

# **WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER FLEDGLINGS AT ROCKY ISLET, GREAT BARRIER REEF: BURROW DENSITIES AND BREEDING CYCLE**

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Wedge-tailed Shearwater burrows were surveyed at Rocky Islet, northern Great Barrier Reef, opportunistically during 1994, and systematically in 1995. The burrow estimate for the island was  $5\ 785 \pm 840$  for the first year and  $4\ 646 \pm 302$  during the second survey. The size of the breeding population is estimated to be 2 950 and 2 369 for 1994 and 1995 respectively. Burrow occupancy status was established during 1995 using a burrowscope, and a fledgling occupancy rate of 0.33 found. Chick development was quite advanced compared with birds from southern populations at the same time.