

Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk (Site 6)



Brush Cuckoo (*Cacomantis variolosus*)



Local Status – Common (Summer Migrant)

Status relates only to the relative abundance of species on the Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk
(Photography by Vincent Bugeja)
(Birds Queensland)

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The Brush Cuckoo could be mistaken for a small Fan-tailed Cuckoo, except for its grey-brown back, shorter tail, and lack of the yellow eye ring and white tail notches. Another common name of "Brain-fever Bird" refers to one of its calls, a series of six or seven distinctive and penetrating mournful whistles, gradually decreasing in tone, but increasing in volume, occasionally heard at night.

Bird Size - 24cm

Food - Insects, a good proportion of these being hairy caterpillars.

Nest style - None, it being parasitic.

Material used - Not applicable

Nest Site - As per hosts

Breeding Season & Details - September to January. At least thirty species are known to be parasitised; species with cup shaped nests, for example Flycatchers, being preferred. Three distinct type of eggs are thought to be laid, probably a number of times in a season.

Habits - A summer migrant, some individuals may stay in our region over winter, and not be vocal