Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk (Site 4)

Australasian Pipit

(Anthus novaeseelandiae)



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 slender, pale brown, streaked ground thrush, with a fine bill and longish tail which it wags in an up and down action. Pinkish legs. Found almost anywhere there is open country. Not migratory.

Bird Size - 16-19cm.

Food - Insects such as small grasshoppers, crickets, ants, beetles and caterpillars.

Nest style - Cup shaped.

Material used - Grass.

Nest Site - Under bush or tussock.

Breeding Season & Details - August - December. Lays 3-4 freckled eggs, incubated by the female, guarded by the male. Both feed young.

Habits - Sedentary, usually in pairs, but may form winter roaming flocks, inhabiting open country such as grasslands, pastures, coastal dunes, and road verges. Spends most of the time walking and running on the ground, perching on posts, rocks and grass tussocks when courting or disturbed. The perches are used by courting birds as a take-off pad for the song and aerial displays of dipping and curving before diving abruptly to the ground.