

## SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 67

## Statis Rock, Sugarloaf Bay, New South Wales

**Location:** 32° 26' S., 152° 32' E.; 50 m offshore at the eastern end of Sugarloaf Bay near Seal Rocks, N.S.W.

**Status:** Crown land.

**Description:** 2.2 ha; roughly rectangular-shaped, about 225 m long by 100 m wide, consisting of two steep, parallel ridges oriented north-south, rising to 12 m elevation at the southern end. Most of the surface is bare rock but the western ridge supports a limited vegetation composed mainly of grasses. Other plant species include Prickly Pear *Opuntia stricta*, Wandering Jew *Commelina cyanea* and *Solanum* sp.

**Landing:** Most easily accomplished at the south-west corner, where rocks slope gently into the sea. In calm weather it is possible to swim from the adjacent beach.

**Ornithological History:** Robert Edden landed in December or January about 1965 and obtained several photographs of breeding seabirds, depicting the Little Penguin, Silver Gull and Crested Tern. These three species were found breeding when G. Holmes landed for a brief visit (10:00-11:15 hrs.) on 3 January 1977<sup>1</sup>.

#### Breeding Seabirds and Status

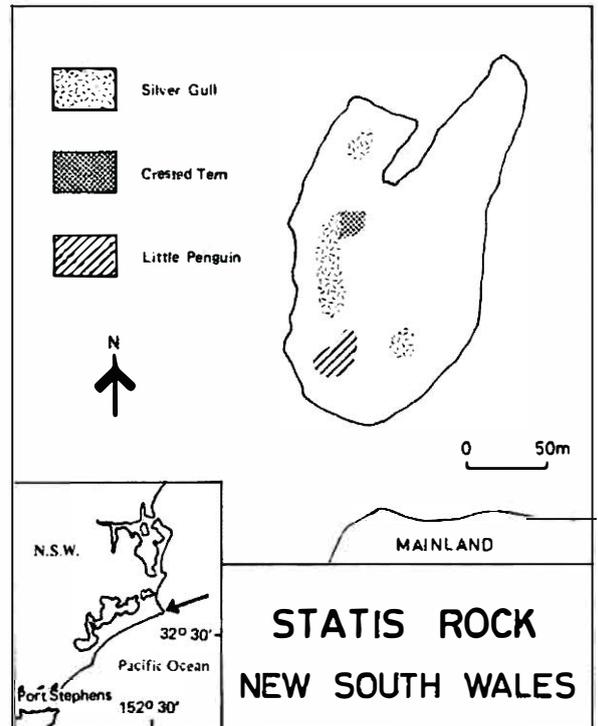
*Eudyptula minor* Little Penguin — At least 5 pairs nest in crevices at the south-west corner of the island. Eggs and young were found on 3 January 1977.

*Larus novaehollandiae* Silver Gull — Probably about 100 pairs breed regularly, with most young fledging by December.

*Sterna bergii* Crested Tern — About 10 pairs probably breed regularly, with young fledging in January and February.

#### Factors Affecting Status

Since Seal Rocks is a popular holiday resort and as Statis Rock is readily accessible, human disturbance is a constant threat to breeding seabirds. The extent of natural predation is not known.



• Statis Rock (looking north-east).

#### Other Seabirds Recorded

*Phalacrocorax carbo* Great Cormorant

#### Banding

Nil.

#### Bibliography

- Holmes, N. G. (1977), 'Breeding Seabirds on Statis Rock, New South Wales', *Corella* 1: 81.

#### Acknowledgements

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