

SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 205

Skink Island, Archipelago of the Recherche, Western Australia

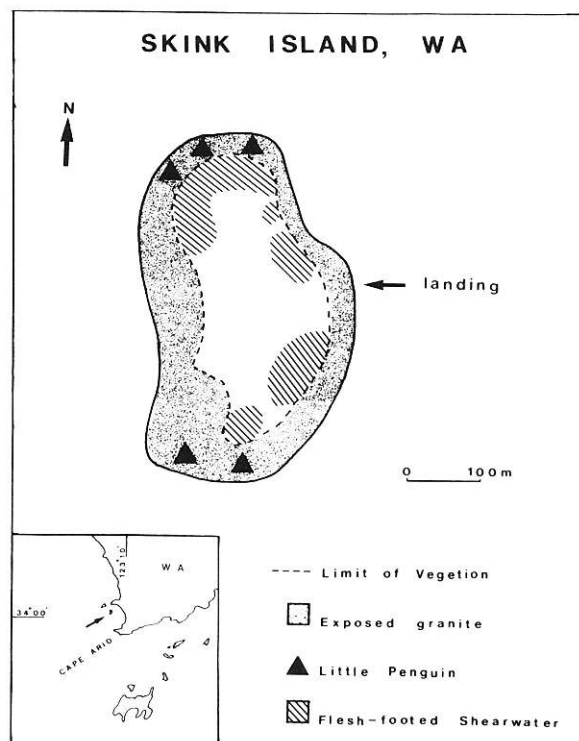
Location: 33°59'S, 123°09'E; 3 kilometres north of Cape Arid, in Barrier Anchorage, Western Australia, the south-easternmost of the Barrier Islands.

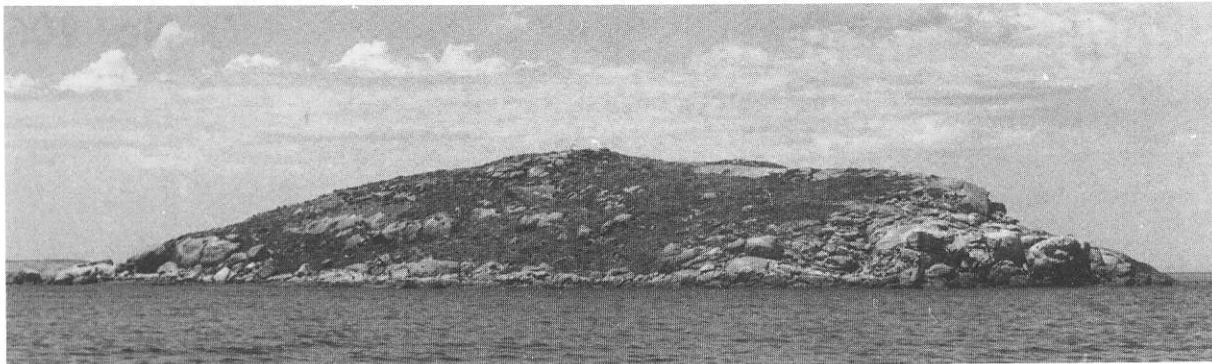
Status: Class A Reserve vested in the Western Australian Wildlife Authority.

Description: 12 ha; 500 m long by 300 m wide and rising to about 30 m. A rugged granite island with large areas of exposed rock on the southern and western sides. *Poa* sp. and *Carpobrotus* sp. grow around the granite outcrops. Other plants include *Pelargonium australe*, *Rhagodia baccata*, *Olearia axillaris* and *Atriplex* sp.

Landing: Onto rocks on the eastern side.

Ornithological History: There is no previous record. R. E. Johnstone visited the island for 2.5 hours on 27 March, 1984, and Johnstone, L. A. Smith, N. I. Klomp, M. Burke and A. Byrne spent 1.5 hours there on 10 December, 1987.





● *Skink Island (looking west).*

Photo: L. A. Smith

Breeding Seabirds and Status

Eudyptula minor Little Penguin — About 15 pairs breed on the island. Most burrows are under granite boulders around the edge of the island. In December 11 nests were found. They contained adults and chicks from 4 to 8 weeks old.

Puffinus carneipes Flesh-footed Shearwater — About 600 pairs breed on the island. On 10 December about 20 burrows were checked; most contained one or two adults but no eggs were found. Apparently egg-laying had not commenced. In March burrows contained large downy young with pin feathers on wings and tail.

Cereopsis novaehollandiae Cape Barren Goose — According to local fishermen, several pairs breed on the island. In March, only one was observed and in December, 10 including a speckled immature bird.

Factors Affecting Status

Few people visit the island and there was no evidence of human interference.

OTHER VERTEBRATES

Three species of reptile were collected: *Phyllodactylus marmoratus*, *Egernia kingii* and *E. napoleonis*.

Other Seabirds Recorded

<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>	Sooty Oystercatcher
<i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>	Silver Gull
<i>Larus pacificus</i>	Pacific Gull
<i>Sterna bergii</i>	Crested Tern

Banding

Nil.

Acknowledgments

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