

## SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 94

## Great Glennie Island, Glennie Group, Victoria

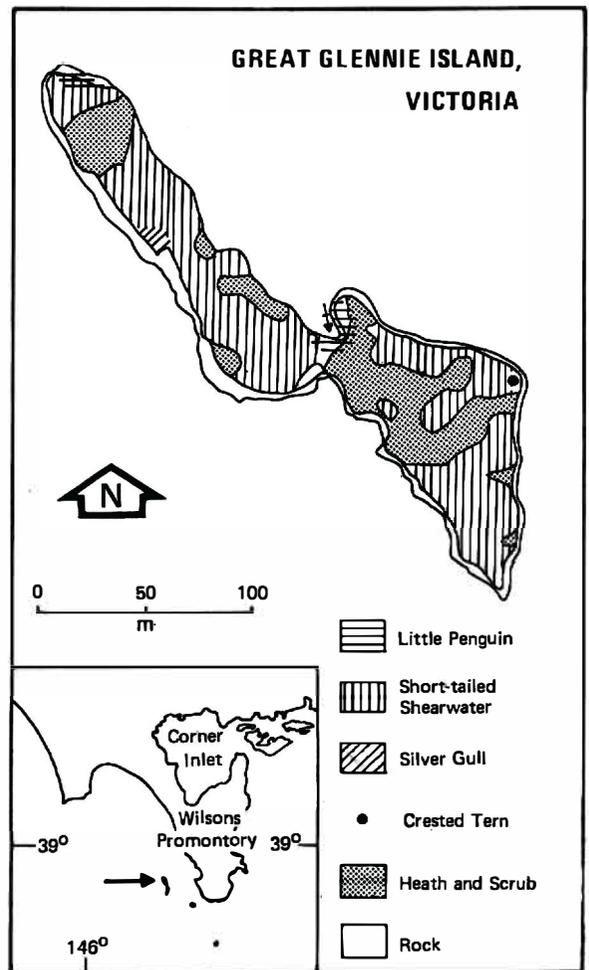
**Location:** 39°05'S., 146°14'E.; about 9 km south-west of Norman Bay and about 7 km to the west of the nearest mainland, Wilsons Promontory, Victoria.

**Status:** Part of Wilsons Promontory National Park, controlled by the National Parks Service, Victoria; access restricted.

**Description:** About 138 ha; an elongated granite island of two similar sized parts joined by a narrow isthmus. The island is about 3 km long, 0.6 km at its widest, and reaches a maximum height of 140 m on the southern end. There are extensive outcrops of large rocks. The vegetation is complex; the southern part of the island is dominated by a *Poa poiiformis* community and includes eroded areas, an extensive open *Casuarina* woodland with an understorey of shrubs and annuals, and a dense closed heathland which includes *Banksia integrifolia*, *Leptospermum laevigatum*, *Correa alba*, *Olearia phlogopappa* and *Myoporum insulare*. The northern part of the island has a more open vegetation, mainly dominated by *Poa* and stands of *Lavatera plebeia*. There are only small areas of scrub but trees were probably once far more widespread. A hut is situated above the landing cove.

**Landing:** Onto rocks or a small beach within the cove on the eastern side of the island, sheltered in most winds.

**Ornithological History:** Penguin and shearwater colonies were recorded in 1909 by J. W. Barrett<sup>1</sup>, who made reference to the number of Cape Barren Geese as did D. F. Dorward<sup>2,3</sup>. J. Wainer and P. Dann<sup>6</sup> discussed birds seen on the island in 1975, 1978 and 1979. They have made more recent visits. S. G. Lane and H. Battam paid a short visit to the island in Nov-



ember 1978<sup>4</sup>. We conducted a survey of the island's seabirds between 7 and 10 December 1978. Lane, Battam and B. I. Robertson made visits in November 1979.



• Great Glennie Island, northern end, from the cove (looking north-west).

Photo: S. G. Lane.

