

SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 206

Harlequin Island, Archipelago of the Recherche, Western Australia

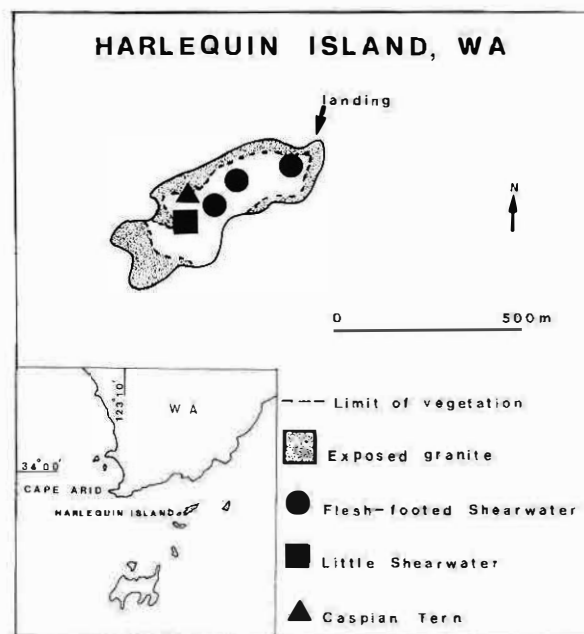
Location: 34°01'S, 123°14'E; 100 m south-west of Gulch Island and 8 kilometres east-south-east of Cape Arid, Western Australia.

Status: Class A Reserve vested in the Western Australian Wildlife Authority.

Description: 8 ha; 700 m long by 200 m wide and rising to 11 m near the centre. A rocky island with small areas of exposed granite and a narrow gully near the southern end. Plants recorded included *Atriplex* sp., *Myoporum* sp., *Albizia* sp., *Poa* sp., *Carpobrotus* sp., *Olearia axillaris* and *Rhagodia baccata*.

Landing: Onto rocks opposite Gulch Island. Difficult except in calm conditions.

Ornithological History: There is no previous record. R. E. Johnstone, L. A. Smith, N. I. Klomp, M. Burke and A. Byrne visited the island for one hour on 9 December, 1987.





● Harlequin Island (looking south-west).

Photo: L. A. Smith

Breeding Seabirds and Status

Puffinus carneipes Flesh-footed Shearwater — About 150–200 pairs breed on the island. Fifty burrows were found under *Poa* on the north-eastern end and over 100 under *Poa*, *Carpobrotus* and *Albizia* near the centre of the island. One burrow contained an adult incubating an egg.

Puffinus assimilis Little Shearwater — Between 50 and 100 burrows were found in an area of *Carpobrotus* near the south-western end.

Hydroprogne caspia Caspian Tern — Four adults were observed and a nest with two eggs was found on the edge of a granite outcrop.

Factors Affecting Status

Few people visit the island due to its inaccessibility. White-bellied Sea-Eagles *Haliaeetus leucogaster* nest on nearby Gulch Island and no doubt take some breeding seabirds on Harlequin Island.

OTHER VERTEBRATES

Three species of reptile were collected: *Phyllodactylus marmoratus*, *Ctenotus labillardieri* and *Egernia napoleonis*.

Other Seabirds Recorded

<i>Leucocarbo fuscescens</i>	Black-faced Shag
<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>	Sooty Oystercatcher
<i>Larus pacificus</i>	Pacific Gull

Banding

Nil.

Acknowledgments

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R. E. Johnstone and L. A. Smith, Western Australian Museum, Francis Street, Perth, Western Australia 6000.
N. I. Klomp, Murdoch University, Western Australia 6150.