

BOOBY NESTING ON RAINE ISLAND, GREAT BARRIER REEF

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Collecting reliable field data on breeding populations of booby species on Raine Island for temporal comparison is challenging. This trial's aim was to establish baseline data on nest census estimates in December 1998 to serve as the foundation for continued monitoring. Based on censuses, estimates of numbers of 3 700 Brown, 700 Masked, and 330 Red-footed Booby nests were established. Egg predation by seagulls in December 2000, however, prevented the first replication of the study thus exposing the limitations of the method.