

THE BLACK NODDY BREEDING POPULATION AT HERON ISLAND, GREAT BARRIER REEF: 1985–1989

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The population size of the Black Noddy *Anous minutus* was monitored over five years at Heron Island, a 13.5 ha coral cay located on the southern Great Barrier Reef. The population which reached around 67 000 breeding pairs in 1989 appears to be increasing, although the rate of expansion is difficult to determine. Highest nesting densities are found in large *Pisonia grandis*, probably due to higher nesting site availability. Nesting densities appear to be independent of the degree of habitat modification; differences in breeding success with disturbance remain to be investigated.