

Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore

Bird Walk (Site 1)



Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) (Showing breeding & non-breeding colourations)



Local Status - Very Common Summer Migrant

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

A summer migrant from the breeding grounds of NE Siberia and Alaska. Some, probably juveniles, sick or injured birds over-winter in Australia. Easily distinguished by its long slightly upturned bill that has a pink base. Birds are usually seen here in the patterned grey-brown, non-breeding plumage. The rich brown or chestnut on the head and neck in the male breeding plumage can often be seen just before they leave Australia on their northerly migration, and is still evident on their return.

Bird Size - 38 to 45cm.

Food - Crustaceans, molluscs, marine worms and other small marine creatures.

Nest style - Not seen in Australia, a shallow depression in moss.

Material used - Nil to well lined with plant matter.

Nest Site - Northern hemisphere, tundra region.

Breeding Season & Details - June/July laying 4 mottled green eggs once a year.

Habits - Feeds by spreading out on the tidal flats, in bays, estuaries or salt marshes, uses its long beak as a digging tool. Generally gathers in flocks at roosts, an hour or so before the high tide. When disturbed, the flock will fly off, sometimes rising and falling and banking sharply, lots of jostling on landing as each bird finds its own spot.