

SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 48

Doughboy Island, Corner Inlet, Victoria

Location: 38°46' S., 146°17' E.; within Corner Inlet, north of Wilsons Promontory, 3.9 km to nearest mainland.

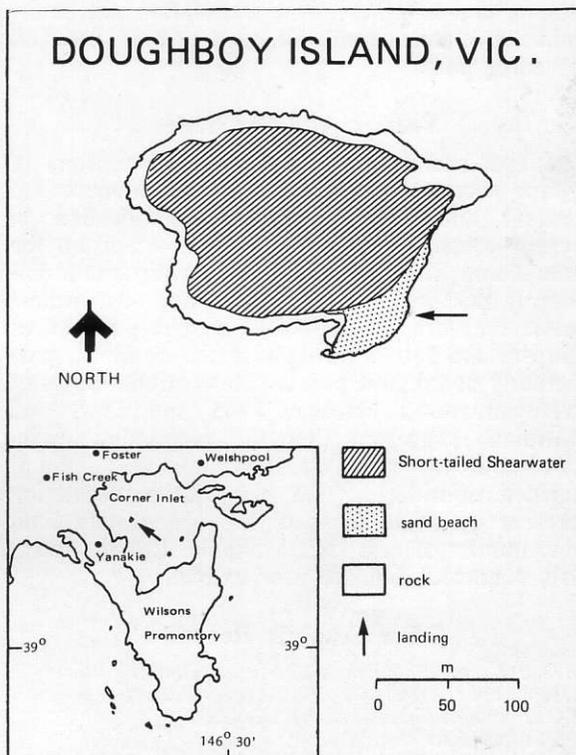
Status: Included in Wilsons Promontory National Park in 1916; now controlled by the National Parks Service (Vic.); camping is not allowed.

Description: 4 ha; a dome-shaped granite island some 24 m high, 260 m long and 160 m wide, lying on the southern edge of Doughboy Channel. The island is steeper on the northern and eastern sides, and much of it is covered by dense stands of *Melaleuca ericifolia*; occasional *Banksia integrifolia*, many of which were dead in 1976, are found among these stands. Clumps of *Correa alba* occur in places and a few *Eucalyptus viminalis* grow near the summit. Pure stands of *Poa poiformis* are infrequent, but alien grasses are abundant; some areas are dominated by *Vinca major* and *Zantedeschia aethiopica*, introduced by an early resident of the island. In unburrowed areas particularly, alien species have increased since early reports. Further and more recent details^{2, 3, 4} may be compared with an earlier, more limited account⁵.

Sand beaches are present on the south-eastern coast, and the island is sheltered to some extent from wave action by banks which lie offshore.

Landing: In calm weather access may be gained almost anywhere, but sand beaches on the south-eastern side are more suitable during rough conditions.

Ornithological History: J. W. Barrett¹ recorded the island as being a 'resort for a large number



of birds — cranes, cormorants, oyster catchers, and muttonbirds', a view accepted in part by M. E. Gillham³ who later mentioned the presence of Black-faced and Black Cormorants roosting on rocks and *Melaleuca* trees. More recent visits by F. I. Norman in February 1966 and August 1976 did not add to the sea bird list, though other species were seen.



● *Doughboy Island (looking west).*

Breeding Seabirds and Status

Puffinus tenuirostris Short-tailed Shearwater — Most breeding burrows are on the summit extending down towards the western and southern sides; fewer burrows are present on the northern and eastern slopes. Population not determined but considered to exceed several thousand.

Factors Affecting Status

Illegal harvesting of young shearwaters is presumed to take place, although the level of such predation is not known. Rabbits formerly occurred but are now extinct¹.

OTHER VERTEBRATES still present
Black Rat *Rattus rattus*

Other Seabirds Recorded

Ardea novaehollandiae White-faced Heron.
Haematopus ostralegus Pied Oystercatcher.
Larus novaehollandiae Silver Gull.

Banding

Nil.

Bibliography

1. Barrett, J. W. (1918), *The Twin Ideals* (:) an Educated Commonwealth. Lewis and Co., London.
2. Gillham, M. E. (1960), 'Destruction of Indigenous Heath Vegetation in Victorian Sea-bird Colonies', *Aust. J. Bot.* 8: 277-317.
3. Gillham, M. E. (1961), 'Plants and Seabirds of Granite Islands in south-eastern Victoria', *Proc. R. Soc. Vict.* 74: 21-35.
4. Gillham, M. E. (1962), 'Granite Islands of south-east Victoria as a Sea-bird Habitat', *Proc. R. Soc. Vict.* 75: 45-63.



● *Part of the southern coast.*



● *Another view near the summit of the north-western end.*

5. Kershaw, J. A. (et al.) (1913), 'Excursion to the National Park, Wilson's Promontory', *Victorian Nat.* 29: 163-180.

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