

SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 3

Belowla Island, New South Wales

Location: 35° 33' S., 150° 24' E.; about 600 m offshore near Kiola, 24 km south of Ulladulla.

Status: Nature Reserve controlled by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (N.S.W.): entry permit required.

Description: 300 m by 250 m; 4 ha; the island is shaped like an elongated, inverted saucer, the outer edge a wave-cut rock platform rising to a shallow soil cap about 200 m by 150 m and some 8 m high. The soil supports low vegetation such as grasses, tussocks, pigface etc. and the following species have been identified:

Carpobrotus glaucescens, *Pelargonium australe*, *Westringia eremicola*, *Atriplex cinerea*, *Kennedea rubicunda*, *Tetragonia tetragonoides*, *Ipomoea cairica*, *Themeda australis*, *Commelina cyanea* and *Rhagodea baccata*.

Landing: Except in calm weather the landing onto the rock platform may be difficult.

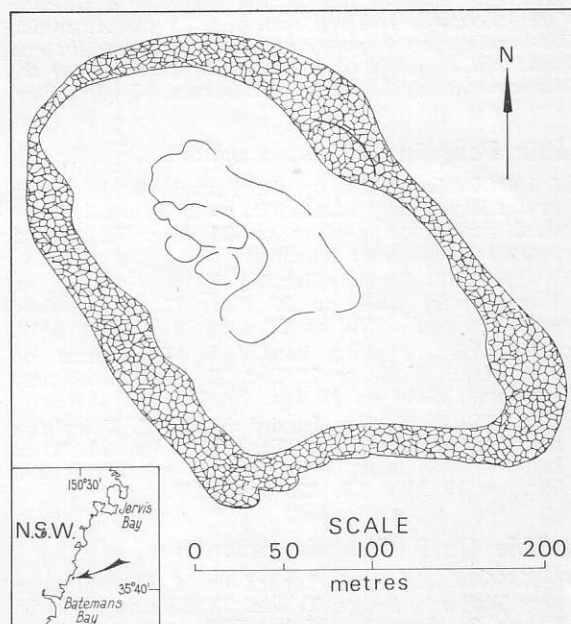
Ornithological History: On 17 December 1972 Messrs H. Battam, R. Badham and S. G. Lane visited the island from 06:30 to 08:30. No other visits by ornithologists have been recorded.

Breeding Seabirds and Status

Eudyptula minor Little Penguin—Well-worn tracks led from the rocks to the burrows; most were empty at the time of the visit although there was ample evidence of recent occupation. Some well-developed fledglings were found while a few burrows contained one or two adults. No eggs or downy young were located. Probably some 800 to 1000 pairs breed on the island during spring and summer. Some birds may be present throughout the year.

Puffinus pacificus Wedge-tailed Shearwater—One egg of this species was lying on the surface and another at the entrance to a burrow which did not appear to have been used by a penguin. Some shearwaters may breed on the island but the penguins dominate the area.

Pelagodroma marina White-faced Storm-Petrel—The burrows of these birds were distributed over most of the vegetated area, more thickly in some places than others, the eastern side being favoured. Some adults were incubating their single egg while downy chicks in various stages were



found in 19 burrows. Breeding pairs estimated at over 1000. Probably present to breed from September to February.

Haematopus fuliginosus Sooty Oystercatcher—Eleven were seen and a nesting site was found among shellgrit and low grass.

Factors Affecting Status

No apparent unusual predation or interference.
OTHER VERTEBRATES
Skink *Ergernia* sp. numerous; no other vertebrates seen.

Other Seabirds Recorded

Phalacrocorax carbo Black Cormorant
Phalacrocorax sulcirostris Little Black Cormorant
Phalacrocorax melanoleucos Little Pied Cormorant.

Banding

P. marina—19 nestlings and 11 adults banded.

Bibliography

None recorded.

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11 June 73

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