

A SURVEY OF WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE *Haliaeetus leucogaster* NESTS IN TASMANIA IN 2003

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The Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water maintains a database of raptor nests through its Natural Values Atlas for the purpose of nest-site management (the Tasmanian Raptor Nest Database). During late spring 2003, 79 of the 237 White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* nests then listed in the database were surveyed. Three nests were found to be misidentified and four new nests were located; these 80 nests apparently represented 40 White-bellied Sea-Eagle territories, of which 31 were occupied and 30 nests were active during 2003. Twenty-two recorded nests were found to have disappeared: 11 were lost through natural attrition, seven (i.e. 9% of total nests recorded) to human activity, and four to unknown causes. The results of this analysis suggest that there is a turnover of White-bellied Sea-Eagle nests, and therefore a need to conserve potential nesting habitat where replacement nests can be constructed.