

## **Torresian Imperial Pigeon *Ducula spilorrhoa* monitoring, population trends and species suitability as an indicator of environmental changes**

**Nigel Brothers<sup>1</sup> and Catherine Bone**

<sup>1</sup>Corresponding author: 178 South Arm Drive, Wonga Beach QLD 4873  
Email: brothersbone@yahoo.com.au

*Received: 7 February 2011*

A comparison of historical counts and those made during this study, of the Torresian Imperial Pigeon *Ducula spilorrhoa* nesting populations of the northernmost region of Australia's Great Barrier Reef suggest that numbers have remained stable or increased slightly over the last 20 years. The reliability of monitoring *D. spilorrhoa* abundance accurately has been confirmed and indicates that ongoing monitoring could be an important contribution to understanding climate change impacts on the species and on two highly vulnerable and important vegetation types, upon which this species depends. As a result of this study the number of nesting colonies for which counts have been undertaken in this region has been expanded from 11 to 26, and six of these have provided the first indications of trends in abundance.