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(Formerly)

2331

2331

NATURE RESERVES.

CONNECTED FILES.

NUMBER

1099

Wild Animals and Bird Protection

0987

Season of South and Elephant Season Is.

557

Rent of Flat Season.

0197/w

Ag. Dept. Payment for Beaks.

2206.

Destruction of Penguins.

0997

Int. Union for Protection of Nature.

2359

Reports by Ian Strange.

0667

Collection of Birds etc for 2005.

1099/A

Establishment of King Penguin Rookeries.

CONFIDENTIAL

For consideration at the
next Meeting of Council.

SMP 2331.
1st February, 1964.

Memorandum No. 13/64 for Executive Council.

Nature Reserves.

Honourable Members are well aware that certain parts of the Colony are still inhabited by various species of wild animals and birds which are not found in any quantity elsewhere and it is felt that they should be protected in their natural habitat.

23
2. The draft Ordinance which is annexed hereto gives powers to His Excellency the Governor to declare suitable places as nature reserves thus enabling the complete protection of the flora and fauna therein.

W. H. Thompson

COLONIAL SECRETARY

WHT/TB

CONFIDENTIAL.

Issued today.

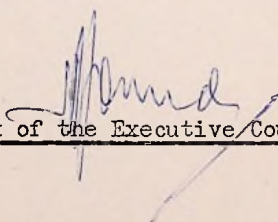
6.2.64

6.2.64

Extract from Minutes of Meeting of Executive Council held on the 13th, 14th,
15th & 16th April, 1964

21. NATURE RESERVES ORDINANCE (Memo 13/64)

It was advised that the Bill be submitted to Legislature as drafted.


Clerk of the Executive Council

5
DECODE.

No. 286.

TELEGRAM.

From Mr. R. Napier, West Point Island.

To Secretariat, Stanley.

Despatched : 23rd May, 19 64. *Time :* 0840

Received : 19 *Time :*

Grateful if you could send 6 copies Gazette Nature
Reserve Ordinance.

Napier

P/L : LH
(Intld.) HIB

Sent today.
Hew 20.7.64.

PHILIP KINGSLAND CROWE
EASTON, MARYLAND
TALBOT 2-0249



15
May 25, 1964

My dear Thompson,

I have recommended to the directors of the World Wildlife Fund that the sum of \$1,000 be granted to Ian Strange for a wild life survey of the Falklands and have taken the liberty of nominating you as the officer through whom the money will be paid and who will overall supervision of the job. This of course does not assume that you will do any more than ascertain that the job has been undertaken. The project will have to be approved by our international committee at Morges in Switzerland but this is routine.

Arrow and Clondagh arrive next Sunday and I am meeting them by private plane in Philadelphia to fly them down here for a visit.

I trust you have heard by this time from the Press Officer of our embassy in Montevideo in regard to some useful items of entertainment. Mr Welch promised to get in touch immediately with the British Consul there.

If you see Pol Evans please tell him that the fishing rod I promised him has been

10/6

dispatched to him via London.

Our very best to your
nice wife.

sincerely

Philip H. Love

Assented to in Her Majesty's name this 27th day of May, 1964.

W. H. Thompson

Officer Administering the Government.



No. 8



1964

Colony of the Falkland Islands.

IN THE THIRTEENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II.
WILLOUGHBY HARRY THOMPSON, M.B.E.
Officer Administering the Government.

An Ordinance

To make provision for the Establishment and Control of Nature Reserves. Title.

ENACTED by the Legislature of the Colony of the Falkland Islands, as follows — Enacting Clause.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Nature Reserves Ordinance, 1964. Short title.

PART I — GENERAL

2. In this Ordinance "nature reserve" means land reserved for the purpose of protecting, and of providing, under suitable conditions and control, special opportunities for the study of, and research into, matters relating to the flora and fauna of the Colony. Interpretation.

3. The Governor may by Order in Council declare any area of Crown Land, or with the consent of the owner, any area of private land to be a nature reserve, and may in like manner alter the limits of any such area or cancel any such declaration. Provided that in every case of land in private ownership thirty clear days' notice shall be given in the Gazette to enable objections to the establishment of every such nature reserve to be lodged with the Governor. Declaration of Nature Reserves.

Control and administration of Nature Reserves.

4. (1) The Governor in Council may make regulations for the control and administration of nature reserves so declared.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the power conferred by subsection (1) of this section, such regulations may provide —

- (a) for the restriction and control of camping and residence in, entry into and movement within the nature reserves;
- (b) for the prohibition, restriction and control of the possession and use of weapons, snares, traps, gins and nets;
- (c) for the prohibition, restriction and control of the burning and cutting of vegetation.

Prohibition on hunting in a Nature Reserve.

5. (1) No person shall at any time, shoot, or attempt to shoot, or take or attempt to take or kill any wild animal or wild bird in any nature reserve, or collect or attempt to collect therein the eggs of any wild bird:

Provided that the Governor, may, if he considers it desirable, give permission in writing to any person to kill or take under his direction any wild animals or wild birds or the eggs of any wild bird specified by him.

(2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall be guilty of an offence.

Power of Governor to cancel permit.

6. The Governor may at any time, without assigning a reason cancel any permit granted under section 5 (1) of this Ordinance.

PART II — PENALTIES

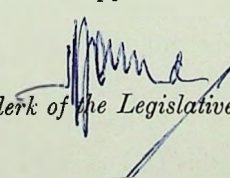
Penalties.

7. Any person who is guilty of an offence against this Ordinance shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding £100 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Forfeitures.

8. When any person is convicted by any court of an offence against this Ordinance the Court may order that any animal, bird, carcass thereof, egg, trophy, weapon, snare, trap, gin, net or other thing found in his possession shall be forfeited and disposed of as the court may think fit.

This printed impression has been carefully compared by me with the Bill which has passed the Legislative Council, and is found by me to be a true and correctly printed copy of the said Bill.


Clerk of the Legislative Council.

Government House,
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

28th May, 1964.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

COLONY - NO. 110

Sir,

6
I have the honour, in the absence of the Governor on leave, to forward herewith for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure, two authenticated and ten printed copies of Ordinance No. 2 of 1964, entitled "An Ordinance To make provision for the Establishment and Control of Nature Reserves."

7a
2. A statement of Objects and Reasons is also enclosed.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Sgd) W. H. Thompson.

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT

The Right Honourable
Duncan Sandys, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

7a

OBJECTS AND REASONS

The object of this Ordinance is to make provision for the establishment of Nature Reserves thus enabling the better protection of flora and fauna.

10

MEMORANDUM ON THE CONSERVATION OF WILD LIFE IN
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

INTRODUCTION

The aims and principles of conservation are basically to preserve from extinction all kinds of animals and plants, their habitats and other natural features of land and landscape.

The IUCN who are deeply interested in these objectives have newly established a commission on legislation with the ultimate intention of producing a working guide to conservation, and the legislation which is necessary to obtain and maintain it. A general policy has already been formulated by the General Assembly of IUCN (Appendix I). This policy is the basis of the present paper.

CONSERVATION IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Falkland Islands contain a particularly interesting assemblage of animals and plants of equal interest to those found in other parts of the world. Of particular importance is the fact that there has been relatively little interference by man's activities. Many parts, especially offshore islands are still largely unspoiled and as such, are extremely valuable as "reference areas" where scientific and ecologic studies can be pursued.

The Falkland Islands have their own races of birds and mammals. Sixty species of birds are known to breed here, and of these, sixteen are endemic, while many others rely largely on the archipelago as one of their main breeding areas. Three species of Pinnipeds are known to breed in the Falkland Islands, of which the Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus australis australis*) is an endemic species. (Appendix II)

Information on numbers and seasonal periodicity of many species of birds and mammals to be found in the Falkland Islands is limited, and little recent information is available on many species. (Appendix III)

CONSERVATION MEASURES

Species in need of conservation may be placed in two groups. Group "A" are those which may well require conserving in the near future. Group "B" species which require general investigation into their numbers every few years. This group would consist mainly of endemic species. Appendix IV. Many of the species listed, are in one way or another competing against man directly or indirectly for survival. It can also be shown that such species have decreased in living memory.

Practical considerations.

(1) Present ordinances and their effect.

The payment of a levy for the beaks of Falkland Island Upland Geese. Reconsideration might be given to this offer, as it is felt that such a payment is tending to form the wrong approach, and values in this case. Without such payments a large number of birds would still be taken, but unnecessary wholesale slaughter and cruelty may well be averted, especially by the younger generation, who must in the future play an important part in the conservation of these islands. (Appendix V)

(2) Crown Property.

It is hoped that Government property which is in the form of many small but interesting islands, can be obtained to form a very strong nucleus towards future conservation in the Falkland Islands. It is considered such a step by the Falkland Islands Government may well encourage other land owners to follow in a similar manner. (Appendix VI)

(3) Private Property.

Among many farm owners, there is undoubtedly considerable interest in certain aspects of conservation. In certain cases owners and managers have evolved measures of their own. However the lack of guidance at present must be a serious hindrance, and it is therefore hoped that in time a suitable plan can be devised to assist such owners, and to advise on aspects of conservation.

(4) Suggested methods for bringing about Conservation in the Falkland Islands.

In general, the population of the Falkland Islands are not conservation minded, and there is a rather casual attitude to wild life.

It is considered that a suitable approach to future conservation in the Falkland Islands could be made through the younger generation of today. Raising interest in wild life, with the help of films, lectures, and the practical approach to natural history would assist greatly.

The economic value of wild life, as a future tourist attraction, and the possibility of exploiting certain species for food on controlled farming systems. (Appendix VII)

The forming of a Biological Unit in the Falkland Islands with a view to encouraging interest in all fields of natural history. (Appendix VIII)

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.

It has been shown that the wild life of the Falkland Islands is of considerable scientific interest to biologists, and that the presence

Summary and conclusions continued/

here of many unique creatures should be safeguarded for present and future studies.

An indication is given of those animals and birds in greatest threat of extinction, and measures are suggested whereby specific areas be put aside for study of our wildlife, both because of their importance to the economic and cultural life of the people.

I.J.Strange.
Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands,

February 1964.

APPENDIX I

IUCN's Policy

IUCN aims to promote international co-operation in applying ecological principles and concepts to the conservation and management of nature and natural resources and in preserving from disappearance all kinds of animals and plants, their habitats and other features of land and landscape.

The basic purposes of IUCN are twofold:

I. To preserve animal and plant species and their habitats for their various values, which may be:

Ethical- man's inherent responsibility to disturb nature as little as possible and to hand it down unspoiled;

Aesthetic- for inspiration, enjoyment and spiritual repose;

Scientific- for basic investigation of nature and for studies of undisturbed areas to serve as checks or yardsticks against the study of comparable areas disturbed by man;

Educational- to create wider horizons of interest in the various values of nature and natural resources, and to encourage a more enlightened attitude to their conservation;

Recreational- for relief from the stress and strain of civilized living;

Economic- for material benefits derived from plant and animal products and financial return from tourism, etc.

2. To use biological knowledge in the conservation and management of all land resources- soil, water, air and living things depend upon them. This involves an understanding of:

Ecological principles- succession, food chains, the web of inter-relationship, and the dynamics of natural processes;

Land capability- classification of land to provide guides for determining the most intensive use within which a parcel of land or area of water may be used without deterioration of its natural qualities;

Biological productivity- measures of the potentiality of land or water areas for sustaining an adapted ecosystem or complex of plant and animal life, including man.

continued . . .

