Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk (Site 9)

Common Greenshank

(Tringa nebularia)



Local Status - Uncommon, Summer Migrant

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

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

A migrant from Northern Europe and Northern Asia, arriving September-October, departing March-April, though some may over-winter in Australia. Distinguished by long dark greenbrown bill and yellow-green legs, non-breeding birds with a grey back, each feather having a fine black line inside a white margin.

Bird Size - 31-35cm

Food - Aquatic insects, small crustaceans, worms, molluscs, and occasionally frogs and small fish.

Nest style - Depression in grass.

Material used - Lined with plant matter such as pine needles or heath plants.

Nest Site - Open meadows near water, and large marshy clearings with limited tree cover in Northern Europe and Northern Asia

Breeding Season & Details - May to June with four eggs laid

Habits - Usually in small flocks with other waders, frequenting mudflats, sand spits and salt marshes. Very wary, alert and active, dashing about with quick runs and bobbing head as it feeds at the tides edge, often the first bird to fly off at the approach of an intruder.