

energies, which have excited the admiration of the country' (*The European Magazine and London Review* 1821b: 95–102). Taken together, the account, the engraving and the eulogy could have prompted Cartmell to paint a picture of a national hero. During 1823 the book of John Franklin's 1819–1822 expedition to the Mackenzie district of northern Canada was published and proved popular (Franklin 1823). Thereafter it was Franklin, rather than Parry whose later expeditions in 1821–1823 and 1824–1825 were less newsworthy, who caught the public imagination. It is therefore more likely that Cartmell's picture dates from between 1821 and 1823, rather than from the middle of the decade.

The publicity associated with Parry's fifth and final Arctic voyage in 1827 which aimed for the North Pole and achieved the furthest north (82°40'23"N) then reached, and John Franklin's return from his successful second journey to the shores of the polar sea, resulted in a revival of interest in arctic exploration, as well as knighthoods and university honours for both explorers. The publicity surrounding Parry in 1828 and 1829 might have prompted Cartmell to paint the picture at that time, using the 1821 engraving. However had Cartmell painted the picture after Parry had been knighted, he would probably have referred to the honour in the inscription. Parry departed for Australia in 1829, and Cartmell's death in March 1831 provides a *terminus ante quem* for the portrait.

If, however, Cartmell was not the artist then the painting could have been done after 1831. The most obvious date would then be 1852 when Parry retired from being captain-superintendent of Haslar Royal Naval Hospital in Hampshire and came to Keswick for a holiday, 'where he derived much enjoyment from his first acquaintance with the beautiful scenery of the English lakes' (Parry 1859). This visit was reported locally and might have provided the impetus for someone to paint the Crosthwaite picture based on a surviving copy of the 1821 engraving.

The Crosthwaite painting is a curiosity. Although it is of little artistic merit, the fact that someone, probably Richard Cartmell, chose to paint a picture of the person who would become Rear-Admiral Sir William Edward Parry on the wall of a Crosthwaite farmhouse, both reflects the significance for the nation of the nineteenth century quest for the northwest passage and is indicative of the increasing reach of the media, written and pictorial. As such the picture's continued survival will be of interest to those concerned with polar history. It is therefore fortunate that its current owners enjoy the picture as a feature of

their stairwell, and are interested in the history of the mural they have inherited.

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Ornithological observations at Eckener Point, Antarctic Peninsula

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Contents

Introduction	279
Methods	280
Results	280
Discussion	280
Acknowledgements	281
References	281

Introduction

Eckener Point (64° 26'S; 61° 36'W) lies on the northeast side of the entrance to Charlotte Bay and southeast of Murray Island, on the west coast of Graham Land, Antarctic Peninsula (Fig. 1). Data from a 1987 census (Woehler 1993) show 40 breeding pairs of chinstrap penguins *Pygoscelis antarctica* at the site. An unpublished report of 180 nests of blue-eyed

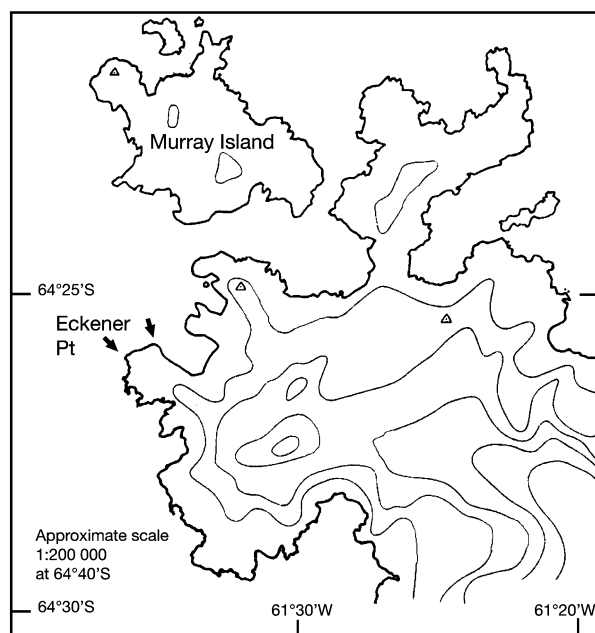


Fig. 1. Map of Eckener Point region, based on HM Hydrographic Office Chart 3566. Contour interval is 1000 m. The two arrows indicate the extent of the survey conducted on 13 December 2006.

cormorant *Phalacrocorax atriceps/bransfieldensis* (S Poncet, personal communication, 2004) in 1983 is the only other ornithological record for the site. Here we report on the results of a brief survey conducted to document the breeding seabirds for this locality. Suitable ice-free sites on the Antarctic Peninsula are limited, and Eckener Point, though small, provides nesting habitat for a high number of avian species. Plant and lichen diversity also appears unusually high.

Methods

Between 0545 and 0630 local (UTC-2) on 13 Dec 2006, the authors conducted a brief (45 minute) survey of Eckener Point from a small boat approximately 100 m offshore. Digital and film images were taken, and the ice-free areas searched with binoculars. Breeding colonies and nest sites were mapped, and all observations of non-breeding birds noted. A brief (approximately 5 min) landing was made to count the two chinstrap penguin colonies at the site.

Results

At least seven species of birds breed or are likely to breed at Eckener Point (Table 1). This small (approximately 1 ha of ice-free terrain) locality comprises a series of three steep, vegetated bluffs facing northwest to north (Fig. 1). Adjacent ice-free areas appear too steep and uniform to provide nesting habitat for breeding birds. Eckener Point supports a diverse community of vegetation consisting of mosses and foliose and crustose lichens, and is apparently similar in diversity to the nearby Cuverville Island, one of the most vegetatively diverse sites in Antarctica (de Leeuw 1998).

