

Decline of the Gannetry on Cat Island, Tasmania

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Cat Island, Tasmania, is one of the few breeding places within Australia of the Australian Gannet *Morus serrator*. It is the most accessible of the gannetries and has been the focus of attention for many visitors since Flinders first surveyed the islands in the area. Apparently the gannetry was discovered by Flinders but he made only incidental mention of it in his book (1814, p. cxii). He stated that on 8 January 1799 'Mr. Bass went on shore to the small, south-eastern islet [=Cat Island] whence he brought a boat load of seals and gannets.'

The following summary of the gannetry's history comes partly from an unpublished review of Australian gannetries (by D.L.S.) and partly from the files of the Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service.