Appendix I continued

To fulfil the objectives stated in its Statutes IUCN must concern itself deeply with the conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat, but not solely with this objective. While it is not IUCN's intention to become deeply involved with the direct economic aspects of forest, soil and water conservation, misuse of these resources can adversely affect both aquatic and terrestrial species and their habitats and so become a part of the Union's concern. Also of high importance to the Union is the use of Biological principles in the management of those natural resources which yield commodity products such as agricultural crops, timber and livestock.

The conservation of nature and natural resources is for long term benefit of man." We hold in trust the living treasures of the earth".

APPENDIX II

Falkland Island races of birds and mammals

Birds

Flightless Steamer Duck, (Logger Duck) *Tachyeres brachypterus*.
Falkland Upland Goose, *Chloephaga magellanica*.
Kelp Goose, *Chloephaga hybrida calviarum*.
Night Heron, *Nycticorax n. cyanocephalus*.
Falkland Diving Petrel, *Pelecanoides urinatrix berard*.
Rolland's Grebe, *Podiceps rolland*.
Falkland Skua, *Stercorarius skua*.
Short Eared Owl, *Asio flammeus sanfordi*.
Garnot's Ground Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola m. macloviana*.
Cobbs Wren, *Troglodytes musculus cobbi*.
Falkland Pipit *Anthus correndera grayi*.
Falkland Thrush *Turdus f. falklandii*.
Military Starling, *Pezites militaris falklandicus*.
Black-throated Finch *Melanodera m. melanodera*.
Green Wren, *Cisticolus platensis hornensis*.
Tussock Bird, *Cinclodes antarcticus*.

Mammals

South American Fur Seal, Southern Fur Seal.

(This has been established as a new species to the Fur seal (*Arctocephalus australis gracilis*) as found on the South American mainland, King 1934.

APPENDIX III

CENSUS REPORTS ON INDIVIDUAL SPECIES IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

MAMMALS (Other than introduced species)

Little recent information is available on the numbers of breeding pinnipeds to be found in the Falkland Islands. Very few actual counts have been made of any one species. The last complete census of one species Falkland Island Sea Lion (*Otaria byronia*) being made as late as 1934/36 by Hamilton.

Southern Elephant Seal (*Mirounga leonina*)

No reliable figures are available as to the actual number of this species now breeding in the islands. Laws 1953 gives an estimate of no more than 1,000 pups being born per year.

Southern Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus australis australis*)

In the case of this species very few actual counts have been made. Laws 1953 in his report on the "Present position of seals in the Falkland Islands" gives only one actual count. Estimates are given for the main rookeries, including estimates for Beauchene Island which was never visited. (see footnote)*

O'Gorman 1960, gives details of actual counts in his report, "The Fur Seal on New Island West Falkland". Two other reports are also available by Strange 1961/62 giving an estimate and actual count of the Fur Seal rookery on Volunteer Rocks, East Falklands.

Falkland Island Sea Lion (*Otaria byronia*)

The last almost complete census of this species was carried out by Hamilton in 1934/36. Since this date a few counts have been made by Strange 1961/62/63. These more recent counts illustrate the need for further investigation into the status of the *Otaria* in the Falkland Islands, as it can be shown that numbers have in many cases decreased by 90% in pups born.

BIRDS

Very few estimates or actual counts can be given of individual species. Estimates can be given for populations of Black-browed albatross (*Diomedea melanophrys*) from reports by Napier, Woods and Strange. Reports are also available on a census of the Johnny Rook (*Phalacrocorax australis*) taken on some of its main breeding grounds. Strange 1962/64.

Note *

A visit to Beauchene Island by Strange December 63 found no Fur Seal on the island. A report issued by R.M.S. "Protector" 1962, concerning observations of Fur Seal was discovered to be incorrect.

CONSERVATION: SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Species in need of conservation, may be placed into two groups. Group "A" are those few species which may well require conserving in the near future. In this group would be species decreasing in numbers, together with a number which are re-establishing in the Falkland Islands after being exterminated in past years. The second, Group "B" would include species mainly endemic to these islands, and therefore of special interest to the Falkland Islands and its ecology. It is not suggested that species listed in group "B" are in any danger, but it is considered that a general survey should be made of these species every few years to establish their position.

GROUP "A"

Johnny Rook (*Falco naumanni*)

This bird is not an endemic species, being reported from some areas of Tierra del Fuego. However, it is suspected that this species has decreased to a very low level in this area, in the same manner as it has in the Falkland Islands. It can be shown that this bird is competing against man for survival in many areas of the Falkland Islands, and could come close to extinction in a very few years.

The writer is at present working on this species, with every intention of producing a paper to aid conservation. It is very strongly recommended that Government Islands known to hold breeding pairs of these birds, be given priority as nature reserves, see Appendix VI.

King Penguin (*Aptenodytes palagonica*)

It has been discovered in fairly recent years that this species of penguin is re-establishing itself in the Falkland Islands close to, or on what was one of its original breeding grounds before the Canadian sealers killed these birds off for their oil. The exact position of this new colony is known to very few people, it is therefore considered that for the time being this bird is in reasonable safety.

Macaroni Penguin (*Eudyptes chrysolophus*)

Numbers of this species are now breeding in the Falkland Islands. Unfortunately, this species being very similar in appearance to the common Rock-hopper penguin, and usually breeding in a rookery of the latter species, is liable to annual egg collecting. Publishing a detailed description of this species may well help in its further establishment in the Falkland Islands.

Appendix IV continued.

GROUSE "B"

Falkland Island races are marked thus *.

Thin-billed (Belchers) Prion (Pachyptila belcheri)

The main breeding colony of this species in the Falkland Islands is to be found at New Island, West Falkland. Because of its habit of nesting underground this bird is discouraged.

Very careful consideration should be given if this species is placed on the unprotected birds list, for a very similar species Blue petrel (*Halobaena caerulea*) much less common, is thought to breed in the Falkland Islands (Bennett 1926. Murphy 1936) and could possibly breed in the same area as the former species.

* Falkland Island Upland Goose (Chloephaga magellanica)

This bird is at present in no danger, but it should be born in mind the fact that this species is endemic, and therefore should hold a firm status in the Falkland Islands.

* Falkland Skua (Stercorarius skua)

An endemic species in no danger at present. This species can be placed with those birds competing against man directly. A scavenger, this bird plays an important part in the wild life cycle, often feeding on weak and diseased young of other species.

* Fur Seal (Arctocephalus australis australis)

King 1954, has shown that this species differs from other species, and is therefore of considerable importance as an endemic sub species.

It is hoped that this species is now increasing in the Falkland Islands. Work on the family Otariidae in the Falkland Islands by the writer, will it is hoped show the present position of this species, with possible annual increases.

APPENDIX VI

ISLANDS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO FUTURE CONSERVATION IN THE FALKLANDS.

CROWN PROPERTY

Kidney Island, East Falklands.

Typical of many offshore islands in the archipelago, Kidney Island is of special importance because of its close proximity to Port Stanley. The island has a large variety of bird life, and also a colony of Sea Lion.

Couchon Island, East Falklands.

Lying only a short distance away from the above island, Couchon is similar to Kidney in appearance, and very likely has the same variety of wild life. The writer believes that an important link lies between these two islands, the same colony of seal using Kidney as a hauling up ground, and Couchon or possibly Top Island as a breeding area.

Bird Island, West Falklands.

An interesting island close to the Port Stephens area of the West Falklands. This island has a very large Black-browed albatross rookery, and also a small colony of Fur Seal. It is hoped to make a complete report of this island, and the wild life thereon in the near future.

A proposal has forwarded to Government in 1962 for this island to be protected as a nature reserve.

Jason Island group, West Falklands.

Comprising of, South Jason, Flat Jason, Elephant Jason, North Fur, and two islands known as the Twins lying off the west coast of Carcase Island.

A survey to establish the value of these islands as nature reserves was to have been made by the writer in 1962. Landings not being possible, a preliminary inspection had to be made from a boat of the above named. Landings were, however, made on two sister islands, Grand and Steeple Jason, which are privately owned, and stocked. An extensive survey of these two latter islands did, however, give an idea of the wild life, and the value of the above mentioned islands. Information obtained recently on the two islands named the Twins, may show them to be very important breeding grounds for the Elephant seal (*Mirounga leonina*). Possibly the largest breeding ground for this species in the Falkland Islands.

Beauche'ne Island, S.E. Of East Falklands.

The most remote island of the archipelago, lying approximately sixty five miles S.E. of the East Falkland mainland. A preliminary inspection of this island by the writer in December 1963 found this island to be a very important breeding area for the Johnny Rook (*Phalacrocorax australis*) as well as several species of sea birds.

Appendix VI continued.

Volunteer Rocks, East Falklands.

A group of rocks lying off Volunteer Point peninsula. These rocks are of particular interest because of the fairly large breeding colony of Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus australis australis*) which is now established there. This is a very valuable study site of the species, being within a reasonable distance of Port Stanley. It is the only Fur Seal colony off the East Falklands coast.

PRIVATE PROPERTY

Following talks with His Excellency the Governor and the Acting Secretary General of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the writer has approached a number of private land owners in the Falkland Islands, on the question of conservation. The findings were encouraging, and there is every possibility of obtaining further islands of interest.

APPENDIX VII

EXPLOITING CERTAIN SPECIES OF WILD LIFE FOR FOOD.

A small luxury food trade, could possibly run under Government control, with the exploiting of penguin eggs from certain species, which are reported in a few cases, to cause soil erosion. It is understood that a similar trade is operated in South Africa. Penguin eggs being exported to other countries, where high prices are obtained.

Such a trade, may well, divert the ideas of certain farmers who seek permission to kill off rookeries of penguins.

APPENDIX V

Note, It is understood that the ordinance referred to in the memorandum has now been deleted.

APPENDIX VIII

A BIOLOGICAL UNIT IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

In order to create more interest in the Wild Life of the Falkland Islands, and future appreciation of conservation, the writer would like to encourage people to forward more information and specimens of biological interest. A unit would be formed in Stanley, which would receive, compile information, and make collections of biological value. In return, information would then be published for the interest of the public on such matters, and collections built up, which would be extremely valuable to visiting specialists in such fields.

BU 15.7.64 (5)

8.

Sfe

Nadine's telegram at 5.

I don't suppose the Gazettes are ready yet.
If not we shd. be ready.

1.6.64

BU 15.6.64



11

R B Napier

West Point Island

Colonial Secretary

15 July 1964

Stanley.

Dear Sir,

I would like to make How Island a Nature Reserve, taking effect from the 1st January 1965. I would, however, have to continue to stock the island.

Perhaps you could confirm, (A) that I would be able to stock the island and (B) that the fact of it being a Nature Reserve does not effect my ownership of the land.

It was nice to meet you on the aircraft ~~the~~ a few weeks ago and I was sorry that you were unable to come ashore.

Yours sincerely

R B Napier

*Sand granite as
accounted of 5 fl*
✓

Reply at 14

47
16
24th July, 1964.

Dear Crowe,

15 Thank you very much for your letter of the 25th of May which arrived today!

I shall be delighted to "administer" the Ian Strange wild life survey fund, and to assist in any other way possible.

We are just about to declare Kidney and Cochon Islands our first fully protected Nature Reserves, and hope to follow up with other islands and places fairly quickly.

The Arrowsmiths were looking forward to their visit to Maryland and no doubt enjoyed themselves.

We have heard nothing at all from the Press Officer of your Embassy in Montevideo, and are having to content ourselves with Canadian material instead.

Our very best wishes to your wife.

Sincerely yours

'Tommy' Thompson.