Breeding seabird species

We documented two small colonies of chinstrap penguins, one of 10 and the other of 20 nests. No other species of penguins were breeding at Eckener Point during our survey. There were

Table 1. Estimated breeding populations and non-breeding seabirds recorded at Eckener Point, 13 December 2006.

Breeding Species	Breeding pairs
Chinstrap penguin	30
Kelp gull	≥37
Skuas (Subantarctic and mixed-species pairs)	≥8
Antarctic tern	≥3
Blue-eyed cormorant	70–90
Non-breeding species	Individuals observed
Gentoo penguin	3
Wilson's stormpetrel	2
Snowy sheathbill	1

21 kelp gull nests *Larus dominicanus* evident, with more than 40 adult gulls in view during the visit (both flying and sitting birds). A further 16 nests were observed on a steep vegetated slope approximately 400 m eastward, between Eckener Point and the adjacent unnamed glacier. We observed four pairs of skuas at the site and recorded a total of eight additional individuals whose spacing on the bluffs suggested that they were occupying four more territories. The only pair observed clearly enough to identify taxonomically was of a sub-Antarctic skua (*Catharacta lonnbergi*) and hybrid sub-Antarctic/South Polar (*C. maccormicki*) skua; the remaining birds were too distant to confirm their taxonomic identity. Six Antarctic terns *Sterna vittata* (unknown subspecies/race) were observed. Three were sitting in a manner to suggest nesting, while the remaining three birds were flying overhead and were assumed to be nesting locally. Two colonies of blue-eyed cormorants were present. One colony on the ridge of a bluff comprised 41 nests, while a second colony of 28 nests was sited within a small gully to the west of the ridge. Many nests contained large chicks (estimated at 3 to 5 weeks old) and approximately 20 immature cormorants were roosting adjacent to the nesting areas. Based on the area of rock discoloured by cormorant guano, and on numbers from the single previous recorded site visit, the colony has been larger in the past compared to the area and numbers documented during this survey.

Unconfirmed breeding species

A number of other birds were present during the visit, but their breeding status was unconfirmed. Three individual gentoo penguins *P. papua* were roosting adjacent to the smaller chinstrap penguin colony; there was no evidence of any nesting attempt by these birds. Two Wilson's storm petrels *Oceanites oceanicus* flew low over the scree slopes of the bluffs. Suitable nesting habitat was present and it is likely that this is a breeding species for the site. One snowy sheathbill *Chionis major* was observed foraging among the cormorant nests; it is also probable that at least one pair of sheathbills nest at Eckener Point.

Discussion

Comparison with previous data

Woehler (1993) reported 40 chinstrap penguin nests (count accuracy: N3–4) from a survey conducted in 1987. An accuracy estimate of N3–4 indicates an error of ±10–15% for the datum. The present results do not show a change in this population. In contrast, the number of blue-eyed shags at this site is approximately one-third that recorded during an earlier survey. This decrease concurs with an apparent region wide trend for

the species, with marked decreasing trends at most sites and populations disappearing altogether at others (Naveen and others 2000; Casaux and Barrera-Oro 2006; Lynch and others 2008)

New data

Previous data for this locality only describe populations of blue-eyed shags and chinstrap penguins. Eckener Point supports a greater number of seabird species than previously recorded, and while the northwest Antarctic Peninsula is a relatively well surveyed part of Antarctica, documentation of new sites with aggregations of nesting birds is increasingly infrequent. Our decision to survey Eckener Point was prompted by its nomination as an important bird area (IBA) for blue-eyed shags due to the high breeding population previously recorded there. The pronounced decrease in numbers of shags nesting at this site underscores the importance of monitoring populations of this species in the region, and reinforces the need to conduct a full region wide inventory of this species.

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The first African-American in Antarctica: George W. Gibbs Jr. Glenn M. Stein

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On 2 September 2009, the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (US Board on Geographic Names) confirmed a place name for George Washington Gibbs Jr, the first African-American expedition member to set foot on the Antarctic continent (Fig. 1). Gibbs Point forms the northwest entrance to Gaul Cove, on the northeast of Horseshoe Island, Marguerite Bay, Antarctic Peninsula (67°48'22"S, 67°09'38"W) (Fig. 2).

This was Gibbs' third honour. As a result of his civic and business leadership, the George W. Gibbs Jr. Elementary

School was approved last year by the school board of Rochester, Minnesota. In 2002, Rochester's West Soldiers Field Drive was renamed in Gibbs' honour.

Gibbs was born on 7 November 1916, in Jacksonville, Florida, and was raised there. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in Macon, Georgia, in 1935, and four years later, Gibbs was chosen from hundreds of applicants to join an expedition with the United States Antarctic Service (USAS).

In 1939, Congress established USAS, and an expedition under Admiral Richard E. Byrd went south. Serving as a Mess Attendant 1st Class aboard the lead expedition ship, U.S.S. *Bear*, Gibbs earned official praise from Lieutenant Commander Richard H. Cruzen, even before the vessel departed from American shores:

Especially commended by the Commanding Officer at meritorious mast for his zeal, initiative, and untiring industry, entailing much personal sacrifice, during the period the U.S.S. *BEAR* was outfitting and preparing for duty with the U.S. Antarctic Service (US Navy 1939).

On the morning of 14 January 1940, *Bear* steamed into the Bay of Whales. As Gibbs recorded in his journal:

When the *Bear* came up to the ice close enough for me to get ashore, I was the first man aboard the ship to set foot



Fig. 1. George Washington Gibbs Jr.



Fig. 2. Gibbs Point, Horseshoe Island, Marguerite Bay, Antarctic Peninsula.