

C.S.

SCIENTIFIC.

1926.

No. 343/26

Mr. E. Gebhardt.

SUBJECT.

1926.

22nd April.

Previous Paper.

REQUESTS INFORMATION REGARDING THE INTRODUCTION INTO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS OF THE ENGLISH SPARROW.

MINUTES.

PA. 16/11/26

1. Letter from Mr. E. Gebhardt of 22. April. 1926.

Ag. Government Naturalist.

Perhaps you would care to reply to this letter personally. If so, it would be convenient for purposes of record that a copy of your letter should be filed in this paper.

C. M. B. Present 27 July 1926

Hon Secy.

2.

Letter answered as copy attached

ag 15 14/8/26 by Nat

Subsequent Paper.

Nuremberg, the 22 April 1922

To the



Government of the Falkland-Islands
Department for Agriculture

I heard, that the English sparrow (*Passer domesticus* L.) has been established on the Falkland-Islands.

I am scientifically very interested to know at what time (what year if possible), ~~and~~ from whom he has been established and from what country (probably from England.?) it has been brought here. At the same time I should be very glad to get any details, whether he has spread out farther in your country, if he thrives well, and if he covers also the western island.

With best thanks ⁱⁿ advance for your kind information

Yours truly

Erwin Gebhardt

Sulzbachstr. 54

Nuremberg (Germany)

(Member of the German Ornithological Society etc.)

Government Naturalists'
Department.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

14th August 1926.

343/26

Sir.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 22/4/26 addressed to the Department of Agriculture on the subject of *Passer domesticus* L.

I am instructed to inform you that this English sparrow first arrived in this Colony in November 1920 as free passengers in the rigging of four steamers arriving at this port from Monte Video, all within two weeks. One steamer was British, and three Norwegian.

These birds boarded the ships at Monte Video and left them on arrival at Stanley. There were from six to twenty on each ship.

The houses here are mostly built of wood with corrugated iron roof. This being ideal for nesting sites for these birds, they at once settled down to the duties of reproduction with remarkable success.

They have spread over almost the whole islands, in fact they spread greatly in the first two years. They are now numerous, but several cases of degeneration have come to my notice - horn minus eyes.

You should find something on this subject in "This" June 1926 written by me

I am,

Sir.

Your obedient servant

A. J. Bennett

Acting Government Naturalist.

To Herr E. Gebhardt,

Sulzbacherstr 54

Nuremberg

Germany