

SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 26

Wasp Island, New South Wales

Location: 35°40' S., 150°19' E.; 300 m offshore from Wasp Head, Durras and 8 km N. of the entrance to Batemans Bay.

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

Description: A wave-cut platform 400 m by 200 m at widest with a small, elevated plateau 200 m by 70 m and 15 m high. A shallow soil-cap supports grasses, herbaceous plants, etc., including Salt Couch *Sporobolus virginicus*, Wild Geranium *Pelargonium australe*, Wandering Jew *Commelina cyanea*, Ruby Saltbush *Enchylaena tomentosa* and Red Pea Vine *Kennedia rubicunda*. There are small, shingle beach areas on the western side.

Landing: Fairly easy in moderate conditions on to shingle on the western side.

Ornithological History: Nothing has been recorded on the ornithology of this island. The only known visits were by H. Battam and B. Jones, who spent three hours there on 18 January 1969, and by S. G. Lane for one hour from 07:00 on 4 December 1973.

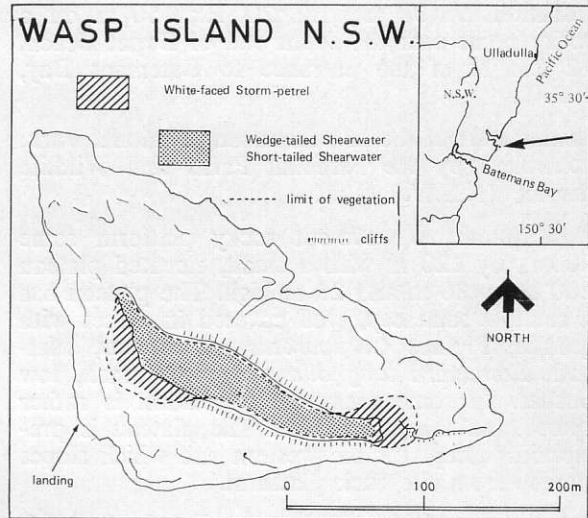
Breeding Seabirds and Status

Eudyptula minor Little Penguin—Burrows were well-spread around the base of the plateau. Of those examined in December 1973, 10 were empty but recently used, and three others each contained an adult on three eggs. Estimated 200 breeding pairs.

Pelagodroma marina White-faced Storm-petrel—Burrows were situated on the plateau slopes on the north-west side and the south-east side. estimated 50 breeding pairs.

Puffinus pacificus Wedge-tailed Shearwater—Burrows are interspersed with those of the Short-tailed Shearwater throughout the very friable, sandy soil on the top of the plateau. Any walking on the plateau invariably will break burrows. Estimated 50 breeding pairs.

Puffinus tenuirostris Short-tailed Shearwater—Breeding throughout the plateau; the number banded in January 1969 was 5 to 12 *P. pacificus*.



This was reversed in December 1973 when the ratio was 10 to 2. Estimated 200 breeding pairs.

Factors Affecting Status

No specific predation evident, but Ravens *Corvus coronoides* were seen on the island and could take eggs from shallow burrows. Also the close proximity to the adjacent popular beach resort makes access by launch simple in good weather. Any person walking on the plateau will break through the soft soil, damaging and/or destroying burrows, birds or eggs. No other vertebrates recorded.

Other Seabirds Recorded

- Phalacrocorax melanoleucos* Little Pied Cormorant
- Egretta sacra* Reef Heron
- Haematopus fuliginosus* Sooty Oystercatcher
- Larus novaehollandiae* Silver Gull
- Sterna bergii* Crested Tern

Banding

- Two visits—18.1.69 and 4.12.73
- Puffinus pacificus*—14 adults.
- Puffinus tenuirostris*—15 adults.
- Pelagodroma marina*—13 nestlings.

Date Compiled:
29 December 1973

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