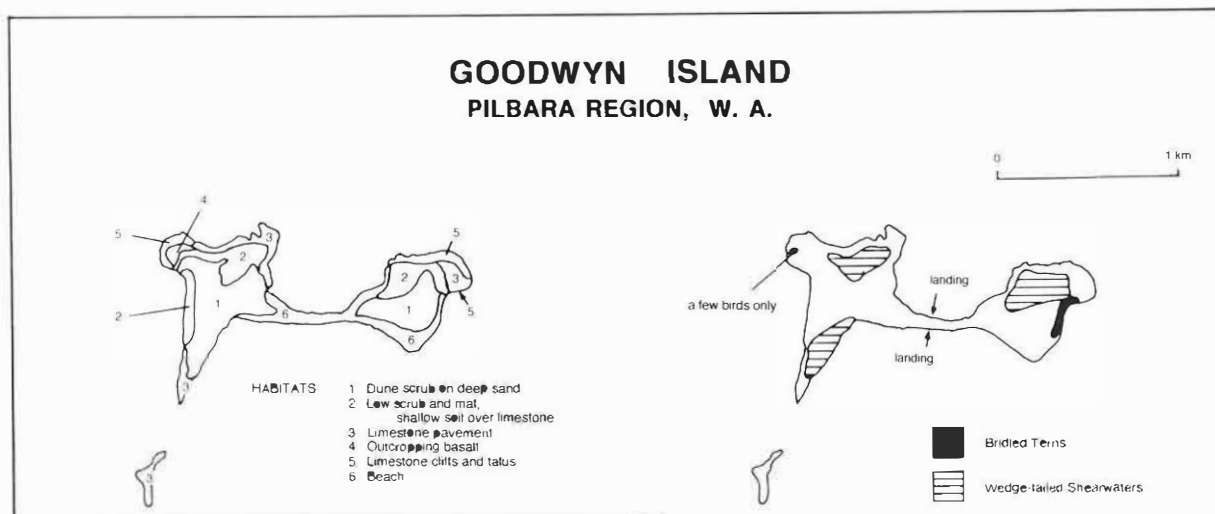


## SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 226

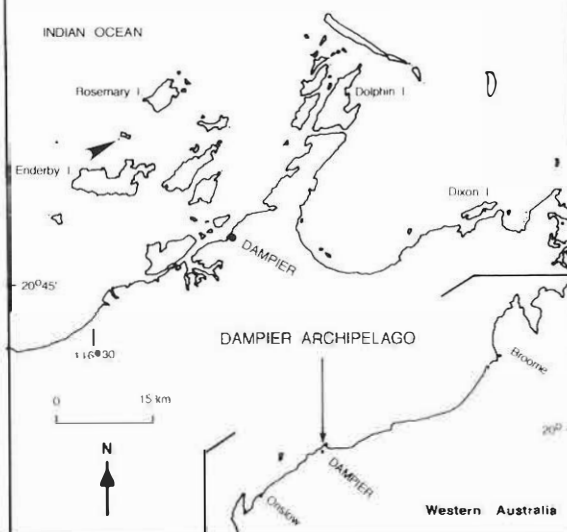
## Goodwyn Island, Pilbara Region, Western Australia



**Location:** 20°32'16"S, 116°32'45"E; between the larger Enderby and Rosemary Islands in the Dampier Archipelago. About 21 kilometres north-west of the town of Dampier, Western Australia.

**Status:** Class C Nature Reserve managed by the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management for the conservation of flora and fauna. Divided into 'Recreation' and 'Special Conservation' use zones<sup>1</sup>.

**Description:** 65 ha at high water; maximum dimensions 1.75 km (east-west) by 1.1 km (north-south). The island is almost divided at high water into eastern and western islets of similar size. There is a small satellite limestone islet off the southern point. The main island is comprised of dune limestone and Proterozoic Mount Roe basalt overlain by shelly and dune sand of varying age. Limestone outcrops as low cliffs to about 15 m elevation on the northern shores and on the



south-western point. Basalt outcrops at the north-western end of the island. There is an extensive barrier of beach rock rubble along the western shoreline<sup>3</sup>. Six broad habitat types have been mapped on the island.

