

NOTES ON A NESTING COLONY OF THE BLACK-FACED SHAG

ROGER ANGOVE

Parker *et al.* (1979) summarized the occurrence and nesting of the Black-faced Shag *Leucocarbo fuscescens* on Eyre Peninsula and its offshore islands. This note adds to the earlier record of Barnes (in Glover 1965) concerning nesting of the species on English Island* in the Sir Joseph Banks Group.

On 8 January 1982 a large nesting colony of *L. fuscescens* was sighted by the author from a yacht. Subsequent inspection revealed that the colony was restricted to the northern aspect of this small island (400 m x 300 m). The island is rocky throughout and carries a large colony of fur seals of approximately 300 individuals, also on its northern aspect. The Shags appeared to be distributed in three main groups.

On the western end, there were about 1000 nestlings, all in the same size range, 400-500 mm, unable to fly and attended by very few adults. At the eastern end there were approximately 2000 birds nesting. The nests all had a characteristic shape like a volcano, about 30 cm high with the eggs laid in the 'crater'. The nests were substantial in form and all nearly identical. They appeared to be largely composed of dry seaweed. In between these two areas there were about 1000 more birds,

mainly adults, resting on the rocks and interspersed with a few other species common to these islands such as Pacific Gulls *Larus pacificus*, Silver Gulls *L. novaehollandiae*, Sooty Oystercatchers *Haematopus fuliginosus* and Crested Terns *Sterna bergii*.

*Editor's Note — The opportunity is taken to point out that English Island and Little English Island are the same island despite the remarks of Parker *et al.* (1979). Both names were used to refer to the one island in the McCoy Society Report on the Sir Joseph Banks Group, 'Little English Island' being used in the bird section in Part 1 of the Report (1938, Proc. R. Soc. Vic., 50 : 301-413) and 'English Island' in the geology section in Part 2 (1939, *ibid.* 51 : 141-186). Aided by that editorial oversight, the former name crept into the ornithological literature. Modern maps are inscribed only with English Island and this is the name that should be applied. I thank N. Reid and S. Parker for their help and interest in this matter. —Ed.

REFERENCES

- Glover, B. 1965. Bird report, 1964. S. Aust. Orn. 24: 55-68.
 Parker, S. A., Eckert, J., Ragless, G. B., Cox, J. B., and N. C. H. Reid, 1979. An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of South Australia. Part One, Emus to Spoonbills. S. Aust. Orn. Assoc.: Adelaide.