

SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 176

The Coffee Pot, Tasmania

Location: 43° 17'S., 145° 49'E.; 3 kilometres NNW of North Head on the northern side of the entrance to Port Davey on the south-west coast of Tasmania.

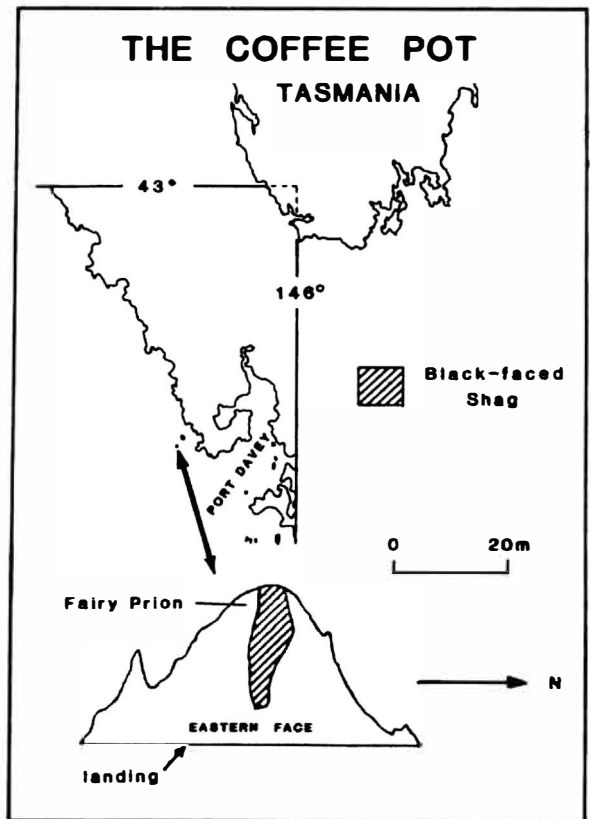
Status: Part of the South-west National Park.

Other Name: Sharks Jaw Reef is nearby and this is also used for The Coffee Pot.

Description: 0.5 ha; 10 m long, 70 m wide and 27 m high this rock is steep to sheer sided and shaped, as the name suggests, like a coffee pot with the "spout" (a rock spire) on the southern end, half the height of the summit. Only one species of plant, *Tetragonia implexicoma*, was found scattered sparsely among crevices and small areas of jumbled boulders. Very little soil is present.

Landing: Only possible when the sea is calm, the best site being onto the cliffs on the eastern side from where it is relatively easy to reach all parts of the rock.

Ornithological History: There are no known records of previous visits. N. P. Brothers, N. Mooney and M. Holdsworth visited the rock on 4 December 1981.



Breeding Seabirds and Status

Leucocarbo fuscescens Black-faced Shag — On the eastern side extending from the summit to within 15 m of the water 27 nests were counted on the bare rock ledges. The nests were built of seaweed and small amounts of *Carpobrotus rossii*. Broken eggs were found beside several nests but no birds were present.

Factors Affecting Status

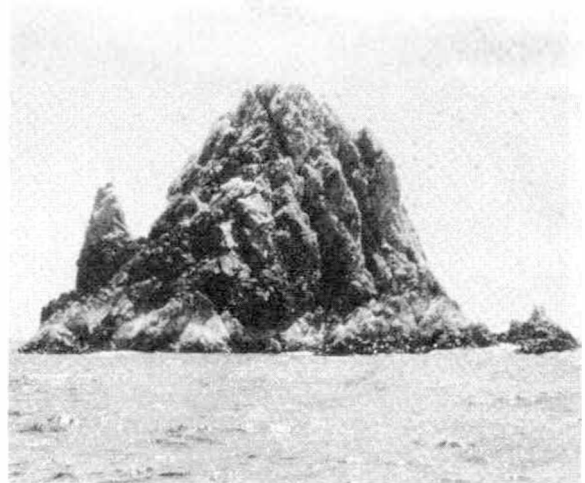
Severe storms are reported to wash over most or all of the rock which would disrupt the breeding birds. The effect of such storms may also be the reason why Fairy Prions were not using suitable rock crevices and sites under boulders for nesting. Both species may breed successfully in years when no severe storms occur.

Other Seabirds Recorded

Pachyptila turtur Fairy Prion (One adult was found in a crevice near the Summit; three dead adults were also found).

Banding

Nil.



• *The Coffee Pot* (looking south-east).

Acknowledgements

Messrs V. Careless and J. Chesterman were most helpful in transporting equipment to Port Davey. Messrs N. Mooney and M. Holdsworth assisted with the surveys.

Date compiled: 28 June 1984.

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