The Honourable Philip K. Crowe,
Easton,
Maryland,
U.S.A.

WHT/FA
10

~~22~~
12
6/6

Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands,
South Atlantic.

25th July 1964.

The Officer Administrating,
Secretariat
Port Stanley.

Dear Sir,

Further to our recent conversation regarding Kidney and Couchon Islands. I would submit the following concerning the two islands. A note is also enclosed regarding the possible connections between those seal which can be observed on Kidney Island, and those of Top Island.

X
Kidney and Couchon Island

From their proximity to Port Stanley the two named islands are perhaps the most valuable potential nature reserves that exist in these waters.

Kidney Island is equiped with shelter, and a safe anchorage which can also serve the neighbouring island of Couchon.

Due to the above mentioned assets, and the extremely wide variety of wild life which can be found there, Kidney Island has for many years been an attraction to day trippers from Stanley, and to many Biologists passing through, on their way to , and from the Antartic.

Twenty seven species of bird are now known to actually breed on the island of Kidney, and although a recent survey has not yet been carried out on the sister island of Couchon, the same species undoubtedly can be found there also.

Unlike Top and Bottom Islands, the two islands are free of rats, and therefor hold very large colonies of ground nesting species of petrels.

Both islands have small herds of Sea Lion (Otaria), Breeding groups from these herds however, move to other breeding grounds for pupping.

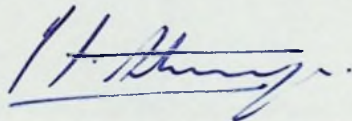
Couchon Island, due to poor landing facilities has not been so popular to general visitors. For this reason alone, the island is considered to be a most valuable reference area, and of very special value to the Ecologist. To my knowledge the island has never been stocked, making it of Botanical importance.

Both islands lack natural water supplies.

In view of proposed sealing activities, I would like to raise a point regarding the small herds of Sea Lion (Otaria) which can be observed on Couchon and Kidney Islands.

Observations show, that Kidney Island is not used as a breeding ground for these herds, further, studies carried out at Seal Point (Port Harriet) also rule out this area as the breeding ground for Kidney seal. Therefor, the most likely is that on Top or Bottom Island. The problem is then raised, that if any sealing is allowed on these two later islands, there is every chance of a potential reserve losing a main attraction, and also the valuable study herd of only 60 to 70 seal.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I. J. Strange', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

I. J. Strange.

30th July, 1964.

13

MEMORANDUM NO. 39/64 FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Setting aside of Nature Reserves

Mr. Ian Strange has written as follows-

"Kidney and Couchon Island

From their proximity to Port Stanley the two named islands are perhaps the most valuable potential nature reserves that exist in these waters.

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Both islands lack natural water supplies.

In view of proposed sealing activities, I would like to raise a point regarding the small herds of Sea Lion (Otaria) which can be observed on Couchon and Kidney Islands.

Observations show, that Kidney Island is not used as a breeding ground for these herds, further, studies carried out at Seal Point (Port Harriet) also rule out this area as the breeding ground for Kidney seal. Therefore, the most likely is that on Top or Bottom Island. The problem is then raised, that if any sealing is allowed on these two later islands, there is every chance of a potential reserve losing a main attraction, and also the valuable study herd of only 60 to 70 seal."

This crosses with Mr. C. Bundes's application for grazing rights and the time is right for a decision on the future of these two islands.

COLONIAL SECRETARY

For consideration at the next meeting of Executive Council.

JOHN JULY, 1964

MEMORANDUM NO. 39/64 FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Setting aside of Nature Reserves

~~BU 3/8/64~~
BU Exco 12/10/64

Mr. Ian Stanger has written as follows:-

Midway and Gordon Islands

From their proximity to Port Stanley the two named islands are perhaps the most valuable potential nature reserves that exist in these waters.

Midway Island is equipped with a lighthouse, and a radio anchorage which can also serve the neighbouring island of Gordon.

Due to the above mentioned assets, and the extremely wide variety of wild life which can be found there, Midway Island has for many years been an attraction to day trippers from Stanley, and to many fishermen passing through, on their way to, and from the Antarctic.

Twenty seven species of birds are now known to regularly breed on the island of Midway, and although a recent survey has not yet been carried out on the island of Gordon, the same species undoubtedly can be found there also.

Unlike Top and Bottom Islands, the two islands are free of rats, and therefore hold very large colonies of ground nesting species of petrels.

Both islands have small herds of sea lions (Otaria), breeding groups from these herds however, move to other breeding grounds for pupping.

Gordon Island, due to poor landing facilities has not been so popular to general visitors. For this reason alone, the island is considered to be a most valuable reference area, and of very special value to the biologist. To my knowledge the island has never been stocked, making it of botanical importance.

Both islands lack natural water supplies.

In view of proposed sealing activities, I would like to raise a point regarding the small herds of sea lions (Otaria) which can be observed on Gordon and Midway Islands.

Observations show that Midway Island is not used as a breeding ground for these herds, further, studies carried out at Seal Point (Port Stanley) also rule out this area as the breeding ground for Midway seal. Therefore, the most likely is that on Top or Bottom Islands. The problem in this respect, that is any sealing is allowed on these two islands, there is every chance of a potential reserve losing a main attraction, and also the valuable study herd of only 60 to 70 seal.

This crosses with Mr. C. Hunter's application for grazing rights and the time is right for a decision on the future of these two islands.

G3

Falkland Islands

No.

72.

Your reference :

COLONIAL OFFICE

GREAT SMITH STREET, LONDON, S.W.1

31 JUL 1964 19

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch

No. *110* of the *28th May 1964* and to
inform you that the power of disallowance will not be exercised in respect of the
undermentioned Ordinance.

Law.

Act.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

The Officer Administering
the Government.

Duncan Sandys

No.	Year	Short Title
8	1964	<i>The Nature Reserves Ordinance, 1964</i>

~~12~~
14

August, 1964.

Dear Mr. Napier,

11 Thank you for your letter about Low Island.

I confirm

(a) You would be allowed to stock it, and

(b) your ownership would be in no way affected.

If you will confirm your wish to go ahead I will make all the necessary arrangements.

Yours Sincerely,

Sgt. Wuloughby Thompson

W.U. THOMPSON

Mr. R. B. Napier,
WEST POINT ISLAND.

WHL/TB.

Reply at 18
58.6

18

Saving

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of FALKLAND ISLANDS
(COLONY)

Date 10 August, 1964

No. 75 Saving

7

Falkland Islands Colony Despatch No.110 of the
28th May, 1964.

Establishment and Control of Nature Reserves

It is noted that the object of Colony Ordinance No.8 of 1964, forwarded by your despatch under reference is to make provision for the establishment of Nature Reserves thus enabling the better protection of flora and fauna.

In due course, it would be helpful to learn what nature reserves are contemplated and what particular types of flora and fauna they are intended to protect.

SECEP

6/6

mail from 17

30.12.64

Reply at 21

Colonial Secretary
Stanley
Falkland Islands.



R.B. Napier.
West Point Island
Falkland Islands
28 August 1964

o/b

or

Dear Sir.

¹⁴ Thank you for your letter of 5th August 1964.
I confirm that I wish to make Low Island a Nature Reserve.

hee

Yours sincerely

R.B. Napier

20

A.C.S. I will
have put up a
memo to ex Co
but we will
take this in together
with the Kiching
problem

GAZETTE NOTICE

No. 39

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

1st September, 1964.

Intimation has been received from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the effect that Her Majesty will not be advised to exercise her power of disallowance in respect of the following Ordinance/s of the Falkland Islands.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Ref.</u>
11 of 1963	Pensions (W.B. Hyles) (Increase) Ordinance, 1963.	P/13
✓ 8 of 1964	The Nature Reserves Ordinance, 1964.	2331

By Command,

(SGD.) H. L. BOUND.

COLONIAL SECRETARY

BU 12.12.64

Honorary President
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

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President, Emerson Electric
Manufacturing Company

ROGER TORY PETERSON
Ornithologist-Artist-Author

WILLIAM H. PHELPS, JR.
Chairman, Pan American Section,
International Council for
Bird Preservation

GERARD PIEL
President, Scientific American, Inc.

RICHARD H. POUGH
President, Association for Protection
of the Adirondacks

EDGAR M. QUEENY
Chairman, Finance Committee,
Monsanto Chemical Company

S. DILLON RIPLEY
President, International Council for
Bird Preservation

* KERMIT ROOSEVELT
Vice President, Gulf Oil Corporation

ROBERT WINTHROP
Partner of Wood, Struthers
& Winthrop

* Executive Committee

Affiliations noted only
for identification purposes



World Wildlife Fund

1816 Jefferson Place, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036
Telephone 338-4334

September 28, 1964

Honorable W. H. Thompson
Colonial Secretary of the Government
Falkland Islands

My dear Mr. Thompson:

Former Ambassador Crowe's South American visit as a representative of the World Wildlife Fund, resulted in the development of Project #125 for a status survey of endangered species on the Falkland Islands. As the attached write-up explains, the survey would be conducted by Mr. Ian Strange, who is an employee of the Falkland Island Company.

At the meeting of the WWF Board last week, the immediate granting of \$1,000.00 was approved, and this full amount has been sent to you by cable. This was done so that the funds would be made available to you and Mr. Strange with the least amount of delay. Accordingly, upon receipt of the check, would you kindly fill out the enclosed acknowledgments and mail to specified addressees.

It is our understanding that Ambassador Crowe has written to you and Mr. Strange of this project and the requirement that a report on the survey be prepared and submitted to my office. This is a necessary control and follow-up on any grants made by WWF.

It is reassuring to have your assistance in supervising the survey project.

Sincerely,

Lloyd W. Swift

Lloyd W. Swift
Secretary

LWS:img
Enclosures

cc: C. R. Gutermuth
Dr. Fritz Vollmar
Mr. Philip K. Crowe
HELP SAVE THE WORLD'S WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES

24A

1. Title : Fauna of the Falkland Islands - Status survey of endangered species

2. Originator : Mr. Philip K. Crowe, former U.S. Ambassador, Member of the Board of Directors of the World Wildlife Fund Inc., Easton, Maryland, USA. (Through the Secretariat of the WWF Inc., 1816 Jefferson Place, N.W., Washington D.C.)

3. Amount of grant requested : £ 357 = \$ 1,000 = SFr. 4'350

4. Project description : This project is a direct result of Ambassador Crowe's recent mission to South America carried out on behalf of the World Wildlife Fund Inc.

Although some work has been done on the birds of the Falklands, very little scientific attention has been paid to the mammals and the data collected is years out of date. The last census of South American Sea Lions (Otaria Byronia) was made thirty years ago, the last Southern Elephant Seal (Mirounga Leonina) count was ten years ago and there is no accurate data of any vintage of the South American Fur Seal (Arctocephalus Australis).

In the opinion of local observers, the populations of all three species have declined drastically and an up-to-date survey with a view to further protection is indicated.

Luckily, a man capable and willing to undertake such a survey is now in the Falklands. Ian Strange is an employee of the Falkland Island Company and is a correspondent of the IUCN. He is a keen ornithologist who has done a good deal of work on the Island's birds and is equally interested in the mammals. He is willing to take his four months vacation to sail about the islands (there are 202 of them) and determine the status of the seal and other mammals. He has a small yawl with a motor. The grant would be used for supplies for this trip, including photography.

Strange would also report on the three Falkland birds which are now rare : The Caracara or Johnny Rook (Polyborus tharus); the King Penguin (Aptenodytes patagonicus), which is just starting to breed again on the Islands after fifty years of absence; and the Macaroni Penguin (Eudyptes chrysolophus).

