

Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore

Bird Walk (Site 6)



Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)



Local Status – Uncommon

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

(Photography by Vincent Bugeja) (*Birds Queensland*)

For further information, email cooloolanature@spiderweb.com.au

A large pale tern with a black cap. Juveniles & non-breeding birds are without this feature, but have a dusky smudge behind the eye.

Bird Size - 35-43cm

Food - Fish, insects, & small reptiles

Nest style - Shallow depression in sand or soil

Material used - Nil in depression, vegetation or other debris is added to edges of depression as incubation proceeds.

Nest Site - On low islands, sand, or mud banks.

Breeding Season & Details - Breeds in inland areas, though occasionally near the coast, & usually in times of flooding. October to March in Eastern Australia, but to May in the North-West of the continent with two to four eggs laid usually only once a year, though opportunistic when flooding occurs.

Habits - Generally in flocks skimming over the waters' surface in hawk-like fashion. Frequents inland lakes & swamps as well as coastal habitats such as estuaries, mangroves, & mudflats.