

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



## Grey-crowned Babbler (*Pomatostomus temporalis*)



### Local Status – Very Rare

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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Two common names "Happy Family" and "Apostle Bird" refer to the "play" activity that is displayed by these active birds, in addition to their habit of congregating in family flocks, about twelve in number. It gives a variety of calls, though it's "Arco" or "Yahoo" call is very distinctive.

**Bird Size** - 25cm.

**Food** - Insects.

**Nest style** - Large untidy dome shape with a spout-like entrance. Two types constructed, one for nesting, a number of others for communal night roosting.

**Material used** - Sticks and twigs, with grass, soft bark, plant down, fur or feathers as a thick lining.

**Nest Site** - Small saplings and trees from three to fifteen metres from the ground.

**Breeding Season & Details** - June to December, with one to six eggs laid once or twice a year.

**Habits** - Inhabits open forests & woodlands, sometimes straying into urban areas and rarely in coastal areas. It spends much of the time on or near the ground, in communal groups feeding and "playing chasey" in and around trees, calling, chattering loudly and huddling together when disturbed. Sometimes two or more females lay in the one nest, with the eggs being buried in the thick lining when the sitting bird leaves. This bird's numbers are thought to be declining.