5. References and Supervision :

5.1. References : -

5.2. Technical supervision :

Hon W.H. Thompson, Colonial Secretary of the Government, Falkland Islands.

5.3. Administrative supervision : As above.

6. Timing of financial requirements :

6.1. Period : 1964.

6.2. Timing of disbursements :

Third quarter 1964 : £ 357 = \$ 1,000 = SFr. 4,350 (outright grant)

6.3. Estimates of further applications : None foreseen.

6.4. Estimates of eventual revenue : Not applicable.

7. Other funds available : Nothing known.

Date of original application : May 27th, 1964
Date of issue of project sheet : June 16th, 1964
V/dm - VI/63

DECODE.

No. 20.

TELEGRAM.

11-7
20
21

From Mr. C.R. Gutermuth Treasurer World Wildlife Fund, Washington D.C.

To Hon. W.H. Thompson Colonial Secretary of Government, Falkland Islands.

Despatched : 5th October, 19 64. Time :

Received : 6th October, 19 64. Time :

Grant of one thousand dollars cabled you for Ian Strange Survey of Falkland Islands wildlife letter follows.

C.R. Gutermuth Treasurer World Wildlife Fund

P/L : LH
(Intld.) WT Copy to: Treasury

F. I. ref: 2331

C. O. ref: FST.28/29/02

22

SAVING TELEGRAM.

From: The Officer Administering the Government of the Falkland Islands.

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date: 8th October, 1964.

No. 171 SAVING. COLONY

18 Your Savingram No. 75 of the 10th August, 1964.

Establishment and Control of Nature Reserves.

Colony Ordinance No. 3 is designed to provide protection for all flora and fauna without exception. Certain local islands, often well populated with rare species, lend themselves to this treatment. None have so far been set aside.

A Bill for the Protection of Wild Animals and Birds, which will come before the Legislature at its next meeting, provides for the establishment of less severely controlled sanctuaries.

ACTING GOVERNOR

WHT/FA

LU X Co. 12.10.64 (18)

23

Extract from letter from Mr. C. Bertrand dated 7th September, 1964. Original
filed in 2348

I would like to take this opportunity to state that subject to our being able to stock the larger of the islands with a couple of beef cattle, my wife and I would like the islands known as the Twins declared a Wild Life Reserve.

IM

Noted
LA
19/10/64

4/6 25
S.
23 91
Port Stanley,
27th October 1964.

The Colonial Secretary,
Secretariat,
Port Stanley.

Dear Sir,

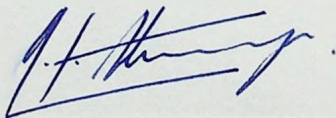
I was pleased to hear that the photographs were of some help.

I am returning my list of islands which was forwarded with the file. I had intended that you should retain this list, it may be of use to you at a later date, and I have several copies.

I have been asked by the I.U.C.N. to forward them a brief description of our reserves actual and potential, with details of the wild life to be found on these islands. To ensure that all is correct, I wonder if you would be good enough to let me know at your convenience, the date on which our actual reserves were, or will be proclaimed. I would also be most gratefull if you could give me some indication please of the hopes for other islands being given wild life reserve status, especially those mentioned in my enclosed list.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,



I. J. Strange.

P. see 31

ISLANDS OF INTEREST TO NATURE CONSERVATION IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

The undermentioned islands are considered to be of special interest to nature conservation in the Falklands for the following reasons :-

1. The majority are noted breeding areas for many interesting species of animals and birds. In the case of the Fur seal (*Arctocephalus australis australis*) and the Johnny Rook (*Phalcobaenus australis*) they represent the few remaining breeding grounds.
2. Many of the islands have not been stocked by domestic animals in living memory. This would class them as very valuable reference areas for future biological studies.
3. Many of the islands are almost inaccessible, difficult to work, and too small to be worked economically for sheep and cattle.

Each island is listed separately, with details of size, approximate position and details of the wild life to be found on the island.

KIDNEY ISLAND

Position, approximately 51-35 Lat 57-45 Long. East Falklands.

This island of approximately 45 acres lies eight sea miles from Port Stanley.

For it's size this island supports a very large number of breeding birds of twenty seven different species. Species of special interest are Sooty shearwaters (*Puffinus griseus*) White chinned petrels (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) Grey backed storm petrel (*Garrodia nereis chubbii*).

A colony of Sea lion (*Otaria byronia*) are also to be found on the island together with a small number of Elephant seal (*Mirounga leonina*)

Like many of the offshore islands in the Falkland group, Kidney Island is thickly covered in Tussock grass.

Due mainly to its position in relation to Port Stanley, and the variety of wild life to be found there, Kidney Island is possibly the most popular, if not the most important of our islands from the conservationists point of view. The island has given untold pleasure to many people living in Stanley, and has been a study area for Biologists visiting the Falkland Islands.

COUCHON ISLAND

Position, approximately 51-34 Lat 57-44 Long. East Falklands.

Couchon is slightly smaller in size than the nearby Kidney Island. A very detailed survey has not yet been made of this island, but there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the same species are to be found

on this island, as on the sister island of Kidney.

Because of the landing difficulties Couchon Island is disturbed very little by man, further, to the writers knowledge the island has not been stocked for many years. Both the later two points make the island a valuable reference area for the ecologist and botanist.

VOLUNTEER ROCKS

Position, 51-31 Lat 57-45 Long. East Falklands.

This group of large rocks lying off Volunteer Point peninsula, are of special interest because of the breeding colony of Fur seal (*Arctocephalus australis*) which are now established there.

This is perhaps the most accessible of all the Fur seal colonies, being fairly close to Port Stanley. Although a very small colony it has a distinct value as a reference and observation herd.

There are three rocks in the group, the main one being approximately two thirds of an acre in size.

SEAL POINT. PORT HARRIET (Ownership doubtful)

Position, 51-45 Lat 57-50 Long. East Falklands.

Seal Point is an area of approximately ten acres. Composed mainly of rocky foreshore, and two small areas covered in dense tussock grass, the point lies at the head of Port Harriet peninsula.

Although Seal Point is not recognised as an island, the area is generally cut off from the mainland except at very low tides.

The point is known to be a breeding ground for Elephant seal and for a small group of Sea lion. Several species of bird nest on the point including a colony of Pink-breasted gulls (*Larus ridibundus maculipennis*) and the South American tern (*Sterna hirundinacea*).

BEAUCHE'NE ISLAND

Position, approximately 52-53 Lat 59-15 Long. S.E. of East Falklands.

The island of Beauche'ne is the most remote island of the Falkland group lying approximately sixty miles S.E. of the East Falkland mainland.

On a recent visit to this island, the writer found Beauchene the breeding ground for vast numbers of Black-browed albatross (*Diomedea melanophrys*) Rock-hopper penguins (*Eudyptes crestatus*) King shags (*Phalacrocorax albivent*) and a considerable number of the less common Johnny rook (*Phalacrocorax australis*). The discovery of this later species on the island is of considerable importance, and in turn places Beauchene as a very valuable potential reserve and sanctuary for this species alone.

Some years ago the island was known to be an important breeding

ground for Fur seal, it is now very doubtful if this species breeds on Beauchene at the present time. During the recent landing on this island no Fur seal were observed, although the visit was made when breeding would have been at its peak for this species.

The island has not been stocked with any domestic animals in living memory.

The island of Beauchene is approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile wide. Tussock grass covers about half the island's area.

BIRD ISLAND

Position, 52-12 Lat 61-5 Long S.E. of Port Stephens, West Falklands.

A tussock island approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile in length, and less than a third of a mile in width.

Bird is an important breeding ground for the Black-browed albatross (*Diomedea melanophrys*). It is also reported that a small colony of Fur seal are re-establishing on this island. Many other species of sea birds are known to breed on Bird island, but no details are yet available as to the number of individual species.

To the writers knowledge the island has not been stocked with sheep or cattle.

JASON ISLAND GROUP

Comprising, South Jason, Flat Jason, Elephant Jason, North Fur, two islands known as the Twins, and a small island due West of West Point island known as Gibraltar Rock.

The first three named Jason islands are the only ones in this group of any reasonable size, being in the region of four miles in length, and half a mile in width. The other named islands are all approximately 50 acres in area.

All the above named islands are known to support breeding pairs of the species (*Phalacrocorax australis*) Johnny Rook. Elephant Jason is the breeding ground for one of the largest herds of Fur seal in the Falklands. The two Twin islands are of considerable interest, being the largest known breeding ground for the Elephant seal (*Mirounga leonina*) in the archipelago.

Gibraltar Rock is known to be the breeding area for a very large number of petrels, although at present there is some doubt as to the species. The island is also a breeding ground for the Falkland Sea lion.

All the above mentioned islands in the Jason group are extremely difficult to work, and have not been used for many years. The later four listed islands have to my knowledge never been stocked, and rarely visited.

34
25 26

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 3/64 OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

HELD ON THE 20th, 22nd & 23rd OCTOBER, 1964.

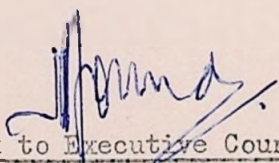
1099/II &
0958

18. NATURE RESERVES (Memo 39/64)

Council advised that both Kidney Island and Cochon Island be declared Nature Reserves with the proviso that visits to Kidney Island should continue to be permitted and that tussock may be cut on Kidney Island. Discussion regarding Low Island and The Twins was deferred for consideration under the Wild Animals and Birds Protection Ordinance.

Council further advised that publicity be given to the danger of starting fires on Kidney Island and that appropriate notice boards be erected warning the public of the fire hazard.

No decision was taken on the subject of sealing in the vicinity of these Islands.


Clerk to Executive Council

24
26 27

Setting aside of the Twins and Low Island to be Bird Sanctuaries.

I have spoken to both Messrs. Bertrand and Napier concerning their applications and they are quite satisfied that a declaration as sanctuaries for the above will be sufficient. They appreciate the difference between a sanctuary and a nature reserve.

Si

C. S.

11th November, 1964.

WHE/LH

2348

~~2337~~

Si

11th November, 1964.

Dear Mr. Swift,

24 25
Thank you very much for your letter of September 28th, concerning the development of Project 125 for the survey of endangered species in the Falkland Islands.

I confirm that \$1,000 have arrived and have been made available to Mr. Strange. One receipt is enclosed and the other one has been duly sent to Switzerland.

I am very happy indeed to be associated in some small way with this project and I can assure you that the Government of these Islands will do everything possible to assist. As small as we are we pride ourselves on our efforts to conserve wild life and at the last meeting of our Legislative Council (the Parliament of these Islands) we passed yet one more piece of protective Legislation. We now have, what we consider to be, a very adequate ordinance to protect wild animals and birds which together with our Nature Reserves Ordinance gives us all the powers we need.

Ambassador Crowe saw Kidney Island which lies not far away from the capital. We have now declared it to be our first "National Park". We have given it complete protection and it should provide an animal and bird sanctuary of some note which can be enjoyed by both local people and visitors.

Yours sincerely,

(W.H. THOMPSON)

Mr. L.W. Swift,
Secretary World Wildlife Fund.

WHT/IH

KID 25

KID 24

11th November, 1964.

Dear Mr. Bertrand,

You will remember our conversation and correspondence about declaring the Twins to be a wild life reserve.

Now that the Legislative Council has passed the Wild Animals and Birds Protection Ordinance which allows Islands to be set aside as wild life sanctuaries, we can go ahead.

