

CORELLA

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EDITORIAL

The articles in this issue refer solely to coastal and oceanic birds, and included again is the "Seabird Island" series, which has been placed in the middle so that those who wish to can remove and assemble them separately. We are fortunate in having such a dedicated and competent editor as S. G. Lane for this series. We have also been fortunate in the continuing financial support of our members and sponsors. Generous assistance has been received for the publication of the islands described in this issue from the Queensland Department of Environment and Conservation and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

The time has arrived for a critical appraisal of our progress with the "Seabird Island" series. This series has produced an enormous amount of basic data which have become the source of information for many who formulate conservation policies. A regular appraisal is necessary as changes in the breeding status of seabirds are afoot. There always have been but, because we

have recorded what is known, it is now possible to recognize and examine them more rapidly and critically. Such appraisals will appear from time to time.

The geographical area in which we are interested is vast, ranging from the Antarctic to the tropics and from the mid-Indian to mid-Pacific Oceans. It is the oceanic and weather systems of this region that influence greatly the distribution and abundance of Australasian seabirds. It is a region where much exciting oceanographic study has been carried out in recent years, and a series of articles to be entitled "The Seas Around Us" will commence in the future issues devoted to seabirds.

The map shows this region and to where the articles in this issue refer. They may look scattered — they are, in fact, linked by the seas between them.

Durno Murray, President.