

red and blue bands did not affect the survivorship of the first year birds differentially ($X^2 = 0.0056$, $P > 0.90$).

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PEER REVIEW

Letters from Readers

North West Island: *Corella*, 1996, Vol. 20(3): pp. 107–110.

In the paper entitled "Seabird Islands No. 231: North West Island, Great Barrier Reef, Queensland", Hulsman's statement that earlier population estimates were "rough guesses or unreliable extrapolations" is supported. Hulsman, referring to M. Vaneck's (pers. comm.) work in the early 1980s, presents a population estimate of greater than 500 000 pairs with a 25 per cent variation between years. It is unfortunate that details of this information are not yet publicly available thus making replication impossible.

For those interested in a sound, statistically based estimate of the Shearwater population for North West Island perhaps the most reliable estimate is that of M. Donahoe performed in 1986 which resulted in an estimated 293 091 "burrows suitable for use". This estimate was based on sound, replicable survey methods. No other survey of North West Island has consisted of 32 transects. This information was made available by Dyer, Hill and Barnes in *Emu* 1995, Vol. 95, Pp. 272–279.

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