

Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore

Bird Walk (Site 4)



Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*)



Local Status - Uncommon

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

The world's only nearly all black swan. The white flight feathers are very conspicuous when flying and only slightly visible at rest. Bill orange to dark red. Immature birds are paler in colour. Both sexes utter pig-like grunts which are believed to have some meaning to the bird's social organisation, especially within families.

Bird Size - 112 - 140cm.

Food - Water plants, including sea grasses. Sometimes grazes pastures if near water.

Nest style - Simple to large mound.

Material used - Reeds, grasses and aquatic plants.

Nest Site - Mostly shallow water, sometimes on islands.

Breeding Season & Details - In the north breeds late wet season, February to May. In the south breeds May to September. Lays 2-3 eggs in singular nests or occasionally in colonies. In a year nest may be used three to four times, either by the same bird or another member of the colony.

Habits - Singles, pairs, but mostly in flocks. Gathers in large colonies in safe, usually shallow, marine or fresh waters, especially during moulting when they are unable to fly. Often seen up ended, feeding on aquatic plants. Are nomadic, sedentary and dispersive, often travelling by night.