

Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore

Bird Walk (Site 9)



Australian Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*)



Local Status - Common

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

(Photography by Amelia Nielsen)

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A confiding and gregarious bird, this species has adapted well to suburbia, as have numerous other black and white birds. Well known for its melodious carolling and "dive-bombing" during nesting season.

Bird Size - 34-44cm.

Food - Variable, from insects to small snakes, seeds, and food scraps from humans.

Nest style - Bowl shape

Material used - Sticks, twigs, plant stems, bark, plus other plant material, and lined with soft grass. The magpie has proven to be quite adaptive and creative, even to incorporating man-made materials such as wire into its nest construction. Observers have even seen an entire nest built from this material.

Nest Site - Variable, from being on the ground to rock walls, hedges, small bushes, tall trees, and power poles.

Breeding Season & Details - June to December, with two to five eggs laid once or twice a year.

Habits - Found in most treed habitats with open areas of bare ground or grass. Nesting in our region is from late August to early October, when territorial instincts are triggered, and "dive-bombing" attacks occur on people in urban areas, rarely recorded in rural regions. Outside of these six or seven weeks, they are very sociable, frequently coming to urban parks and gardens begging for food, especially to feed their young.