

C.S.

<u>SCIENTIFIC.</u>	
(Misc.)	
No.	31/37.

193 7.

Mr. H. M. Napier.

SUBJECT.

193 7.

8th February.

REQUESTS PROTECTION FOR MOLLY-MAUK  
ROOKERIES ON WEST POINT ISLAND.

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

1-2

Letter from Mr. H. M. Napier of 8/2/37.

*Ag. Genl. Naturalist,*  
*For your observations please.*

*C. L. S.*  
*for G.S.*  
*17/2/37.*

*Hon. Col. Secy:*

*The mollymauk presumably enjoy a long life with few natural enemies as it continues to survive. From my own observations on W.P. Island I am surprised that the birds have remained there under the severe persecution to which they have been subjected for so long. On one of my visits not one single egg or chick was to be seen over the area visited; even down a deep gulch every nest had been*

Subsequent Paper.

robbed & most nests abandoned.

I would suggest that the birds had died out through inability to breed - being systematically robbed annually. Some few may have gone to other colonies nearby.

If Mr Napier is unable to control his men by his own order, & he is on, or near, the spot, what respect would a government order command so far removed from authority? If the present people on W.P.S. wish to retain the rookeries, they must nurse them very carefully for, at least, the next 30 years. Apart from this incident the birds are not threatened, in so far as I know.

Taking of a few eggs for household use would hardly affect the number of birds, but selling hundreds or thousands, as has been done in the past, could not be done without being seen & known by the lessee.

Alfred Bennett  
ag. Nat.  
19. 2. 37.

YK.

Submitted.

I am inclined to agree with the Govt. Naturalist that even if legislation were passed prohibiting the taking of mollymawk eggs it would be difficult to enforce it.

C. J. J.  
for C.S.  
23/2/37.

Hon. Col. Sec.

Legislation would not appear necessary. Surely the managers of the Station can prevent the

Inside Minute Paper.

eggs being taken. He could  
 issue a notice that eggs are  
 not to be taken without his  
 permission. Persons cannot  
 go on the Station to take  
 eggs unless they have permission.  
 Suggest that he should publish  
 a notice in the "Penguin."

McH  
 as. G. W.  
 25.2.37.

(3) Letter to H. M. Napier, Esq., of 25.2.37.

P.H.  
 20/2/37.

(2)

West Point Ised  
8<sup>th</sup> Feb'y 1937.

To H. M. Colonial Secretary  
Port Stanley

Sir

I write to ask if you could have the albatross rookeries on this island protected.

On returning here two years ago after an absence of 10 years, I noticed that the number of birds on the rookeries was reduced by <sup>approximately</sup> about half. For many years the birds have been robbed heavily and I suspect much more so than the late lessee of the island was ever aware.

Just at present I simply have to tell my men to leave them alone but owing to recent change of ownership it is possible that a gang of 3 or 4 men will be here from time to time.

They might leave the birds alone but more probably they would not.

①

I need hardly say the birds could  
be rebled quite easily without my  
knowledge. -

Yours faithfully  
A. M. Harper.

31/37.

25th February,

37.

Recd 2

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 8th of February, 1937, on the subject of the protection of the molly-mawk rookeries on West Point Island, I am directed by the Acting Governor to inform you that it does not appear necessary to pass legislation for the purpose of protecting the rookeries, and to suggest that you issue a notice on your station to the effect that eggs are not to be taken without your permission. It is further suggested that a copy of the notice be published in the Penguin.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*C. J. B.*

for Colonial Secretary.

H. M. Napier, Esq.,  
West Point Island,  
WEST FALKLAND.