

SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 186

Inshore Island, Archipelago of the Recherche, Western Australia

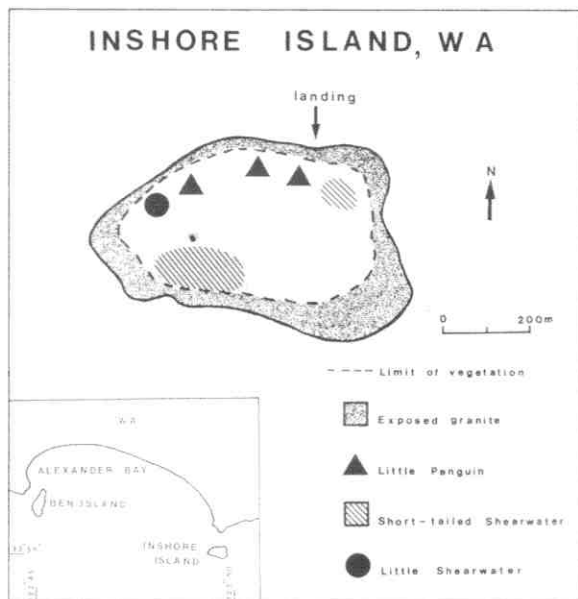
Location: 33°55'S., 122°50'E.; 500 metres south of Alexander Point and about 90 kilometres east of Esperance, W.A.

Status: Class "A" Reserve vested in the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management.

Description: 35 ha; a steep-sided granite island 750 m long by up to 450 m wide, rising to 46 m. The protected northern side of the island has heath comprising *Adenanthos* sp., *Olearia axillaris*, *Boronia* sp., *Dodonea* sp., *Frankenia* sp., *Myoporum* sp., *Ricinocarpos* sp. and other shrubs up to 2 m high on fairly deep sand. The spine of the island has low heath up to 1 m high except for a small stand of *Melaleuca lanceolata*, 3-4 m high, near the western end. The exposed granite at the high eastern end and southern side has scattered *Hakea clavata* and areas of soft grasses.

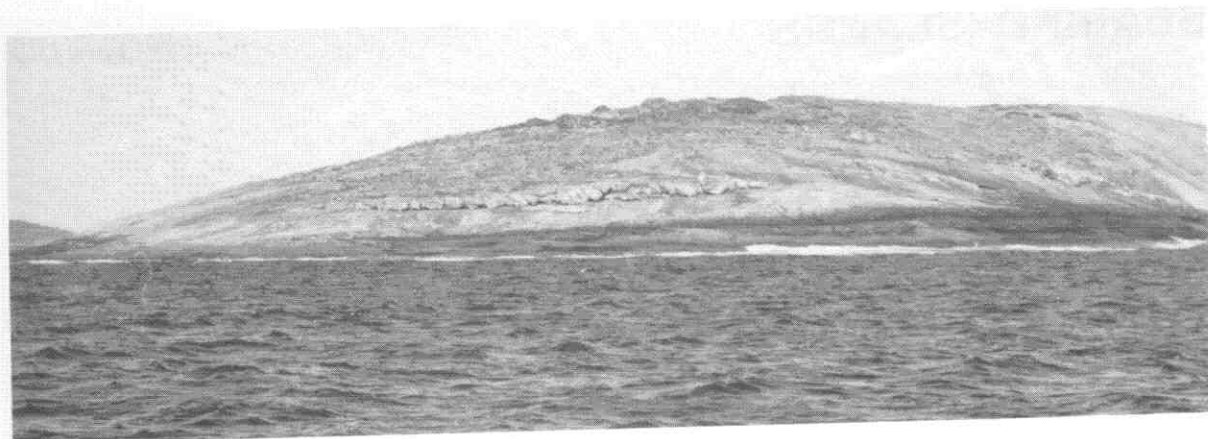
Landing: On to jumbled rocks on the northern (lee) side of the island.

Ornithological History: There is no previous ornithological history. R. E. Johnstone and L. A. Smith visited the island for an hour on 25 February 1986.



Breeding Seabirds and Status

Eudyptula minor Little Penguin — Empty burrows were found a few metres from high water mark on the northern side. Probably only a few pairs breed on the island because of the terrain.



● *Inshore Island (looking north)*

Photo: L. A. Smith

Puffinus tenuirostris Short-tailed Shearwater — About 200 burrows were found, mostly on the exposed south-western face of the island; a few were in shallow topsoil on granite towards the north-eastern corner. Burrows contained downy young (weight of one 580 g).

Puffinus assimilis Little Shearwater — About 20 burrows, probably belonging to this species, were found under dense vegetation on the northern side of the island.

Factors Affecting Status

There was no evidence of human interference and visits are probably rare. An Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* was present and may predate some breeding seabirds. King's Skink *Egernia kingii* was also present and would predate some eggs and young chicks.

OTHER VERTEBRATES

Egernia multiscutata bos

Other Seabirds Recorded

Haematopus fuliginosus Sooty Oystercatcher

Banding

Nil.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Mr L. Spurr of Israelite Bay for his hospitality and for taking us to the island. We also thank Mr N. Kolichis and Mr and Mrs W. H. Butler whose grants to the Western Australian Museum defrayed the costs of the fieldwork.

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