

Blanche Rock, Tasmania

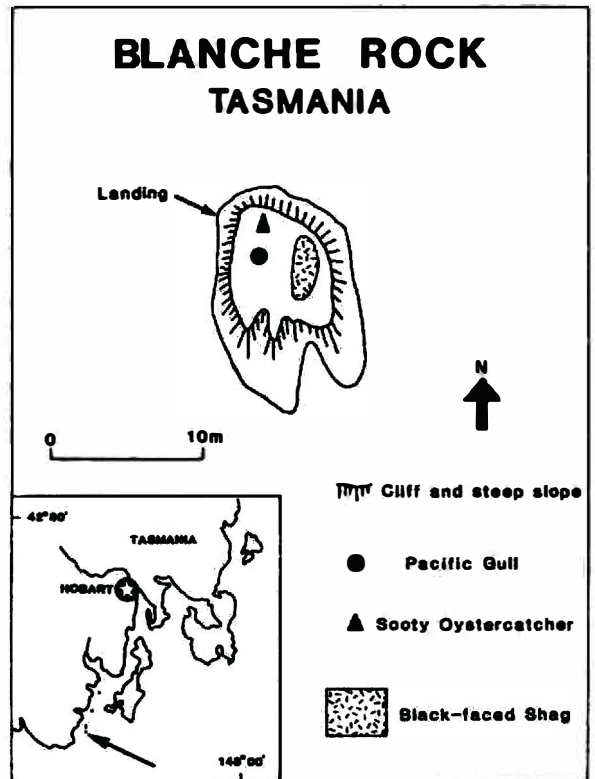
Location: 43°29'S., 147°00'E.; 6.5 km south-east of Southport on the south-east coast of Tasmania and 1 km from the mainland near Southport Bluff.

Status: Crown Land.

Description: Mostly sheer-sided, the rock rises to a height of 14 m; the southern side, which is broken by crevices, slopes less steeply to the sea. Small flat areas on the summit permit limited vegetation growth where soil has accumulated in crevices. Five plant species were found by the author in December 1980 sparsely scattered in such crevices — *Tetragonia implexicoma*, *Carpobrotus rossii*, *Chenopodium glaucum*, *Solanum vescum* and *Senecio lautus*. There is no habitat suitable for burrowing seabirds.

Landing: Sea swell and accessibility up the rock face would usually restrict landing to the north-western side of the rock.

Ornithological History: W. V. Legge¹ recorded "White-breasted Cormorants" breeding, a few Silver Gulls and the "occasional Pacific Gull". The following information, except where indicated otherwise, resulted from a 20-minute visit by N. P. Brothers on 4 December 1980.



Breeding Seabirds and Status

Leucocarbo fuscescens Black-faced Shag — On 28 November 1886, 30-40 pairs were recorded breeding¹. During the visit in 1980, three adults were sitting on the rock and four old nests, constructed of seaweed, were found on ledges on the eastern side. These nests may have been used during the recent breeding season.

Haematopus fuliginosus Sooty Oystercatcher — A pair, present at the time of the visit, were agitated by the human intrusion on the rock. An empty nest was found but absence of egg-shell fragments or chicks anywhere on the rock suggested that breeding had not commenced.

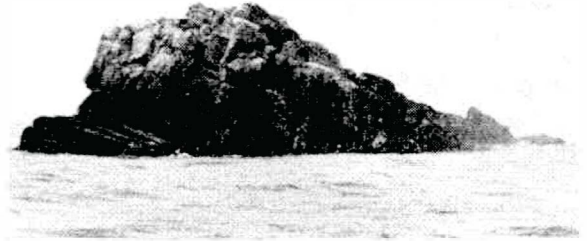
Larus pacificus Pacific Gull — Three adults were present in December 1980 and a nest containing three downy chicks with flight feathers just emerging was found on the summit. The nest was merely a depression in the soil accumulated in a crevice.

Other Seabirds Recorded

Larus novaehollandiae Silver Gull¹

Banding

Nil.



● *Blanche Rock (looking east).*

Bibliography

1. Legge, W. V. (1887). 'On the breeding of some seabirds on Actacon and adjacent islets', *Soc. of Tas. Papers and Proceedings*, No. 28.

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