

Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore

Bird Walk (Site 7)



Buff-banded Rail (*Gallirallus philippensis*)



Local Status - Common

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

(Photography by Kev Bowring)

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The most colourful of its group with heavily barred underparts, a white eye-brow, rufous head and chest patch. This bird is often seen on the edge of country roads and vegetation fringes where it forages, darting back into cover at the sign of movement. On occasion it becomes quite tame, frequenting country house-yards.

Bird Size - 31cm

Food - Insects, seeds, freshwater molluscs & green shoots.

Nest style - Saucer shaped.

Material used - Dried grasses & herbage.

Nest Site - In dense reeds or rushes, or in a tussock of grass close to a swamp. Sometimes nests on dry ground away from water, lining a shallow scrape with grass.

Breeding Season & Details - August to January, sometimes March to June in northern regions. Four to six eggs are laid, with at times more. Up to fifteen have been found in one nest.

Habits - Singly or in small groups, it can inhabit swamps or thick rank vegetation bordering a variety of wetland types ranging from rivers to man-made ponds, also being found on off-shore islands. It will run rather than fly, often uttering a call like "krek" from thick cover.