



Preface

This is the second special issue of The Australian Bird Bander consisting entirely of Seabird Island items. Its production was made possible by a generous grant from the Division of Cultural Activities, Premier's Department, New South Wales, specifically to complete the remaining seabird islands of that State. The grant is gratefully acknowledged.

Although I indicated previously that items from other States would be included this year, because of this specific grant these will now be published in a third special issue during the first part of 1977.

All known seabird breeding islands off the coast of N.S.W. have now been completed. One remains to be checked; it is part of a small group known as the Drum and Drumsticks a little north of Jervis Bay. The top of the "Drum", about 0.5 hectares, is grass-covered and may support a small colony of burrowing petrels. However, it is inaccessible except probably by helicopter.

Present plans and finance currently available will enable publication of two special seabird island issues next year, independently of the normal publication of the journal. These will provide a good start on the important breeding islands in other States.

But much remains to be done and considerable effort will be necessary to provide a similar foundation of information for the many hundreds of islands still to be completed. It is hoped that financial assistance will become progressively available to cover publication costs as work proceeds.

Acknowledgements

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S. G. Lane, Hon. Editor.

Front Cover

Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata* alighting near nest.

Photo: D. G. W. Hollands

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