

SHOALWATER BAY ISLAND
FAUNA OBSERVATIONS

On July 7, Cadet Fauna Warden D. Mell conducted an inspection of Shag Rock, Seal Island, Bird Island and Penguin Island. During this patrol a number of new Departmental signs were also erected.

Shag Rock

On this islet were a large number of Pied Cormorants with broods ranging from eggs ready to hatch to juvenile birds at the age where they begin to wander away from the nest. The greater proportion of the fledglings had left or were about to leave the islet.

A number of Silver Gulls that had nested on the island had fully fledged chicks with them.

Seal Island

The majority of the young Silver Gulls were almost ready to leave the island. Very few Gulls under the age of three weeks were sighted, although a number of eggs were still being incubated. Caspian Terns, Fairy Penguins, Pied Cormorants and King Skinks were also sighted. One Sooty Oyster Catcher was observed flying near the south end of the island.

Bird Island

Silver Gulls were the only birds breeding on this island. There appeared to be a much later breeding season among these when compared to the Silver Gulls breeding on the other islands in the Shoalwater Bay area. None of the fledglings were over three to four weeks old. Large numbers of eggs were being incubated. Other observations on the island included two Hair Seals, Fairy Penguins, Crested Terns, Pied Cormorants and Little Pied Cormorants.

Penguin Island

A large colony of Silver Gulls was noted near the north end of this island. Breeding being at a similar stage as was noted on Seal Island. Also observed were Pied Cormorants, Crested Terns and Caspian Terns.