

SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 122

Long Island, Archipelago of the Recherche, Western Australia

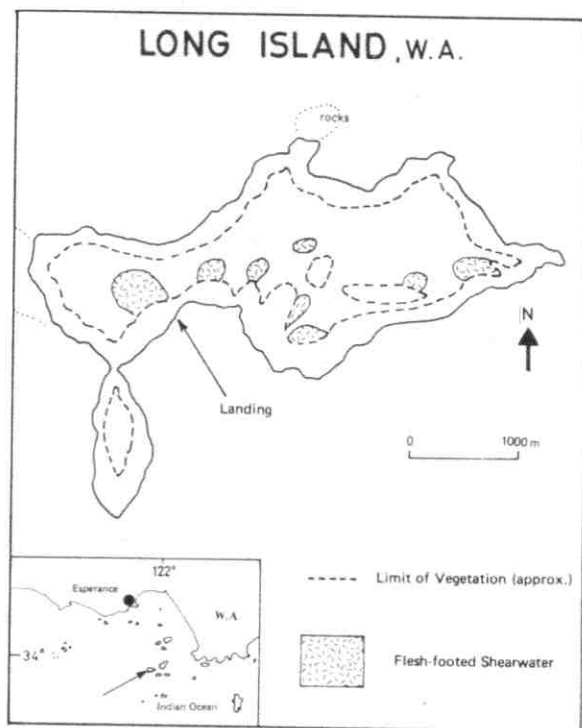
Location: 34°03'S., 121°58'E.; 21 km south-south-east from Esperance, WA.

Status: Class A Reserve vested in the W.A. Wildlife Authority; entry permit required.

Description: 138 ha; 2 400 m long by about 1 100 m wide in the centre, with an almost-separated peninsula 700 m by 300 m at the western end. The island is granite-gneiss, rising to two knolls, one 103 m towards the eastern end, and the other, 80 m near the western end. There are large areas of bare rock around the shoreline and some isolated outcrops among the vegetated areas. Vegetation ranges from *Carpobrotus* and small plants or grasses in the shallow soil, particularly around the edges, to large areas of Moonah *Melaleuca pubescens* and other shrubs reaching to about three metres; in some places trees are seven to eight metres high. A large part of the island is unsuited for breeding seabirds, particularly burrowing species.

Landing: Onto rocks and possible only in calm weather; the location will depend on prevailing conditions.

Ornithological History: V. N. Serventy visited the island on 11 November 1950² and recorded



Flesh-footed Shearwaters breeding. S. G. Lane¹ and L. F. Lane were on the island for eight hours on 10 November 1981; the following



• Long Island (looking north-west).

Photo: Wm. Merilees



• The south-eastern corner; shearwater burrows were in the centre below the rock outcrop and along the grass shelf in the centre foreground.

information, unless otherwise indicated, was obtained on that visit.

Breeding Seabirds and Status

Puffinus carneipes Flesh-footed Shearwater — Numerous small groups of burrows were found wherever soil was deep enough. Although recorded as "one high rookery" in 1951², much of the island is covered in dense vegetation, difficult to penetrate, and unsuited for burrowing. No search was made (in 1981) of the south "peninsula", the extreme western end or the slopes on the north side. The latter areas may contain greater burrow density. In the 1981 visit, two birds were found together in each of ten burrows while four were found singly; over 300 "fresh" burrows were checked. No estimate was made of the breeding numbers.

Factors Affecting Status

There is little likelihood of human interference. Two White-bellied Sea-Eagles *Haliaeetus leucogaster* were frequently flying low over parts of the island and three Australian Ravens *Corvus coronoides* were seen. These would cause some predation among the breeding seabirds.

Other Seabirds Recorded

<i>Pelagodroma marina</i>	White-faced Storm-Petrel (remains)
<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i>	Cape Barren Goose
<i>Haematopus juliginosus</i>	Sooty Oystercatcher
<i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>	Silver Gull
<i>Larus pacificus</i>	Pacific Gull

Banding

Puffinus carneipes — 24 "adults" (10 Nov. 81).

Bibliography

1. Lane, S. G. (1982), 'Avifauna of islands off Esperance, Western Australia', *Corella* 6: 37-39.
2. Serventy, V. N. (1952), The Archipelago of the Recherche, Part 2: Birds. *Aust. Geog. Soc. Rept.* 1(2): 1-24.
3. Willis, J. H. (1953), The Archipelago of the Recherche, Part 3a: Land Flora. *Aust. Geog. Soc. Rept.* 1(3): 1-35.

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