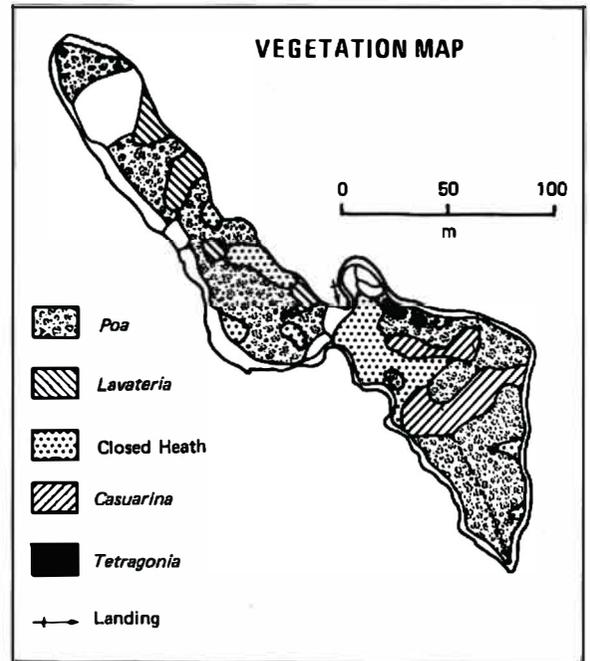
### Breeding Seabirds and Status

*Eudyptula minor* Little Penguin — In 1909 a 'large colony' was reported<sup>1</sup> whilst 100-200 pairs were recorded in 1968-69 and 1975<sup>5</sup>. We found burrows under boulders up to 100 m inland above the landing, in dense *Carpobrotus rossii* at the northern end and towards the south of the island. The dense vegetation in some areas precluded an accurate estimate, but the present population may be about 500 pairs.

*Puffinus tenuirostris* Short-tailed Shearwater — Although recorded on the island in 1909<sup>1</sup> there are no previous estimates. In 1978 burrows were counted in 518 quadrats of 20 m<sup>2</sup> at 21 sites in the different types of vegetation. The highest mean burrow density of 0.83/m<sup>2</sup> was beneath *Lepidium foliosum* growing in sheltered areas. The density beneath *Poa* was as high as 0.6/m<sup>2</sup> and there were few burrows (0.02/m<sup>2</sup>) within the heath. Mean burrow density correlated significantly with depth of soil. Extrapolation of mean density in the areas of different vegetation gave the number of burrows as 400 300 (range 334 500-456 300, 95% confidence intervals). Of 150 burrows examined in December 1978, 98 had an egg present.

*Cereopsis novaehollandiae* Cape Barren Goose — Dorward<sup>3</sup> recorded this species breeding in 1964; Wainer and Dann<sup>6</sup> made counts of up to 47 in 1975 and 30 in 1978. We counted 73 birds on the island in December 1978.

*Haematopus fuliginosus* Sooty Oystercatcher — Nest found in November 1978, and at least 10 pairs counted in December 1978.



*Larus novaehollandiae* Silver Gull — about 100 pairs were breeding on northern end and one pair near the landing in December 1978.

*Larus pacificus* Pacific Gull — About 10 pairs had territories around the coast in December 1978. We found three nests, and the island was used as a roost by about 200 others. Robertson (pers. comm.) found two new nests on the northern end in November 1979.

*Sterna bergii* Crested Tern — About 20 pairs nested in (?) late October 1967 (D. F. Dorward pers. comm.).

### Factors Affecting Status

Penguins, shearwaters and perhaps Cape Barren Geese are taken illegally from the island. Visitors walking across the island destroy burrows, and erosion is reducing the soil stability in some areas causing collapse of burrows. Avian predators have been recorded<sup>6</sup> and take some seabirds.



- The landing cove (looking north-east) with Mount Oberon, in cloud, in the background.

Photo: S. G. Lane.



- Shearwater burrows in part of the eroded area of the saddle.

### Other Seabirds Recorded

<i>Diomedea cauta</i>	Shy Albatross (derelict)*.
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Southern Giant - Petrel (derelict)*.
<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	Fairy Prion (derelict)*.
<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>	Common Diving-Petrel — Numerous birds seen flying low over the island at night in April 1979 (Wainer).
<i>Morus serrator</i>	Australasian Gannet (derelict)*.
<i>Leucocarbo fuscescens</i>	Black-faced Shag
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Great Cormorant
<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>	Little Pied Cormorant

### Banding

Period December 1968 to November 1979.

- E. minor* — 44 adults; 14 nestlings.  
*P. tenuirostris* — 34 “adults”.  
*C. novaehollandiae* — 61 adults and runners.

### Bibliography

1. Barrett, J. W. (1918), The Twin Ideals. Lewis and Co., London.
2. Dorward, D. F. (1967), ‘The status of the Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*’, *Bull. int. Comm. Bird Preserv.* 10:56-71.
3. Dorward, D. F. and G. M. Pizzey (1965), ‘Breeding of the Cape Barren Goose on the Anser and Glennie Islands, Victoria, Australia’, *Rep. Wildfowl Trust* 16:64-67.
4. Lane, S. G. (1979), ‘A visit to islands of Wilsons Promontory, Victoria’, *Corella* 3:29-30.

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