The difference between a sanctuary and reserve is that a sanctuary is not necessarily sealed off completely; whereas a nature reserve forbids any cultivation or grazing which might upset the balance of nature.

I am therefore going ahead to publish a notice in the official gazette saying that you would like to set aside the Twins and asking for any objections. If there are no objections then the next meeting of Executive Council will advise the Governor to sign the necessary documents.

Yours sincerely,

(W.H. THOMPSON)

Mr. C. Bertrand,
CARGASS ISLAND.

WHT/LH

CS
Re KIV 25 dte

81

24th November, 1964.

25
Dear Mr. Strange,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 27th October, 1964 and I apologise for not having answered you before. Somehow in the rather busy last few weeks I've managed to overlook it.

Kidney and Cochon Islands will be declared Nature Reserves within the next couple of weeks and The Twins and Low Island should become Bird and Animal Sanctuaries in January when Executive Council will ratify the necessary orders.

Volunteer Rocks belong to the Crown but there appears to be very little value in setting them apart as a sanctuary of any kind in that the seal on them are already fully protected by the Seal Fishery Ordinance.

Seal Point, Port Harriet, is the property of your own employers and you could do a lot, no doubt, to stimulate them into setting it aside as a sanctuary or nature reserve. Government has no intention of taking action on Seal Point at this stage.

Beauchene Island belongs to the Crown and seems to protect itself. It is so remote that a technical declaration making it a nature reserve would have no practical effect and if anyone went there we might never know about the visit.

Bird Island belongs to the Crown and if you feel we should set this apart quickly we might talk it over and put the matter up to Executive Council. The Jason Islands group are split: The Steeple Jason and Grand Jason belonging to Messrs. Dean Brothers and the remainder to the Crown. We might discuss this at your convenience.

I hope this is the information you require.

Yours sincerely,

W. H. T.

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Mr. I. Strange,
STANLEY.

WHT/TB.

Draft Order to H.P. 14.12.64

BD for Proof 18.12.64

Proofed copy returned to HP 15.12.64

BD 21
18.12.64

29th December, 1964.

Dear Mr. Bundes,

Mr. and Mrs. L'Esperance have told me how very much they enjoyed their trip with you to Kidney Island and how well the party was conducted.

As you know both Cochon and Kidney are now Nature Reserves in which every single bird, animal and other natural resident including plants are fully and absolutely protected. Nothing whatsoever may be taken, caught or worried there.

If you continue to take parties of persons to either of these Islands it will be appreciated if you will make this clear to all persons you carry.

This publicity will be good for all and go a long way towards making these Nature Reserves a success.

Yours sincerely,

Willoughby Thompson

(W.H. THOMPSON)

COLONIAL SECRETARY

C. Bundes, Esq.,
STANLEY.

Bu 12 / 65 (3)

WHT/FA

Assented to in Her Majesty's name this 30th day of
October, 1964.

C. HASKARD,
Governor.

LS

No. 15



1964

Colony of the Falkland Islands.

IN THE THIRTEENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II.
Cosmo Dugal Patrick Thomas Haskard, C.M.G., M.B.E.
Governor.

An Ordinance

**To amend the law with regard to the
preservation of Wild Animals and Birds.**

Title.

[1st November, 1964]

Date of commencement.

ENACTED by the Legislature of the Colony of the Falkland
Islands as follows —

Enacting clause.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Wild Animals and
Birds Protection Ordinance, 1964.

Short title.

PART I — GENERAL

2. If, save as hereinafter permitted, any person wilfully kills,
injures or takes, or attempts to kill, injure or take, any wild animal
or bird, or if any person has in his possession or control any wild
animal or bird recently killed or taken which is not shown to have
been killed or taken otherwise than in contravention of this Ordinance
or any licence, order or regulation made thereunder, he shall be guilty
of an offence and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty
pounds.

Protection of wild
animals and birds.

3. A person shall not be guilty of an offence under section 2
of this Ordinance by reason of —

Exceptions to section 2
with respect to certain
wild animals and birds.

- (a) the killing or taking of, or an attempt to kill or take, any
wild animal or bird included in the First Schedule to this
Ordinance, or by reason of the injuring of such wild
animal or bird in the course of an attempt to kill it; or

- (b) the killing or taking of, or an attempt to kill or take, a wild animal or bird included in the Second Schedule to this Ordinance outside the period between the first day of August in any year and the last day of February in the following year, both days included, or by reason of the injuring of such wild animal or bird outside that period in the course of an attempt to kill it.

Establishment of animal and bird sanctuaries.

4. The Governor in Council may by order declare any Crown land or Colonial waters, or with the consent of the owner or lessee, any private land, to be a wild animal or bird sanctuary, and may with respect to any area specified in such order provide for all or any of the following matters, that is to say —

- (a) that any person who, within that area, at any time wilfully kills, injures, or takes, or attempts to kill, injure, or take, any wild animal or bird shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance;
- (b) that any person who, save as may be authorised by a licence granted under this Ordinance or any regulation made thereunder, enters into that area during any period specified in the order shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance;
- (c) that any person who introduces into that area any domestic or carnivorous animal shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance;
- (d) that where any offence against this Ordinance, or any such offence against this Ordinance as may be specified in the order, is committed within that area, the offender shall be liable to a fine not exceeding forty pounds.

General exceptions.

5. (1) Nothing in section 2 or in any order made under section 4 of this Ordinance shall make unlawful —

- (a) the taking of, or an attempt to take, any wild animal or bird if the animal or bird is taken or to be taken solely for the purpose of ringing or marking, or examining any ring or mark on, that or some other animal or bird and then releasing it;
- (b) the killing, injuring or taking of, or an attempt to kill or take, any wild animal or bird for the purposes of approved scientific experiment.

For the purposes of this Ordinance, the term approved scientific experiment shall mean a scientific experiment approved by the Governor and for which a licence has been issued in accordance with section 8 of this Ordinance.

(2) Notwithstanding any of the provisions of section 2 or of any order made under section 4 of this Ordinance, a person shall not be found guilty of an offence against this Ordinance —

- (a) by reason of the killing or injuring of, or an attempt to kill, a wild animal or bird if he satisfies the court before whom he is charged that his action was necessary for the purpose of preventing serious damage or injury to domestic animals, crops, vegetables, fruit, or any other form of property or to fisheries;
- (b) by reason of the taking of, or an attempt to take, any wild animal or bird if he satisfies the court before whom he is charged that the wild animal or bird was taken or to be taken solely for the purpose of tending it and releasing it when no longer disabled;
- (c) by reason of the killing of any wild animal or bird if he satisfies the court before whom he is charged that the wild animal or bird had been so seriously disabled otherwise than by his own act that there was no reasonable chance of its recovering;

- (d) by reason of any act made unlawful by any of the provisions aforesaid if he satisfies the court before whom he is charged that the act was the incidental result of a lawful operation and could not reasonably have been avoided.

(3) Nothing in this Ordinance shall make unlawful the killing of foxes, rats, mice, rabbits, caranchos and turkey vultures by any means.

6. (1) If, save as may be authorised by a licence granted under this Ordinance, any person —

Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild animals and birds.

- (a) sets in position any of the following articles, being an article which is of such a nature and is so placed as to be calculated to cause bodily injury to any wild animal or bird coming in contact therewith, that is to say, any springe, trap, gin snare, hook and line, poisoned or stupefying bait, or container holding explosives; or
- (b) uses for the purpose of killing or taking any wild animal or bird any such article as aforesaid, whether or not of such a nature and so placed as aforesaid, or any net, baited board, bird-lime or a substance of a like nature to bird-lime; or
- (c) for the purpose of killing or taking any wild animal or bird uses as a decoy any live animal or bird whatsoever which is tethered, or which is secured by means of braces or other similar appliances, or which is blind, maimed or injured; or
- (d) uses for the purpose of killing any wild animal or bird a shot-gun of which the barrel has an internal diameter at the muzzle of more than one and three-quarter inches; or
- (e) except in order to find an animal or bird already killed or injured, uses any form of artificial light for the purpose of killing or taking any wild animal or bird other than a wild animal or bird included in the First Schedule to this Ordinance,

he shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five pounds.

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section shall make unlawful the use of a cage-trap or net for the purpose of taking a wild animal or bird if it is shown that the taking of the wild animal or bird is solely for the purpose of ringing or marking, or examining any ring or mark on, that or some other wild animal or bird and then releasing it or for the purpose of an experiment duly authorised under section 8 of this Ordinance.

Provided that nothing in this subsection shall make lawful the use of a rocket-propelled net.

7. (1) The Governor in Council may by Proclamation either generally or with respect to any specified part of the Colony add any wild animal or bird to, or remove any wild animal or bird from, either of the First or Second Schedules to this Ordinance, or vary the close season for any wild animal or bird included in the Second Schedule to this Ordinance.

Power of the Governor to vary the Ordinance by proclamation.

(2) While any such proclamation remains in force this Ordinance shall be read subject to the variation made by such proclamation.

8. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Ordinance the Governor may, for such time and subject to such conditions and for such purposes as he thinks fit, authorise any person to kill or take any wild animal or bird by any means specified in the licence.

Power of the Governor to grant licences.

9. (1) A police officer, which definition shall include a constable, may without warrant stop and search any person found committing an offence against this Ordinance and any vehicle, boat,

Enforcement, fines, etc.

animal or bird which that person may then be using, and may —

(a) arrest that person if he fails to give his name and address to the police officer's satisfaction; and

(b) seize and detain for the purposes of proceedings under this Ordinance any wild animal or bird, other than a wild animal or bird included in the First Schedule to this Ordinance, or any weapon or other article capable of being used to kill or take wild animals or birds, which may be in that person's possession.

(2) Where an offence is committed in respect of more than one wild animal, bird, or article, the maximum fine which may be imposed under this Ordinance shall be determined as if the person convicted had been convicted of a separate offence in respect of each wild animal, bird, or article.

(3) The court before whom any person is convicted of an offence against this Ordinance shall order the forfeiture of any wild animal or bird, in respect of which the offence was committed and may, if it thinks fit, order the forfeiture of any weapon or other article in respect of or by means of which the offence was committed.

(4) Whenever in any legal proceedings under this Ordinance it is alleged that the wild animal or bird in respect of which the charge is laid was killed or taken without the limits of the Colony or Colonial waters or at a time when such wild animal or bird might lawfully be killed or taken, the proof of such circumstances shall lie on the person alleging the same.

PART II. — PENGUINS AND ALBATROSSES

10. Any person who shall take or destroy any penguins' or albatrosses' eggs without a licence under this Ordinance or contrary to the terms and conditions thereof or shall aid and abet any person not so licensed to take and destroy any such eggs shall commit an offence and be liable to pay for every egg so taken or destroyed a fine not exceeding ten shillings, and in addition shall forfeit any such eggs found in his possession.

11. The Agricultural Officer, a Deputy Collector of Customs, or such other officer as the Governor may appoint for the purpose, may grant licences to take penguins' or albatrosses' eggs to such persons as may apply for them for such periods, and on such terms and conditions in respect of the number and description of eggs to be taken, the territorial limits within which they may be taken under such licences, and the payment to be made in respect thereof, as may be approved by the Governor.

12. Any owner or master or other person in charge of any vessel who shall permit such vessel, or any boat or canoe belonging to such vessel, to be employed in taking or destroying penguins' or albatrosses' eggs, or who shall permit or negligently suffer any person belonging to such vessel to be employed in taking or destroying penguins' or albatrosses' eggs, contrary to the provisions of this Part of this Ordinance, shall forfeit any eggs so taken and any eggs found in his possession, and in addition thereto shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds for each offence.

