

SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 114

Nares Island, Archipelago of the Recherche, Western Australia

Location: 33°56'S., 122°36'E.; about 30 m off-shore at the south-western end of Duke of Orleans Bay, about 65 km east of Esperance, WA.

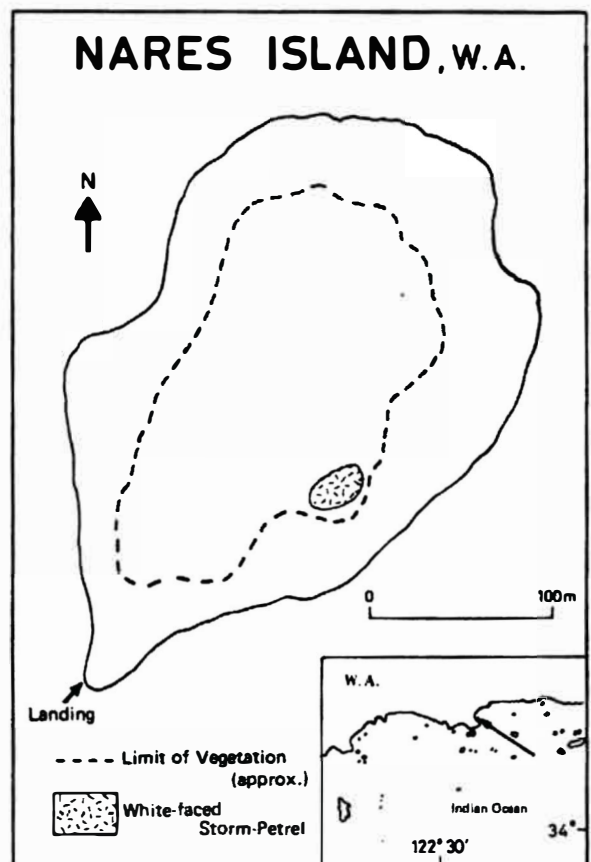
Status: Class A Reserve vested in the W.A. Wildlife Authority; access permit required.

Other Name: Menzies Island.

Description: 5.9 ha; about 350 m long by about 225 m wide, roughly oval in shape and rising to about 26 m high. The island is granite-gneiss, rocky with mainly stunted, low vegetation; *Melaleuca kunzea* is dominant. There are some sprawling *Acacias* while *Carpobrotus*, *Pelargonium*, *Poa* and other grasses occur in the shallower, rocky parts. The limited soil cover is generally unsuitable for burrowing petrels.

Landing: There is little problem landing from a dinghy onto a small, sandy beach, or by swimming to the rocky outcrop nearest to the shore.

Ornithological History: The only previously recorded visit appears to be that by V. N. Serventy²; he found White-faced Storm-Petrels breeding there on 29 November 1950. S. G. Lane, L. F. Lane, A. K. Daw and Wm. Merillees visited the island on 2 November 1981.



Breeding Seabirds and Status

Pelagodroma marina White-faced Storm-Petrel — Serventy recorded four burrows of these birds, one empty, on 29 November 1950². On 2 November 1981, four "fresh" burrows were checked but the birds were absent; there were a number of disused, collapsed and broken burrows in a few places. The cause appeared to be the very shallow soil in which the burrows had been dug. The remains of one bird was seen. Possibly three or four pairs nest regularly on the island.



● Nares Island (looking north-east).

Photo: Wm. Merilees

Factors Affecting Status

There appeared to be no evidence of human interference with the wildlife on the island.

OTHER VERTEBRATES

Small skinks were seen in November 1981.

Other Seabirds Recorded

<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>	Sooty Oystercatcher
<i>Larus novæhollandiae</i>	Silver Gull
<i>Larus pacificus</i>	Pacific Gull
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian Tern
<i>Sterna bergii</i>	Crested Tern (derelict)

Banding

Nil.

Bibliography

1. Lane, S. G. (1982), 'Avifauna of islands off Esperance, Western Australia', *Corella* 6: 37-39.
2. Serventy, V. N. (1952), 'Archipelago of the Recherche, Part 2: Birds. *Aust. Geog. Soc. Rept.* 1(2): 1-24.

Acknowledgements

I thank Mr A. K. Daw for making the visit possible and assisting with the survey, as did my wife and Mr Wm. Merilees.

Date compiled: 3 November 1981

S. G. Lane, 65 Wood Street, Lane Cove, N.S.W. 2066.