescent blue-black bird with a red breast, red undertail, and white belly with a centre black stripe. The female is a plain dark grey bird with only a light grey belly, and just a touch of red under the tail.

Bird Size - 10-11cm

Food - Insects & berries.

Nest style - One of the prettiest of nests, shaped like a babies bootie with a slit-like side entrance.

Material used - Various types of light coloured plant down and other soft material, bound and matted with spider-webbing to resemble a felt-like product. A range of items such as dried caterpillar, beetle, flower parts, or lichen are used for decoration.

Nest Site - Suspended from a thin branch of a leafy tree at heights from two to ten metres or more.

Breeding Season & Details - October to March, determined by the fruiting of mistletoe. Three, sometimes four eggs are laid once a year.

Habits - Found wherever mistletoe occurs, and being the main food source it is responsible, in the most part, for the spread of this parasitic and ecologically important plant. Other fruits are also consumed, seems particularly fond of Ink Berry. Feeding generally occurs in bushy or tall trees, therefore often difficult to observe.