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POPULATION DYNAMICS OF THE BRIDLED TERN *Sterna anaethetus* COLONY ON PENGUIN ISLAND, SOUTH-WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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The Bridled Tern breeding population on Penguin Island has increased steadily over the last decade as evidenced by an expansion in the area occupied by the nesting birds. In an established sub-colony area, individuals which were five to seven years of age or older made up most of the breeding pairs. Three-year olds, which were probably pre-breeders, were conspicuous in their established natal sub-colony but many were recruited later elsewhere. A recently occupied nesting area only contained young pre-breeding and breeding age terns, with four year olds being the most important age class. Adult survival was calculated to be 82.5 per cent. However, because of the effective emigration of some pre-breeding adults, this was concluded to be an underestimate.