

SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 25

Grasshopper Island, New South Wales

Location: 35°38' S., 150°20' E.; 150 m off a rocky point near the south end of Depot Beach, 12 km N of the entrance to Batemans Bay, N.S.W.

Status: Part of the Murrumbidgee National Park; controlled by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (N.S.W.).

Description: A wave-cut rocky platform some 400 m by 120 m with a small, elevated plateau 200 m by 80 m and 25 m high. The plateau has a shallow sand cap, well covered in places with grasses, Pigface *Carpobrotus glaucescens*, Mat-rush *Lomandra longifolia* and some small, low bushes. In some areas the vegetation is rather sparse and the soil friable. The plateau is precipitous except for the western end which slopes steeply from the rock platform.

Landing: Launching from Depot Beach, the landing is onto rocks and difficult except perhaps in the calmest conditions.

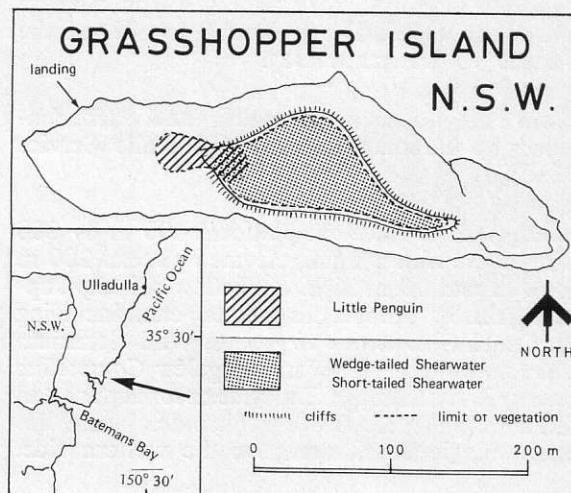
Ornithological History: The only known ornithological visit was by R. Badham, H. Battam and S. G. Lane who spent three hours on the island from 14:00 on 16 December 1972. They found some evidence of Little Penguins breeding, Wedge-tailed and Short-tailed Shearwaters on eggs and the remains of two White-faced Storm-petrels.

Breeding Seabirds and Status

Eudyptula minor Little Penguin—Numerous burrows were located about the base on the slope of the western end of the plateau. Most burrows examined, although empty, showed evidence of recent occupation. One burrow contained two adults. Probably a small number breed regularly on the island. Estimated 50 breeding pairs.

Puffinus pacificus Wedge-tailed Shearwater—Burrows extend throughout the vegetated area on the top of the plateau. Estimated 200 breeding pairs.

Puffinus tenuirostris Short-tailed Shearwater—Burrows interspersed with those of the previous species. During the visit (in December 1972) the ratio was slightly more than 2/1 (*tenuirostris/pacificus*). Estimated 400 breeding pairs.



Pelagodroma marina White-faced Storm-petrel—One burrow was located with the remains of an adult at the entrance. Probably a small number breed on the island. Estimated 10 (?) breeding pairs.

Factors Affecting Status

A falcon, probably *Falco peregrinus*, was seen flying past the island on 16 December 1972. The remains of two *P. pacificus* and the one *P. marina* could almost certainly be attributed to this predator.

OTHER VERTEBRATES

None recorded.

Other Seabirds Recorded

Phalacrocorax melanoleucos Little Pied Cormorant
Phalacrocorax novaehollandiae Black Cormorant
Egretta sacra Reef Heron
Haematopus fuliginosus Sooty Oystercatcher

Banding

One visit—16 December 1972
P. pacificus—29 adults
P. tenuirostris—68 adults

Date Compiled:
4 January 1974

S. G. Lane,
65 Wood Street,
Lane Cove, N.S.W.