

SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 187

Forrest Island, Archipelago of the Recherche, Western Australia

Location: 33°55'S., 122°43'E.; four kilometres south-west of the western end of Alexander Bay, and 75 kilometres east of Esperance, W.A.

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

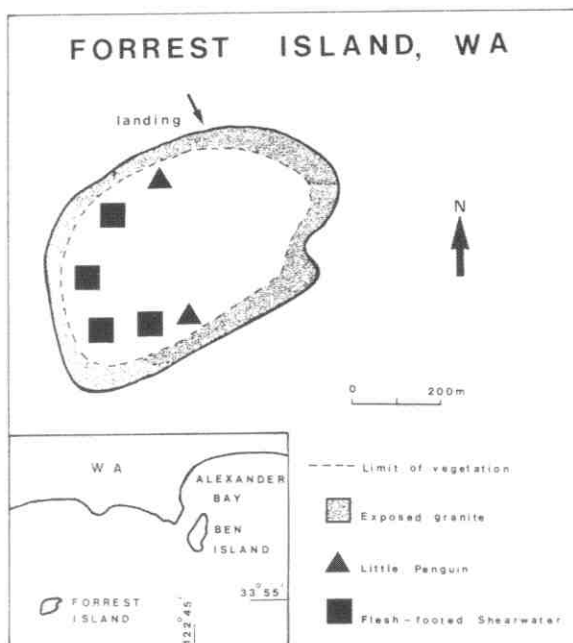
Description: 20 ha; height 47 m. A roughly circular granite island about 500 m in diameter with little exposed rock except for the wide apron which encircles the base. It is evenly vegetated with moderately tall scrub to 2 m of *Myoporum* sp., *Atriplex* sp., *Frankenia* sp., *Leucopogon* sp. and other shrubs. On the south side there are small open areas of *Carpobrotus* sp. and *Sporobolus* sp.

Landing: On to a high ledge on the north side; it is one of the few places where the smooth apron is interrupted by jumbled boulders.

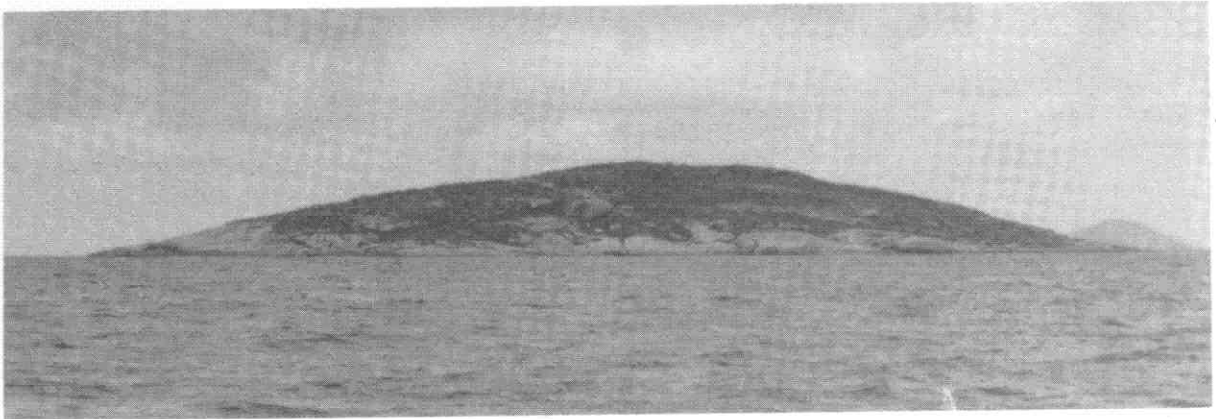
Ornithological History: There is no previous ornithological history. R. E. Johnstone and L. A. Smith visited the island for about two hours on 25 February and one hour on 21 April 1986.

Breeding Seabirds and Status

Eudyptula minor Little Penguin — One burrow on the northern side of the island had moult feath-



ers at the entrance in February. An adult female was collected from a burrow at the vegetation line about 100 m from the waterline on the southern side of the island, also in February. One bird was moulting under a granite slab in April. Probably only a few pairs breed on the island.



• *Forrest Island (looking south).*

Photo: L. A. Smith

Puffinus carneipes Flesh-footed Shearwater — In February about 100 burrows were found; a group of 50 were high on the western slopes under *Myoporum* and *Atriplex*, and groups of 15, 20 and 20 were found on the southern side under *Olearia* and soft grasses. A few burrows were found under *Sporobolus*. Two nests were checked: one contained a downy chick, the other was empty. In April the same colonies were visited and seven burrows were excavated; four contained downy chicks (weight of one 810 g), one contained an adult (weight 560 g) and two were empty.

Factors Affecting Status

The island is rarely visited and there was no sign of human interference. Australian Ravens *Corvus coronoides* visit the island (seen in April) and no doubt they would take chicks and eggs.

OTHER VERTEBRATES

Phyllodactylus marmoratus marmoratus, *Egeria kingii* and *E. napoleonis* were recorded.

Other Seabirds Recorded

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| <i>Leucocarbo fuscescens</i> | Black-faced Shag |
| <i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i> | Cape Barren Goose |
| <i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i> | Sooty Oystercatcher |
| <i>Larus pacificus</i> | Pacific Gull |

Acknowledgements

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