

SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 138

Mudjimba Island, Queensland

Location: 26°37'S., 153°07'E.; one kilometre offshore, just north of the mouth of the Maroochy River, Queensland.

Status: Crown land, under private lease.

Other Name: Old Woman Island.

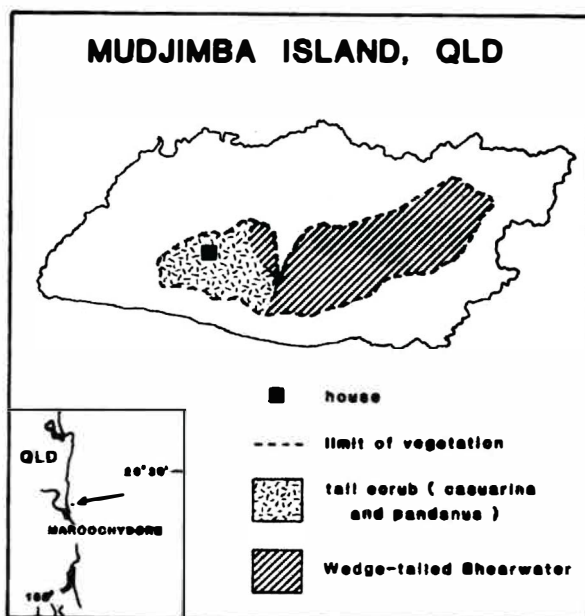
Description: 1.1 ha; some 400 m long by 170 m wide, the island slopes towards the eastern end to a height of 25 m. It consists of a sedimentary sequence of shale and sandstone, with a rock platform surrounding most of it. At the western end there is a house among a grove of Casuarinas, and a cluster of Pandanus Palms *Pandanus pendunculatus* is on the southern side. Vegetation on the slope consists of grasses, *Lantana camara* and small plants. At the eastern end, near the top, is a low thicket of Tuckeroo *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* and *Lantana*. Some exotic plants have been introduced around the house and at least one species is spreading over the island.

Landing: Landing is difficult in all but calmest weather. Surges around the small island, even on the lee side, and the submerged rocks make any approach awkward.

Ornithological History: There is no previous ornithological record. S. G. Lane, H. Battam, L. F. Lane and J. Battam visited the island for three hours on 15 February 1984.

Breeding Seabirds and Status

Puffinus pacificus Wedge-tailed Shearwater — Probably present to breed from late August or



early September, with young departing in late April or early May. Burrows are located over most of the slope. Estimated between 1500 and 2000 breeding pairs.

Haematopus fuliginosus Sooty Oystercatcher — A nest was found on the southern side among rocks and shell grit above the high water mark. Two birds were present.



- *Mudjimba Island* (looking south).

Factors Affecting Status

In calm weather, some surfers, without permission, paddle their boards to the island. It is not known if any interference occurs. Two Torresian Crows *Corvus orru* were seen during the visit and may cause some predation.

Other Seabirds Recorded

Phalacrocorax varius Pied Cormorant
Egretta sacra Eastern Reef Egret

Banding

Puffinus pacificus — 51 nestlings (15 Feb. 84).

Bibliography

1. Lane, S. G. and H. Battam (1984), 'Nesting of the Wedge-tailed Shearwater on Mudjimba Island, Queensland', *Sunbird* 14(3): 65-66.

Acknowledgement

We wish to thank the owner for permission to visit the island.

Date compiled: 28 May 1984.

S. G. Lane, Lot 6 Fairview Road, Moonee, via Coffs Harbour, N.S.W. 2450.

H. Battam, 3 Alpine Place, Engadine, N.S.W. 2233.