PART III — MISCELLANEOUS

13. For all purposes of and incidental to the trial of any person accused of any offence under this Ordinance, except an offence against section 4 or any order made thereunder, and the proceedings and the jurisdiction of any court, the offence shall be deemed to have been committed either in the place in which it was actually committed or in any place in which the offender may for the time being be found.

14. Any fine adjudged under this Ordinance to be paid by the owner or master, or other person in charge of a vessel, may be recovered in the ordinary way, or, if the court thinks fit so to order,

by distress or arrest and sale of the vessel to which the offender belongs, and her tackle, apparel, and furniture, and any property on board thereof or belonging thereto, or any part thereof.

15. The Governor, and any person duly authorised by him in writing, may take or destroy for a scientific or any other special purpose, any penguins' or albatrosses' eggs, and in so doing shall be exempt from any fines and forfeitures under Part II of this Ordinance.

16. The Governor in Council may, from time to time, make regulations for carrying out the provisions of this Ordinance and the intent and object thereof.

17. The Wild Animals and Birds Protection Ordinance, Cap. 77, is hereby repealed.

Special exemption.

Governor in Council may make regulations.

Repeal of Cap. 77.

SCHEDULE I

Wild animals and birds which may be killed at any time —

Dominican Gull
Skua
House Sparrow
Upland Goose
Brent Goose
Thin-billed (Belcher's) Prion (Firebird)
Hare.

SCHEDULE II

Wild birds which may be killed outside the close season —

Grey Duck
Pampa Teal
Chiloe Widgeon
Yellow Billed Teal
Paraguayan Snipe.

This printed impression has been carefully compared by me with the Bill which has passed the Legislative Council, and is found by me to be a true and correctly printed copy of the said Bill.

H. L. BOUND,
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

Ref. 1099/II.

Restriction on taking penguins' or albatrosses' eggs without a licence.

Granting of licences.

Liability of an owner or master of a vessel.

Venue.

Recovery of fines.

for 4.2.6's (proof from printer)

34

The Nature Reserves Ordinance, 1964.

(Ordinance No. 8 of 1964)

ORDER

(under section 3 of the Ordinance)

the indigenous flora fauna & the

No. 1 of 1964.

Governor.

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon him by section 3 of the Nature Reserves Ordinance, 1964, THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL has been pleased to declare Kidney Island and Cochon Island to be nature reserves for the purposes of protecting and providing, under suitable conditions and control, special opportunities for the study of and research into, matters relating to the indigenous flora and fauna of the Colony.

relevant matter.

Made by the Governor in Council this 23rd day of October, 1964.

Clerk of the Executive Council.

Ref. 2331.

CS

35

HRB/TB.

*I regret that I am unable to sign
as I do not understand the text
after the word "protecting" in line 3.
Protecting what? Protecting "matters"?*

Relevant file attached.

LA 3/2

36

R.S.C.

Pl. see 34 + H.G. note below.

Can you advise pl?

21/5.2.65

Record

37

Copy as amended at 34 passed to HP. 10.2.65

21/10.2.65

BU 25.2.65



38
Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands,

15th Feb 1965.

The Colonial Secretary,
Secretariat,
Port Stanley.

Dear Sir,

10 Please find enclosed a copy of a paper concerning islands of interest to nature conservancy in the Falklands. I understand that a copy was forwarded to the Secretariat in July 1964, this is however, a spare copy which you may certainly retain for you file.

The Jason island group you will note is listed together with islands known as the Twins and Gibraltar, both these islands are privately owned. I appear to have missed out from this list the island known as South Fur which also comes within the Jason group, and would prove to be a valuable reserve.

I would also like to bring to your attention one other very important island which is listed under the name of Bird Island. This particular island would make a very valuable reserve, and if it could be secured as such, would help to complete the pattern of wild life reserves round the entire archipelago. I understand that the island is owned by Government, and would in fact be difficult to work for stock.

Yours faithfully,

I. J. Strange.

ISLANDS OF INTEREST TO NATURE CONSERVATION IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

The undermentioned islands are considered to be of special interest to nature conservation in the Falklands for the following reasons :-

1. The majority are noted breeding areas for many interesting species of animals and birds. In the case of the Fur seal (*Arctocephalus australis australis*) and the Johnny Rook (*Phalacrocorax australis*) they represent the few remaining breeding grounds.
2. Many of the islands have not been stocked by domestic animals in living memory. This would class them as very valuable reference areas for future biological studies.
3. Many of the islands are almost inaccessible, difficult to work, and too small to be worked economically for sheep and cattle.

Each island is listed separately, with details of size, approximate position and details of the wild life to be found on the island.

KIDNEY ISLAND

Position, approximately 51-35 Lat 57-45 Long. East Falklands.

This island of approximately 45 acres lies eight sea miles from Port Stanley.

For it's size this island supports a very large number of breeding birds of twenty seven different species. Species of special interest are Sooty shearwaters (*Puffinus griseus*) White chinne petrels (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) Grey backed storm petrel (*Garrodia nereis chubbi*).

A colony of Sea lion (*Otaria byronia*) are also to be found on the island together with a small number of Elephant seal (*Mirounga leonina*)

Like many of the offshore islands in the Falkland group, Kidney Island is thickly covered in Tussock grass.

Due mainly to its position in relation to Port Stanley, and the variety of wild life to be found there, Kidney Island is possibly the most popular, if not the most important of our islands from the conservationists point of view. The island has given untold pleasure to many people living in Stanley, and has been a study area for Biologists visiting the Falkland Islands.

COUCHON ISLAND

Position, approximately 51-34 Lat 57-44 Long. East Falklands.

Couchon is slightly smaller in size than the nearby Kidney Island. A very detailed survey has not yet been made of this island, but there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the same species are to be found

on this island, as on the sister island of Kidney.

Because of the landing difficulties Couchon Island is disturbed very little by man, further, to the writers knowledge the island has not been stocked for many years. Both the later two points make the island a valuable reference area for the ecologist and botanist.

VOLUNTEER ROCKS

Position, 51-51 Lat 57-45 Long. East Falklands.

This group of large rocks lying off Volunteer Point peninsula, are of special interest because of the breeding colony of Fur seal (*Arctocephalus australis*) which are now established there.

This is perhaps the most accessible of all the Fur seal colonies, being fairly close to Port Stanley. Although a very small colony it has a distinct value as a reference and observation herd.

There are three rocks in the group, the main one being approximately two thirds of an acre in size.

SEAL POINT. PORT HARRIET

Position, 51-45 Lat 57-50 Long. East Falklands.

Seal Point is an area of approximately ten acres. Composed mainly of rocky foreshore, and two small areas covered in dense tussock grass, the point lies at the head of Port Harriet peninsula.

Although Seal Point is not recognised as an island, the area is generally cut off from the mainland except at very low tides.

The point is known to be a breeding ground for Elephant seal and for a small group of Sea lion. Several species of bird nest on the point including a colony of Pink-breasted gull (*Larus ridibundus maculipennis*) and the South american tern (*Sterna hirundinacea*).

BEAUCHE'NE ISLAND

Position, approximately 52-53 Lat 59-15 Long. S.E. of East Falklands.

The island of Beauche'ne is the most remote island of the Falkland group lying approximately sixty miles S.E. of the East Falkland mainland.

On a recent visit to this island, the writer found Beauchene the breeding ground for vast numbers of Black-browed albatross (*Diomedea melanophrys*) Rock-hopper penguins (*Eudyptes crestatus*) King shags (*Phalacrocorax albivent*) and a considerable number of the less common Johnny rook (*Phalacrocorax australis*). The discovery of this later species on the island is of considerable importance, and in turn places Beauchene as a very valuable potential reserve and sanctuary for this species alone.

Sometime ago the island was known to be an important breeding

ground for Fur seal, it is now very doubtful if this species breeds on Beauchene at the present time. During the recent landing on this island no Fur seal were observed, although the visit was made when breeding would have been at it's peak for this species.

The island has not been stocked with any domestic animals in living memory.

The island of Beauchene is approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length and $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile wide. Tussock grass covers about half the islands area.

BIRD ISLAND

Position, 52-12 Lat 61-5 Long S.W. of Port Stephens, West Falklands.

A tussock island approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in length, and less than a third of a mile in width.

Bird is an important breeding ground for the Black-browed albatross (*Diomedea melanophrys*). It is also reported that a small colony of Fur seal are re-establishing on this island. Many other species of sea birds are known to breed on Bird island, but no details are yet available as to the number of individual species.

To the writers knowledge the island has not been stocked with sheep or cattle.

JASON ISLAND GROUP

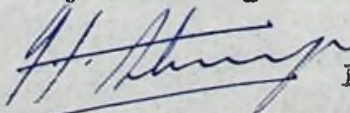
Comprising, South Jason, Flat Jason, Elephant Jason, North Fur, ^{South of Jason.} two islands known as the Twins, and a small island due West of West Point island known as Gibraltar Rock.

The first three named Jason islands are the only ones in this group of any reasonable size, being in the region of four miles in length, and half a mile in width. The other named islands are all approximately 50 acres in area.

All the above named islands are known to support breeding pairs of the species (*Phalacrocorax australis*) Johnny Rook. Elephant Jason is the breeding ground for one of the largest herds of Fur seal in the Falklands. The two Twin islands are of considerable interest, being the largest known breeding ground for the Elephant seal (*Mirounga leonina*) in the archipelago.

Gibraltar Rock is known to be the breeding area for a very large number of petrels, although at present there is some doubt as to the species. The island is also a breeding ground for the Falkland Sea lion.

All the above mentioned islands in the Jason group are extremely difficult to work, and have not been used for many years. The later four listed islands have to my knowledge never been stocked, and rarely visited.



I.J. Strange.

July 1964.

19th February, 65.

Dear Sir,

Jason Islands Seal Population.

Will you please tell me where seal live in relation to the Elephant and South Jason Islands, and if it is known the seal population thereof.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) W. H. Thompson

COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr. I. Strange,
STANLEY.

WHT/TB.

Ref 174V40

Ref for reply
20/2/65

40
Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands,

21st February 1965.

Colonial Secretary,
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley,

6/6
S.L.
22.2.

Dear Sir,

39 I am in receipt of your letter dated the 19th February, reference number 2331, in which you request information on the Jason Islands seal populations.

Seal are to be found breeding on all the islands given in a list below, all islands I would class as being in the vicinity of South and Elephant Jasons.

Elephant Jason, (Large colony of Fur Seal on ^{a rock very close to} the SW point)

South Jason, (Few Fur Seal sighted on the S point)

Flat Jason, (Falkland Sea Lion breeding area) ^{a valuable area for S.L.}

South Fur, (Falkland Sea Lion breeding area)

North Fur, (Breeding area for Sea Lion)

Seal Rocks, and The Fridays, (Breeding area for Sea Lion)

Grand Jason, (Island to NW breeding ground for Sea Lion)

Steeple Jason, (Island between Steeple and Grand, breeding ground for Sea Lion)

On the question of numbers of seal to be found in the above areas, numbers can be given, but I would prefer that these be given when the counts I have, can be checked with aerial photographs. It can be noted however, that by far the most important areas, are Elephant Jason for Fur Seal (Arctocephalus australis) and Flat Jason for the species (Otaria byronia) Falkland Sea Lion.

Yours faithfully,

I. J. Strange.

Check to ~~Wm~~ at.

