

# Photographic identification of ground-nest predators in Australian tropical rainforest.

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# PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION OF GROUND-NEST PREDATORS IN AUSTRALIAN TROPICAL RAINFOREST

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## Abstract

Automatic cameras triggered by infrared beams were used to identify animals visiting artificial groundnests in north Queensland rainforest. In 1992-93 six cameras and nests were established at four sites ranging from 340 to 840m in elevation, and a total of 279 identifiable photographs of nest visitors were recorded. White-tailed rats (*Uromys caudimaculatus*) comprised 74% of all photographs and were the most frequent visitor at five of six nests. Bush rats (*Rattus fuscipes*) were second in frequency (17%), with other small mammals (*Rattus leucopus*, *Melomys cervinipes*, *Perameles nasuta*), birds (*Ailuroedus melanotis*, *Pitta versicolor*) and reptiles (*Varanus varius*) each accounting for less than 2% of

nest visits. Omnivorous rodents comprised the large majority (96%) of visits and may be significant predators on nests of some ground-nesting birds in Australian tropical rainforest.

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