

Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk (Site 3)



Australasian Gannet (*Morus serrator*)



Local Status - Uncommon

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 diving bird of the ocean, although forages for food in coastal waters. Has white body plumage, yellow head, black flight and inner-tail feathers. Large blue-grey bill and blue-grey throat stripe. Immature birds are very different, being grey-brown with white spots. They seldom come ashore except in breeding season, preferring to rest, usually in colonies, on calm water.

Bird Size - 84-91cm; wingspan 170-180cm.

Food - Fish.

Nest style - Pedestal or high mound.

Material used - Compacted earth, guano and seaweed.

Nest Site - On the ground or a man-made platform.

Breeding Season & Details - October to May laying one egg. Breeds on islands off Victoria, Tasmania and New Zealand. Most birds seen on this coast are thought to come from the breeding grounds near New Zealand.

Habits - Dives for food from heights of 20-40 metres, plunging into the water with folded wings like an arrow, and staying under water for about ten seconds in which time they swallow the fish. They may forage in small flocks, some diving, others coming up, while others are bobbing around on the water.