The central portions of the eastern and western islets of Goodwyn are vegetated with dune scrub on relatively deep calcareous sand. The common plant species in these areas are *Spinifex longifolius*, *Sarcostemma viminalis australe*, *Olearia dampieri*, *Scaevola spinescens*, *Rhagodia* spp., *Enchylaena tomentosa* and *Acacia bivenosa*. The plant cover on the shallower sands overlaying limestone is similar although more stunted. *Capparis spinosa* appears on these shallower soils and along with prostrate *Acacia bivenosa* is one of the few plants to colonize areas of limestone pavement. There is an area of outcropping basalt on the western islet which is partially vegetated with Hummock Grass *Triodia wiseana*. Areas of limestone cliff and talus slope are found on both of the main islets. The vegetation is similar to that of the flat limestone pavement areas. A deposit of beach rock bounding part of the beach on the eastern islet is unvegetated.

**Landing:** Either from the north or south of the sand-bar connecting the two islets or onto the beach on the eastern side of the eastern islet.

**Ornithological History:** K. D. Morris recorded Bridled Terns at Goodwyn Island on 27 November 1982 and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters on 14 February 1983. G. Oliver also observed these species on 24 November 1988 and 15 March 1990. G. Oliver

and J. N. Dunlop visited the island on 13 July 1991 to check for any winter nesting activity. J. N. Dunlop conducted banding operations on 18 and 19 January 1992.

#### Breeding Seabirds and Status

*Puffinus pacificus* Wedge-tailed Shearwater — Several hundred burrows concentrated in three sub-colonies. No burrow counts have been attempted.

*Sterna anaethetus* Bridled Tern — About 70 pairs in a colony centred on an area of beach rock along the eastern sandy beach of the eastern islet. Most nests observed in January 1992 were under slabs of beach rock rubble, with a scattered few in crevices on nearby limestone cliffs or under bushes in the abutting vegetation. The breeding season in 1991/92 had evidently been delayed, as on 18 January the oldest chicks were no more than a week old and most pairs were still incubating. In a more typical year most eggs will have hatched by mid-December<sup>2</sup>. A similar delayed start to laying may have occurred at Elphick Nob suggesting that factors involved influenced all colonies in the Dampier Archipelago in that season.

*Sterna dougallii* Roseate Tern — A mummified clutch of two eggs believed to be of this species was observed in a cavity beneath a limestone overhang at the eastern end of the islet. This was the first record indicating that this species bred in the Dampier Archipelago. Subsequently G. Oliver discovered a large breeding colony on Nelson Rocks about 16 km from Goodwyn Island.



• The east coast of the eastern lobe of Goodwyn Island (looking west).

Photo: J. N. Dunlop

### Factors Affecting Status

Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus* and White-bellied Sea-Eagles *Haliaeetus leucogaster* may take some Bridled Terns. The beach adjacent to the Bridled Tern colony is zoned 'Special Conservation' in the management plan for Dampier Archipelago. However, there was physical evidence of people camping in the colony area. Disturbance of this kind during the spring/summer season could reduce breeding success.

### OTHER VERTEBRATES

*Chelonia mydas* Green Turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata* Hawksbill Turtle, *Heteronotia binoei* Bynoe's Gecko and *Gemmatophora gilberti* Coastal Water-dragon have been recorded.

### Other Seabirds Recorded

<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>	Australian Pelican
<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Pied Cormorant
<i>Haematopus longirostris</i>	Pied Oystercatcher
<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>	Sooty Oystercatcher
<i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>	Silver Gull
<i>Sterna bergii</i>	Crested Tern

### Banding

One visit — 18 and 19 January 1992.

*Sterna anaethetus* — 4 pulli, 35 adults.

### Bibliography

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### Acknowledgments

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• The area of the main Bridled Tern colony, showing limestone cliffs and pavement, beach, beach rock and sand dunes (again looking west at the eastern coast).

Photo: J. N. Dunlop