

# Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore

## Bird Walk (Site 4)



### Straw-necked Ibis (*Threskiornis spinicollis*)



© A Marlow

### Local Status - Uncommon

Status relates only to the relative abundance of species on the Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk

(Photography by Adam Marlow)

For further information, email [cooloolanature@spiderweb.com.au](mailto:cooloolanature@spiderweb.com.au)

Sexes similar. Black plumage with a bronze and green metallic sheen, bare head, upper neck black with stiff yellow straw coloured lower neck feathers. During breeding develops a red breast patch. Long curved black beak.

**Bird Size** - 58-76cm

**Food** - water insects, frogs, snakes, but mostly grasshoppers.

**Nest style** - platform. Material used - sticks, which the male collects and the female pulls and jerks into place, lined with leaves.

**Nest Site** – often in mixed colonies of other ibis and spoonbills on rushes, bushes and trees.

**Breeding Season & Details** - throughout year depending on rainfall, laying up to five eggs, and may have two broods in succession. Both birds involved with incubation, bowing to each other on change over. Also bows to young before feeding.

**Habits** - often in mixed flocks, occurs in large numbers, preferring grassland and pastoral country to wetlands. influx of birds to an area may mean a plague of grasshoppers. Visits coastal foreshores mainly after rain periods and not usually in large numbers. A breeding pair is formed by a courting ritual of bowing with wings partly opened followed by mutual preening. Before they start nest-building, nearby single birds are chased off by a display of aggressive behaviour, in which they peck and raise their neck-feathers.