

Stanley Island, Western Australia

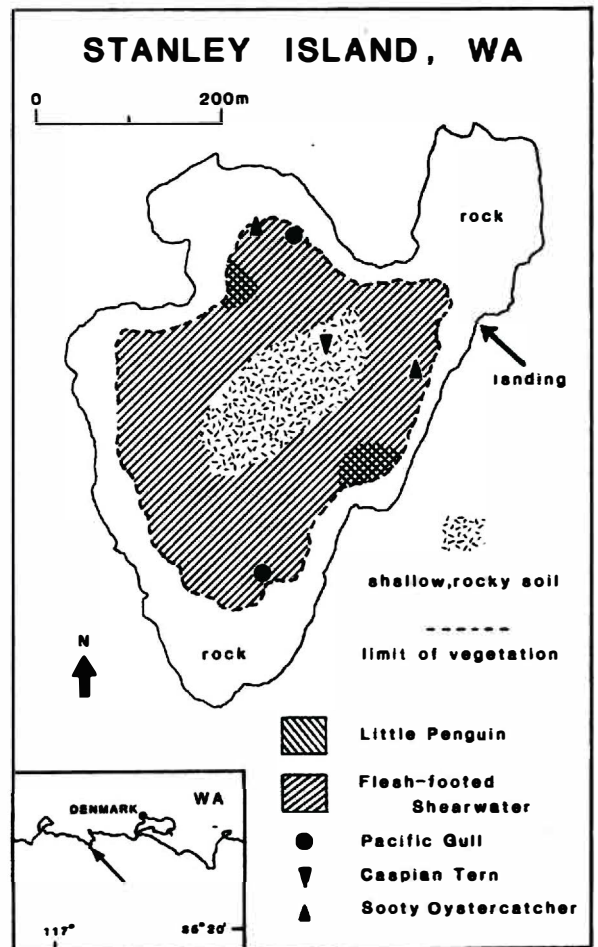
**Location:** 35°04'S., 117°09'E.; about 100 m off-shore from Point Hillier on the south coast and some 20 kilometres west of Denmark, W.A.

**Status:** Vacant Crown Land.

**Description:** 20 ha; irregularly shaped about 700 m long by 350 m wide and rising to some 30 m high, the island has a rocky granite shoreline, steep in parts, particularly on the eastern side. There are no trees; Angular Pigface *Carpobrotus virescens* is dominant around the edges and in parts of the centre ridge, much of which comprises shallow, rocky soil. In some areas, particularly along the slopes of the south-eastern end, *Poa poiformis* occurs as tussockland interspersed in some places with *Nitraria*. Other vegetation includes *Cakile maritima*, *Lobelia alata*, *Pelargonium capitatum* and *Senecio laetus*.

**Landing:** Onto rocks and difficult except in calm conditions.

**Ornithological History:** The island is recorded as a breeding station of the Flesh-footed Shearwater (2). There appears to be no other information until the visit by S. G. Lane, L. F. Lane, T. A. Allen and H. Allen for seven hours on 7 November 1982, when Little Penguins, Sooty Oystercatchers, Silver Gulls, Pacific Gulls and Caspian Terns were also found breeding. The following information was obtained during that visit.





• *Stanley Island (looking west).*

### Breeding Seabirds and Status

*Eudyptula minor* Little Penguin — Found breeding in a number of places with the main concentrations near the northern end and on the eastern side. Adults were on eggs and small chicks while three large nestlings were found. Estimated about 100 breeding pairs.

*Puffinus carneipes* Flesh-footed Shearwater — Burrows occurred throughout most of the vegetated areas except the rocky, centre ridge. These birds probably lay about the end of November or early in December with the young leaving the island at the end of April or early in May. Some birds were in the burrows on 7 November 1982, but no eggs were present <sup>(1)</sup>. Probably present to breed from late in September to the end of April or early in May when the young leave; egg laying occurs late in November to early December. Estimated 1000-1 500 breeding pairs.

*Haematopus fuliginosus* Sooty Oystercatcher — Two recently-used nests were located; one contained an addled egg while a large downy "runner" was found near the other. Two more pairs appeared to be holding territories and may also have been nesting.

*Larus novaehollandiae* Silver Gull — Twelve adults were counted and a juvenile bird, barely able to fly, was seen. A dead chick was also found. A few pairs probably breed on the island.

*Larus pacificus* Pacific Gull — Two pairs were present, each with a nest containing two eggs.

*Hydroprogne caspia* Caspian Tern — One pair had a nest containing a small chick.

### Factors Affecting Status

The island is probably rarely visited and there was no evidence of human interference.

### Other Seabirds Recorded

*Pelagodroma marina* White-faced Storm-Petrel (remains)<sup>(2)</sup>.

### Banding

One visit — 7 Nov. 82.

*Eudyptula minor* — 11 adults and 3 nestlings.

*Puffinus carneipes* — 114 adults.

*Haematopus fuliginosus* — 1 "runner".

*Hydroprogne caspia* — 1 nestling.

### Acknowledgements

I thank Dr I. Abbott for identifying plant specimens, Terry Allen, Helen Allen and my wife for assistance during the visit, and the Under Secretary for Lands for providing details on the island.

### Bibliography

1. Lane, S. G. (1984), 'A report on visits to Stanley and Flat Islands, Western Australia', *Corella* 8 (3): 69-70.
2. Serventy, D. L. and H. M. Whittell (1948), *Birds of Western Australia*. Patersons Press Ltd, Perth, W.A.

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