

# Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore

## Bird Walk (Site 4)



### Masked Lapwing (*Vanellus miles*)



#### Local Status - Very Common

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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Common and familiar due to aggressive behaviour and distinct calls. Prefers open habitats, hence their increase since white settlement. Black crown and back of neck extending in a broad band down sides of upper breast, yellow wattle. There is also a similar northern race with a larger yellow wattle and less black on head, both races also interbreed.

**Bird Size** - 35-38cm.

**Food** - earthworms and beetle larvae.

**Nest style** - ground scrape.

**Material used** - Lined with grass and debris.

**Nest Site** - Open, usually grassy areas.

**Breeding Season & Details** - Breeds throughout the year after local rain, lays three to four eggs and may raise more than one brood in a year. Both parents are involved with nest building, incubation, and caring of young.

**Habits** - Sedentary pairs, but individual parties may roam widely. They are noisy, often call and travel at night. Uses upright posturing when courting and very aggressive when nesting. Dives, screaming at intruders, displaying the sharp, black-tipped bony spurs located on shoulders. Inhabits all types of grasslands, also feeds on intertidal zones. When not defending stands about quietly for long periods, running quickly for short distance, or flies off with flapping wings.