

A Visit to Sandy Island, Western Australia. — Sandy Island is some three kilometres from Windy Harbour and four kilometres south-east from Point D'Entrecasteaux on the south coast of Western Australia. Details of the breeding seabirds were published by Dr. I. Abbott (*Corella* 5:69-70) in 1981. The information was mainly obtained during his visit to the island from 26 March to 4 April 1976. However, he included species reported by W. Nairne Clarke who visited Sandy Island in May 1841.

My wife and I were on the island from 1010 hours to 1320 hours on 7 October, 1981. As there appear to be no other published records of the bird life of this island, details recorded during our visit follow. The weather was overcast with occasional light showers; a moderate to stiff breeze gradually increased to about 35 knots by the time of our departure.

Systematic List and Notes on Species Observed

Fleshy-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus carneipes*). Burrows, presumably of this species, were well-distributed over most of the island, particularly among the *Poa* tussockland. There was evidence of extensive burrow activity, but at the date of our visit, most Fleshy-footed Shearwaters were expected to be at sea during daylight hours. Some 300 burrows were checked and two adults were found together in each of 10 burrows. There was no evidence of the presence of any other burrowing species.

Sooty Oystercatcher (*Haematopus fuliginosus*). Ten birds were counted; a fresh "nest" and one with two eggs were found.

Red-capped Plover (*Charadrius ruficapillus*). Ten were present on the beach.

Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). Five were seen on the southern shore.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*). Seven were feeding in a small, swampy patch near the centre of the island.

Silver Gull (*Larus novaehollandiae*). About 60 gulls were present around the sand dunes at the north-western end of the island. Twenty-eight nests were found; fifteen of these were new nests and ten contained eggs (1 x 4, 6 x 2, 3 x 1). The remaining three nests contained one chick, two chicks and one egg, and one chick and an egg.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*). One was seen on the beach at the western end of the island.

Rock Parrot (*Neohema petrophila*). These birds were "common" particularly towards the western half of the island. The number present was estimated to be 40.

Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*). A few were seen flying about the island.

Silvereye (*Zosterops lateralis*). Only a few were seen.

Australian Raven (*Corvus coronoides*). Six were counted during the visit.

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Pages 37 to 60

Page numbers in Vol. 15 No. 2 were incorrectly numbered. Page numbers should have commenced at page 37 and finished at page 60.



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