

# Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore

## Bird Walk (Site 4)



### Magpie-lark (Male) (*Grallina cyanoleuca*)



### Local Status - Common

Status relates only to the relative abundance of species on the Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk  
(Photography by Brian & Val O'Leary)

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Medium size black and white bird, commonly known as Peewee. Male has black throat and white eyebrow, female has a white face and throat, and no eyebrow.

**Bird Size** - 27cms

**Food** - Insects and their larvae, earthworms, and small mollusc.

**Nest style** - Cup shaped.

**Material used** - Plant fibre, neatly moulded with mud and lined with soft material.

**Nest Site** - Plastered to horizontal branch, 3-10m above ground. Also uses some man-made structures.

**Breeding Season & Details** - Known to breed all months, with more activity from August to September, and with several successive batches. Lays five eggs, with both parents involved in incubation.

**Habits** - Common, usually seen in pairs or small family parties, maintaining a territory up to 8-10 hectares, and in some areas may migrate. Forages mostly on the ground, especially around edges of shallow watered lakes and ponds. Has a distinct pigeon like walk, and bobs its head back and forth. Seen all over Australia, preferring open areas such as parks and gardens with nearby water, rarely forested areas or waterless deserts. A pair will defend a territory by standing side by side using loud, alternating calls, also aggressively chases other birds.