

RECOVERIES OF SEABIRDS BANDED BETWEEN 1978 AND 1987 AT RAINE ISLAND, MACLENNAN AND MOULTER CAYS AND SANDBANKS No. 7 AND 8, NORTHERN GREAT BARRIER REEF, AUSTRALIA

KIRSTIN A. DOBBS

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, PO Box 1379, Townsville, Queensland 4810

Received: 21 August 2004

From 1979 to 1987, 7 080 birds, representing 17 species, were banded at Raine Island, and from 1979 to 1985, 849 birds, representing 3 species, were banded at Moulter Cay, MacLennan Cay, Sandbank No. 7 and Sandbank No. 8. Almost half (45.5%, $n = 3\,609$) of the 7 929 birds were banded as adults; 20.6 per cent ($n = 1\,634$) were as chicks, 15 per cent ($n = 1\,223$) as pullus and 11 per cent ($n = 881$) as juveniles. Of the 7 929 banded birds, 1 096 (14%) were recaptured in subsequent surveys to the banding locations; 107 (1%) birds were recaptured away from their banding locations. Distances travelled ranged from 100 kilometres (Wallace Island) to 4 000 kilometres (Tuvalu); countries included: Australia (12), Caroline Islands (1), Indonesia (2), Kiribati (1), Papua New Guinea (87), Solomon Islands (2), and Tuvalu (2). The fates of the 107 birds recovered away from these banding locations were: 22 captured and released alive, 26 dead, 4 entangled in fishing line or hooks, 4 predated by: crocodiles (2), eagle (1) or large fish (1); 25 trapped for food, captivity or ceremonial purposes, and 26 unknown.