Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk (Site 7)

Topknot Pigeon

(Lopholaimus antarcticus)



Local Status – Very Rare

Status relates only to the relative abundance of species on the Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk (*Photography by Robin Hill*)

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A large, grey, rainforest fruit pigeon with a prominent strawcoloured crest and a most un-pigeon-like call which is difficult to describe.

Bird Size - 40-46cm.

Food - Native fruits & berries, with a particular liking for the seeds of Bangalow and Cabbage Tree Palms.

Nest style - A bulky platform.

Material used - Dry twigs.

Nest Site - High in the thick foliaged top of a tree, often at the edge of or by a clearing in the rainforest at heights of forty metres or more.

Breeding Season & Details - October to January, with one egg laid, usually only once a year.

Habits - Frequenting rainforest & adjacent open forest in flocks that were once immense before shooting & habitat destruction took their toll. Feeding activity is often detected by falling fruit and a "wheezing" call. They are nomads, following the fruiting of food trees which, at times, takes them considerable distances. In this area, therefore often observed in flight, travelling in close flocks, with a swift and powerful flight pattern.