

## SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 115

## Lorraine Island, Archipelago of the Recherche, Western Australia

**Location:** 33°57'S., 122° 34'E.; about 750 m north-west from Hammer Head, WA, 350 m offshore from the nearest mainland and about 65 km east from Esperance.

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

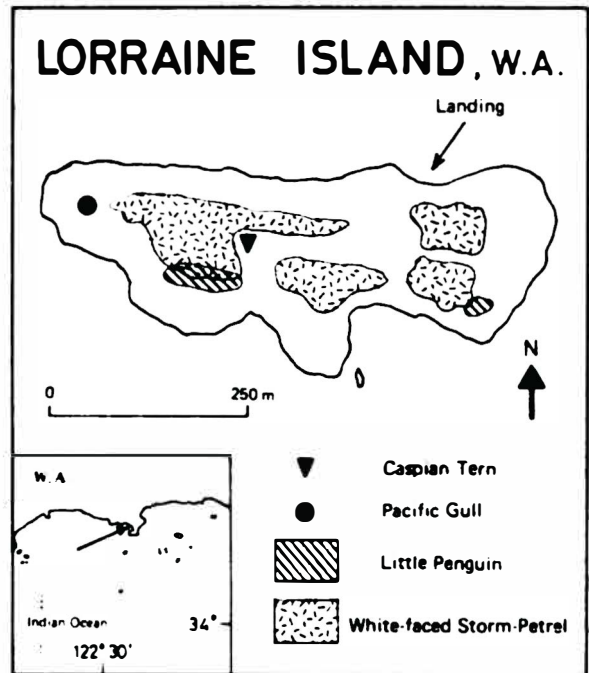
**Description:** About 9 ha; some 900 m long by 300 m at the widest and rising to about 10 m high. The island has a rocky shoreline, with a small sand beach on the protected, northern side. There are extensive areas of bare rock, particularly on the exposed southern side. In the remaining parts, sandy soil is covered with low vegetation including spinifex (?), *Carpobrotus* and some low bushes.

**Landing:** A good landing is available for small craft onto the little sandy beach; the location of the island in the bay would generally provide protection from other than very bad weather.

**Ornithological History:** There is no previous record. S. G. Lane, L. F. Lane and A. K. Daw visited the island for an hour on 2 November 1981. Daw made a further visit on 10 November 1981. The following information was obtained during these visits.

### Breeding Seabirds and Status

*Eudyptula minor* Little Penguin — There was evidence of these birds among the rocks and shoreline vegetation in a few places. No birds



were found during the short visits but from the guano and tracks, a few pairs probably breed on the island.

*Pelagodroma marina* White-faced Storm-Petrel — Burrows of these birds were well distributed over almost all vegetated areas except those too rocky for burrows. Most burrows were fresh and had been recently attended; many were still being dug. Generally the soil was firm

enough to enable examination of the burrows without destroying them. On 2 November 1981 some 25 burrows were checked and most contained nesting material; one contained an adult incubating an egg. On 10 November eight burrows were checked and four contained a bird on an egg. Estimated 2 000-3 000 breeding pairs.

*Larus pacificus* Pacific Gull — A nest with two eggs was found on 10 November 1981.

*Hydroprogne caspia* Caspian Tern — One pair had a nest with two eggs.

### Factors Affecting Status

There was no evidence of human interference with the breeding seabirds. Although close to a beach on the mainland, probably the island is rarely visited because of access difficulties.

### Other Seabirds Recorded

<i>Egretta sacra</i>	Eastern Reef Egret
<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i>	Cape Barren Goose
<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>	Sooty Oystercatcher
<i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>	Silver Gull

### Banding

*Pelagodroma marina* — 1 adult (2 Nov. 81).



● Lorraine Island from the nearby mainland (looking south-south-east). Hammer Head is the large feature in the centre background at left.

Photo: Wm. Merilees

### Bibliography

1. Lane, S. G. (1982), 'Avifauna of islands off Esperance, Western Australia', *Corella* 6: 37-39.

### Acknowledgements

I thank Mr A. K. Daw for providing transport for the visit on 2 November 1981 and for details of his subsequent visit. I also thank my wife for her assistance during the visit.

Date compiled: 3 November 1981

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