Ins will be
wanted for
next Ex Co.

S.

B. U. Ex Co. 1.4.65

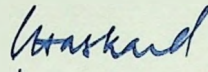
The Nature Reserves Ordinance, 1964.

(Ordinance No. 8 of 1964)

ORDER

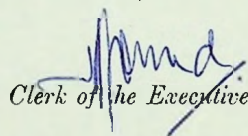
(under section 3 of the Ordinance)

No. 1 of 1964.


Governor.

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon him by section 3 of the Nature Reserves Ordinance, 1964, THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL has been pleased to declare Kidney Island and Cochon Island to be nature reserves for the purposes of protecting the indigenous flora and fauna thereon and for providing, under suitable conditions and control, special opportunities for the study of and research into matters relevant thereto.

Made by the Governor in Council this 23rd day of October, 1964.


Clerk of the Executive Council.

Ref. 2331.

Ben 1/4/65

42

SMP 0887
9th March, 1965.

MEMORANDUM NO. 11/65 FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Lease of South & Elephant Islands

As you know the question of leasing these islands is pending.

42a

I attach a copy of a paper by Mr. R.W. Vaughan B.Sc. which has considerable bearing on the matter.

L. H. Snowdon

COLONIAL SECRETARY

429

A NOTE ON THE VALUE OF THE SOUTH FLAT AND ELEPHANT JASON

ISLANDS AS NATURE RESERVES

By

R. William Vaughan, B.Sc.

In the past there has been a great deal of discussion about the relative value of the Crown owned Jasons as grazing land or as seal reserves, in this note I shall attempt to point out their merits from the biologist's point of view. Dealing with the islands in turn we find that South Jason is a precipitous island that offers very little in the way of grazing for sheep, and that it is a difficult island to work owing to its steep and unsheltered cliffs. On this island at the present time there is a small group of fur seal which have probably spread here from Elephant Jason only two miles to the north. Elephant Jason is the site of the largest fur seal rookery in the area, the principal site is on the rocks that stretch away from the south-west corner of the island, but there is also a smaller group on the south west side of the main island, this is perhaps the most suitable of the three for grazing. Flat Jason is one of the most interesting islands in the Falklands, it is the site of one of the largest sea-lion rookeries in the area, but its greatest value is that it is a tussac island that has been very little disturbed.

There are a number of reasons both for and against leasing these islands for grazing purposes. Reasons for leasing are:-

1. The land is at the present time just lying idle and if sheep can be run there this is better for the economy of the islands.

2. If the islands are worked the fact that vessels have to go there will serve a dual purpose, they might offer a means of transport for anyone wishing to study the wildlife of the area, and would-be seal poachers might be deterred by the presence of vessels already in the area.

On the other hand there are a number of reasons why these islands ought to be preserved:-

1. Elephant Jason is a seal reserve, and South Jason now that fur seal are established ought to be declared a seal reserve. Farming activities in this area might cause a great deal of disturbance to the seal.

2. Grazing of these islands would lead to their being 'eaten out' in a very short time if it was uncontrolled. Flat Jason is a tussac island of scientific interest, it has probably never been grazed and should be kept in this state.

3. Other animals would almost certainly suffer if these islands were worked, especially the Johnny Rook which is needlessly persecuted by many sheep farmers. The lambing rate on Steeple and Grand Jasons is no lower than other areas in spite of the fact that Johnny Rooks inhabit these islands.

4. Leasing of these islands might possibly encourage some small scale local poaching activities.

To deal with some of the points raised, in more detail:

The amount of land available for grazing in this group is quite small, South Jason is extremely steep, and only the small flat areas to the north-east and south-west ends would offer suitable grazing. Elephant Jason perhaps has more ground that could be used, and Flat Jason since it has never been grazed should be kept this way. The number of sheep that could

be run/.....

be run here would be quite small, whereas the damage caused to the tussac and the disturbance to the seal rookeries would be considerable.

Poaching of the seals on these islands is an ever present problem, leasing the land would make it easier for a local poacher to obtain skins, but he may have considerable difficulty in getting the pelts to a suitable market. The case of poachers from the South American coast poses a rather different problem, more boats in the area would be a deterrent, but work at the islands would be limited to one visit a year probably, leaving the area clear for would-be poachers for many months.

Seal Reserves have been instituted for the protection of the fur seal around the Falklands, and the Elephant Jason is already a seal reserve. South Jason has a group of fur seal and thought should be given to the establishment of a seal reserve on this island. If Elephant Jason should be leased it ought to be declared that the off-lying islets are total animal reserves, this would afford some protection to the fur seal there, but those animals breeding on the main island would not have this protection. The establishment of sheep may well cause these animals to leave the islands.

Tussac islands are capable of supporting sheep for a few years only and then when they have eaten out, they are of no use at all. It may be the case that anyone leasing the Jasons can make a living out of them for a number of years and then abandon them when they are eaten out, leaving them desolate. There are some good examples of this treatment around the Falklands, one only has to look at the Passage Islands and then Barron Island to see the terrible effects of uncontrolled grazing of tussac islands. The only way in which these islands should be grazed, is to fence them and limit the sheep to a particular area, and then the tussac can be rested and allowed to recover. Fencing is very costly and it is unlikely that many lessees could afford to fence off an island such as Elephant Jason.

The protection of wildlife around the Falklands has aroused a great deal of feeling in the past and it may be as well to mention why animals should be preserved. Some such as the seals are an economic asset, and should be rationally utilised, in the Pribilof Islands of Alaska the fur seal herd there is responsible for the entire income of the islands, which is of the order of some £500,000 annually. And this herd at the beginning of the century was on the verge of extinction! Birds such as the Johnny Rook are only found in the Falklands and possibly a few in Tierra del Fuego, it would be a great pity to see this most interesting and inquisitive bird totally exterminated by a few irate sheep farmers. Not only animals but ~~also plants must~~ be considered, and the tussac is the most vulnerable in this respect. Grazing will very rapidly destroy the tussac and with it many of the birds that nest there. Erosion of the soil follows and one is eventually left with a useless mound of mud and rock.

If it is thought that the Jasons should be leased for grazing, this should only be done on a controlled basis, which means fencing, if Government feels that the land must be used what are the possibilities of them subsidising fencing? They will be conserving their own land.

Finally my own thoughts on these islands.

Flat Jason is of great interest as it is one of the few islands that has almost certainly never been grazed, and as such is valuable as a study area. The establishment of a total nature reserve on this island would protect the sea-lions and the tussac, as well as all the other animals and plants.

South Jason having a small population of fur seal should be handled in such a way as to cause the minimum amount of disturbance to these potentially valuable animals. The island is not at all suitable for sheep due to the terrain.

Elephant Jason/.....

Page three

Elephant Jason is the most suitable island for sheep but the only danger is that the fire that occurred there some years ago has left large craters which would possibly trap many sheep. The fur seals on the rocks off this island should be given the fullest protection.

It would be extremely foolish to allow sheep to run uncontrolled on any tussac island in the view of past experience, if leases are considered careful and thoughtful management should be insisted on.

Lease of Elephant Jason should be the main island only, the off-lying islets with the majority of fur seal on them should be kept apart, as a seal reserve.

(Sgd.) R. William Vaughan

8.3.65.

43

CONFIDENTIAL

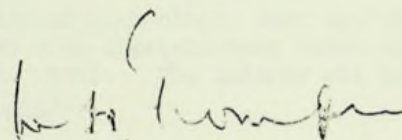
Ref: 0887

24th March, 1965

MEMORANDUM NO. 17/65 FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Lease of certain of the Jason Islands

Further to Mr. Vaughan's paper I now attach notes put forward
by Mr. Ian Strange which may well be useful in future discussion.



COLONIAL SECRETARY

CONSERVATION OF TUSSOCK ISLANDS. JASON ISLAND GROUP

Introduction

This paper has been drawn up for the purpose of presenting notes on reasons for holding certain islands in the Jason group as reserves. The Jason group is composed of ten major islands, all except two, Grand and Steeple Jason owned by Government. In this paper particular attention is given to three of the islands, namely, South, Elephant, and Flat Jason.

It is understood that several requests have in recent years been received by Government for the leasing of the latter three islands, for the purpose of grazing sheep. The possible leasing of these tussock islands has caused some concern with the conservationist as the islands in question represent a large percentage of the comparatively small area of untouched tussock remaining in the archipelago, which is of untold value not only to the wild life of this area, but to the Falkland Islands future economy.

General Description, Flat, Elephant, and South Jason Islands.

All islands lie in the close vicinity of each other, very approximately two miles apart, and of a similar size approximately three miles in length and three quarters of a mile in width. The islands all bear rich growths of tussock grass (Poa flabelata).

Although it is intended to carry out a more detailed survey of the wild life to be found on these islands, it is reported that they support a variety of bird life, including numbers of Johnny Rook (Phalcobaenus australis). From the results of a recent aerial survey on the seal of the area, all the islands are known to support breeding groups of these, in particular Flat Jason which has a considerable number of Sea Lion (Otaria byronia) colonies, and Elephant Jason which has a fairly large Fur Seal (Arctocephalus australis) colony on the off-lying rocks to the SW of the main land.

Discussion

The two largest and privately owned islands in the group, Grand Jason and Steeple Jason are both stocked with sheep, and are therefore visited each year for the purpose of shearing, dipping, and lamb marking. These visits undoubtedly cause considerable disturbance among those species of bird, which have in the past, and to a certain degree still are considered by certain parties to be detrimental to the sheep farming industry i.e., the Johnny Rook (Phalcobaenus australis) and perhaps to a lesser degree the Giant Petrel (Macronectes giganteus). It is known that the former species although on the protected list is almost certainly shot by persons working on these islands. From information collected when these two islands were visited with a working gang in 1962, it was found that the Phalcobaenus was shot not for the supposed damage it is thought to do to sheep, but more for the birds curiosity of man, and without doubt the noise that this bird can make, especially young immature birds. At present this species can still live in comparative safety of other islands in the Jason group, but should these islands be leased there is every danger that the same situation will arise causing a great deal of disturbance to the Phalcobaenus.

The remaining populations of Phalcobaenus are now nearly all found in the Jason island group, except for small populations on Beauche'ne Island, Bird Island, and perhaps the Passage Island group, although it is considered that the same situation exists on these latter islands as on the Steeple and Grand Jason Islands. The Passage Islands are now so badly eaten out that there is considerable doubt as to the present population status of the species.

There is/.....

Page two

There is now evidence to show that important connections lie between populations of seal and the species Phalcobaenus. The bird is known to feed on dead seal, afterbirth, and seal excreta. In turn there are indications that seal colonies prefer those areas with tussock, and certainly with disturbance of tussock by man and grazing, seal are very likely to disappear, with the result that the Phalcobaenus will also suffer.

Besides the one species mentioned above, the Jason group are reported to be the breeding grounds for many other species of bird. Certain species of petrels which rely largely on tussock for nesting cover are most likely to be found on Flat Jason. A survey carried out on Grand Jason 1962 found in areas where tussock had grown, and where there is now complete desolation, signs of many petrels having nested there before the destruction of tussock.

The archipelago is undoubtedly unique for its very interesting collections of wild life, in particular its bird species. Of the birds that are known to breed in the islands, over 50% rely indirectly or directly on tussock and tussock islands for survival. It is therefore apparent that the few remaining untouched tussock islands are of very great importance for the future of our wild life.

The percentage area of these remaining untouched tussock islands in relation to those areas stocked is very small indeed, for example, including islands now nature reserves, and those with potential value as reserves, amounts to less than 15 square miles.

