

SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 225

Haycock Island, Pilbara Region, Western Australia

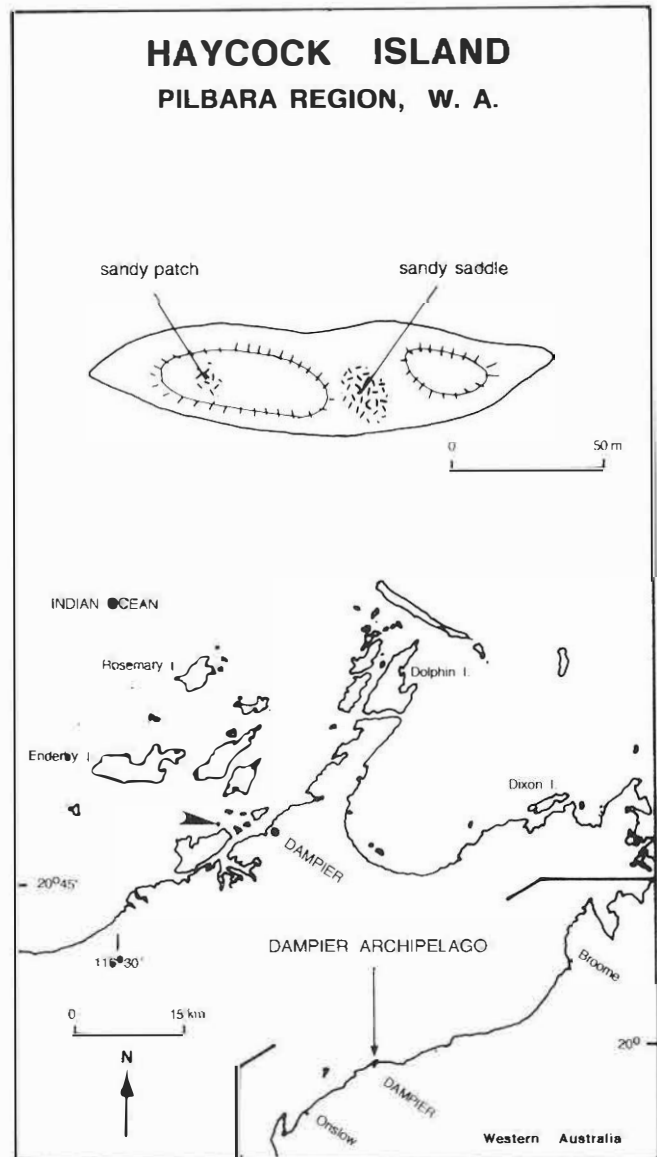
Location: 20°40'02"S, 116°37'24"E: 1.5 kilometres north of West Intercourse Island at the eastern end of Mermaid Strait in the Dampier Archipelago. About 8.5 kilometres west of the town of Dampier, Western Australia

Status: Vacant Crown Land within Hamersley Iron Agreement Act. Reserve TR5461H.

Description: 0.8 ha at high water; maximal dimensions 150 m by 50 m; about 8 m maximum height. A bare, granophyre rock-pile island with shallow sand accumulation on a small saddle area¹. There is little vegetation and what there is can be found on this saddle. The plants recorded were *Capparis spinosa*, *Scaevola spinescens*, *Enchylaena tomentosa*, *Ficus platypoda*, *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *Spinifex longifolius* and *Cenchrus ciliaris*. A single clump of White Mangrove, *Avicennia marina* has taken hold between rocks in the intertidal zone.

Landing: Landing may be very difficult, but can be achieved by scrambling on to the rocks from a small boat during calm weather.

Ornithological History: K. D. Morris recorded Bridled Terns from an islet 2 km south-west of Intercourse Island (the position of Haycock Island) on 14 February 1988. J. N. Dunlop landed on Haycock Island on 16 November 1991 to investigate the Bridled Tern colony.





• *Bridled Terns on their nesting territories on Haycock Island.*

Photo: J. N. Dunlop



• *Offshore view of Haycock Island (looking northward).*

Photo: J. N. Dunlop



• *Haycock Island (looking northward).*

Photo: J. N. Dunlop

Breeding Seabirds and Status

Sterna anaethetus Bridled Tern — About 200 pairs were nesting on the islet on 16 November 1991. All nests located consisted of a single egg concealed under slabs or boulders of granophyre. This is the only Bridled Tern colony in the inner part of the Dampier Archipelago and the only one not associated with beach rock rubble habitat. The observations of K. D. Morris indicate that the colony has been established for some years.

Factors Affecting Status

Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus* and White-bellied Sea-Eagles *Haliaeetus leucogaster* may take some Bridled Terns. Landing on the island is difficult and human interference is unlikely to be a problem. Plans for industrial expansion could see the island developed as a ship loading facility or used to locate navigation markers.

OTHER VERTEBRATES

The skink *Ctenatus saxatilis* was observed on the island.

Other Seabirds Recorded

<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Pied Cormorant
<i>Egretta sacra</i>	Eastern Reef Egret
<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>	Sooty Oystercatcher
<i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>	Silver Gull
<i>Sterna bergii</i>	Crested Tern

Bibliography

1. Geological Survey of Western Australia (1980). Dampier — Eaglehawk Island — Rosemary 1:50 000 Urban Geology Series. Department of Mines of Western Australia.

Acknowledgments

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