

Growth in the Population of the Silver Gull on the Five Islands Group, New South Wales

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One of the most spectacular population increases of an Australian seabird has been that of the Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae* breeding on the Five Islands off Port Kembla, N.S.W. From a small and presumably stable breeding population of about 1 000 pairs prior to 1940, it has expanded to over 50 000 breeding pairs in 1978, thus becoming the most obvious bird of coastal, urban and suburban Wollongong, with increasing abundance also notable in its metropolitan foraging range.

This paper records some quantitative data on the population growth and suggests the principal factor responsible.