

THE MIGRATION OF BRIDLED TERNS *Sterna anaethetus* BREEDING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

J. N. DUNLOP¹ and R. E. JOHNSTONE²

¹162 Swansea Street East, East Victoria Park, WA 6101

²Western Australian Museum, Francis Street, Perth, WA 6000

Received 1 March 1994

Bridled Terns breeding on the Western Australian coastline are generally absent from their nesting colonies and adjacent seas between early May and mid-September. The recovery of some marked terns banded at colonies in south-western Australia has now identified a definite 'wintering' area. This is located in the north-western sector of the Celebes Sea, between about 4 and 7 degrees north latitude.

Mixed flocks of adult and fledgling Bridled Terns observed moving through Lombok Strait, Lintah Strait (between Flores and Komodo Is), and via the Sabu and Banda seas in the Lesser Sundas during April-May are considered to have been Western Australian birds on their post-breeding migration. Flocks observed in Timor Sea in August, September and October are probably birds returning to their Western Australian breeding grounds.