Botanical value, South and Elephant Jason islands are reported to have been stocked, and are therefore of less value. Both these islands have also been burnt in recent years, which again reduces their value. Flat Jason, although rented some years ago does not appear to have had stock upon it, is therefore of immense value to the botanist as well as the biologist.

No work appears to have been carried out on the ecology of a tussock island, in which case Flat Jason would make a fine study area.

Elephant, South, and Flat Jason islands now represent a very large proportion of the remaining unstocked areas of tussock in the Falklands, such areas may in the future be of immense value retained in their present state, as stock beds for the tussock plant (Poa flabelata).

Seal, and sealing. If poaching of the seal stocks in the Jason area is still being carried out, the leasing of certain Jason islands may deter any outside activities, however, there is also the danger of small efforts at poaching which could be carried out by parties working the islands to supplement the harvests of licensed sealers.

Should there be considerable increases of the Fur Seal rookeries in the vicinity of Elephant Jason, it is perhaps possible that this species may attempt to establish on the nearby islands of South, Elephant, and Flat Jason. The stocking of these islands will almost certainly deter any such attempts. Recent aerial surveys made in the area do in fact show a small number of Fur Seal on Elephant Jason.

Stocking of the Jason Islands. The number of sheep which these islands could hold is considerable, however, any large numbers placed on these islands would very quickly reduce them to a similar state as for example First and Fourth Passage Islands, these islands were noted as examples of overgrazing during a recent aerial survey. Small numbers of sheep might have little effect on the tussock, but the returns from any small number could hardly cover the work involved in working such difficult islands. Fencing which should be carried out on any tussock island leased for

grazing/.....

Page three

grazing sheep, would be extremely difficult if not impossible on the two islands of South and Elephant Jason, because of the steep sided nature of these islands. Flat Jason could be fenced, but it is understood that this island is in fact more difficult to work because of landing difficulties.

The tussock growth on the South and Elephant Jasons now appears to have fully recovered after it was burnt some years ago, but it is thought that ground conditions may not be so stable, there is therefore the added danger of soil erosion should the tussock be eaten back. Because of the very steep sided nature of these two islands, erosion would set in very quickly. Erosion following the eating out of tussock areas is very clearly shown on the Grand and Steeple Jason islands, great areas are reduced to dust bowls, and valuable soil is slowly being swept into the sea. This type of erosion started by man, very often leads to species such as penguins being blamed, the very birds which must have been responsible for the nutrition of tussock areas.

Methods of farming these remote offshore tussock islands, not lived on for any length of time by parties in question must at times lead to shearing, dipping, and lamb marking being carried out in one operation and visit. This could lead to lamb marking for example being carried out at a very late period, when lambs are a considerable size. Marking has on some of these islands been carried out in late March, which again has resulted in the Phalcobaenus being blamed for pecking at blood stained lambs after tailing and castration. Such troubles could be prevented by carrying out such work at the correct season, this is however largely controlled by the difficulty in getting to these islands.

I.J. Strange
Port Stanley. 5th March, 1965.

bu 1.4 65 (40)

F. I. ref: 2331

44

C. O. ref:

SAVING TELEGRAM.

From: The Officer Administering the Government of the Falkland Islands.

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date: 7th April, 1965.

No 42. SAVING. COLONY

Legislation.

41

Enclosed herewith are six copies of Order No. 1 of 1964.

GOVERNOR

45
C.S. Please see my reply.
My own opinion is that
Bird Island could well
be a reserve. From his map
it appears to be Crown Land;
Can Registrar General confirm please?
Next Exco?

Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands,

4th July 1965.

His Excellency the Governor,
Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

Dear Sir,

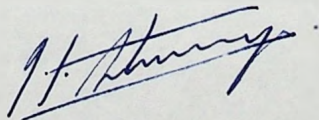
For your interest and kind consideration I would like to submit the enclosed proposal for the establishment of Bird Is. West Falklands as a Nature Reserve.

As Government owned land, Bird Island has been named as a potential nature reserve on a number of occasions for the reasons given in the enclosed paper.

In view of recent information received on the population status of the species Phalcobaenus (Johnny Rook) in the southern regions of Tierra del Fuego where the bird once bred, I consider there is now some urgency in acquiring as reserves, as many habitats of this species as are possible here in the Falkland Islands. Bird Island is one of the few remaining areas where the species is found breeding, and has therefore a very high value as a potential reserve.

In view of these findings, I would ask, if you would be so kind as to give your consideration to this proposal.

Yours faithfully,



I. J. Strange.

PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING BIRD ISLAND AS A NATURE RESERVE.

INTRODUCTION. Conservation in the Falkland Islands.

The aims and principles of conservation are basically to preserve from extinction all kinds of animals and plants, their habitats and other natural features of land and landscape.

In the Falkland Islands there is a particularly interesting assemblage of animals and plants of equal interest to those found in other parts of the world. Of particular importance is the fact that there has been relatively little interference by man's activities. Many small areas, especially some of our offshore tussock islands are still largely unspoiled and as such are extremely valuable as "reference areas" where scientific and ecological studies can be pursued.

Conservation of Tussock Islands

Undoubtedly the main key to the conservation of a great deal of our wild life in the archipelago lies in the conservation of our most valuable and important habitat, tussock and tussock islands. The ecology of a tussock island is complex and has yet to be fully studied, however, there is sufficient evidence to show that over 50% of our bird species alone rely directly or indirectly on tussock and tussock islands for their survival, it is therefore apparent that those untouched tussock islands now remaining in the archipelago are of very great importance for the future survival of Falkland wild life.

The percentage area of untouched tussock islands in the Falklands in relation to those areas now stocked is very small indeed. Including those areas now established as nature reserves or wild life sanctuaries, and also those islands such as Bird Island with potential value as a reserve, the total area of such habitat amounts to less than 15 square miles, a small percentage when one considers the vast number of birds and animals relying on this habitat for their survival.

Botanical Values

As shown above tussock islands represent a very large percentage of those few areas remaining in the Falkland Islands which are untouched by man and his stock, and are therefore of immense value for botanical study and subsequent ecological work.

The introduction of stock to tussock areas although not always apparent can upset the botanical nature of such an area which in turn could have adverse effects on the very complex life cycle of wild things living within and about such habitats. Unfortunately there are now far too many examples in the Falklands where man has introduced stock to such areas with little thought for future conservation, with the result that large areas have been laid waste, with little or no hope for recovery to their original state.

Nature reserve proposal / 2.

Bird Island, Port Stephens West Falklands.

Bird Island lies approximately $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the West Falkland mainland within the Port Stephens area. The island is irregular in shape with a formidable coast line which is composed largely of sheer cliff faces. To the East the island rises sharply to a height of 150 feet. The islands estimated 200 acres is very largely covered in tussock grass (*Poa flabelata*).

An aerial survey has been made of the island confirming reports of Fur Sea (*Arctocephalus australis*) breeding there, together with Johnny Rook (*Phallobaenus australis*) and fairly large numbers of Black-browed albatross (*Diomedea melanophrys*) Falkland Diving petrel (*Pelecanoides urinatrix berard*) Rock-hopper penguin (*Eudyptes crestatus*) and Gentoo penguin (*Pygoscelis papua*). Undoubtedly many other species also use the islands cover for breeding, the exact number is however not yet known and could only be confirmed by making a more detailed inspection of the island.

No information is available on whether or not the island has been stocked with sheep or cattle. It is however most unlikely, as the island is known to be difficult to land on, because of the coastal terrain and strong tides of the area.

The island is of particular importance largely because of the two former mentioned species listed above, the Fur Sea and Johnny Rook. Both species are of special interest to the conservationist, and it is considered that every effort should be made to protect their habitats.

Summary

It has been noted that the Falkland Islands have a particularly unique collection of wild life, much of it still living in undisturbed areas of natural landscape, such life must be retained for their various values, which may be :

Ethical- mans inherent responsibility to disturb nature as little as possible and to hand it down unspoiled;

Scientific- for basic investigations of nature and for studies of undisturbed areas against the study of comparable areas disturbed by man;

Educational- to create wider horizons of interest in the various values of nature and natural resources, and to encourage a more enlightened attitude to their conservation;

Economic- for material benefits derived from plant and animal products and financial return from tourism, etc.

The conservation of nature is for long term benefit of man.

I. J. Strange.
Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

July 1965.

Ref: 2359

3
4b

14th July, 1965

Dear Mr. Strange,

I think I now have to do some accounting for your
Wild Life Grant.

Would you please let me know where we now stand.

(W.H. THOMPSON)

See 489

24
Rec \$6/8/65

Mr. I. Strange,
STANLEY.

LS

C.S.

46A

15 July, 1965.

45

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of 4th July regarding the possibility of establishing a nature reserve for Bird Island.

I was very interested in what you had to say and having seen Bird Island from the cliffs near Port Stephens I can well imagine that it is an area in which many species are to be found breeding.

Your suggestion will be taken further but at this stage you will realise that no promise of action is implied.

Again many thanks for taking the trouble to bring the matter to my notice.

CH

I.J. Strange, Esq.,

K10 45

489

Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands,
South Atlantic.

20th July, 1965.

WORLD WILD LIFE FUND GRANT. DETAILS OF ACCOUNT .

Details of the account are shown up until the date given above.

Expenditure

Seal Survey (Part costs to date)

Flight costs	£52. 12. -.
" "	6. 9. -.
Photographic Survey Maps	
R/T charges	5. 11. -.

<u>Total</u>	<u>£64. 12. -.</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
--------------	--------------------	--------------------

Amount of grant	£358. 12. 5.
Expenditure	<u>64. 12. -.</u>

	£294. - 5.
Cash in hand	<u>5. - -</u>

£299. - 5. remaining in account at the 20th July, 1965.

The account is placed in the Government Savings Bank, Falkland Islands
number S 611

(Sgd) I.J. Strange

25th July, 1965

21st July,

Dear Sir,

45 I refer to your recent letter to His Excellency The Governor on Bird Island, which, I think you will remember discussing with me some time ago and, on which, you promised me a further report.

In your letter you state that in view of recent information received on the population status of Phalcobaenus you consider more reserves should be established.

May I ask what the recent information is?

Yours faithfully,

COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr. I.J. Strange,
STANLEY.

24/8
Bv 31/7/65 (1)

48

5th August, 1965.

Dear Mr. Swift,

24

I refer to your letter of the 28th September, 1964,
(Project 125/1964) and enclose an interim account of monies used
by Mr. Ian Strango.

483

You will be pleased to know that Mr. Strango is working
hard on the project and only using the fund when strictly and ab-
solutely necessary.

Yours sincerely,

(W.H. THOMPSON)

See 54

Lloyd W. Swift, Esq.,
World Wildlife Fund,
1616 Jefferson Place, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20036,
U.S.A.

Y.E.,

Folios 45, 46 & 47.

I have discussed the setting aside of Bird Island with Mr. Strange, and assured him of our interest, but as he has yet to set foot on the island I have told him that we would prefer to wait for a more detailed report and photographs of the place.

He is going to try and land on the island during summer and I have agreed that we will try and help him with a landing from Philomel if it can be safely and conveniently arranged.

C.S.

C.S.

11th August, 1965.

TB

50

51 / Cs. Agreed.

Done
Wi

Strange
written &
asked to
be known
before
he departs.

2. Meanwhile, I should be glad of confirmation that Bird Island is in fact Crown Land.

3. As a matter of courtesy, I suggest that Mr Strange's intention of trying to land on Bird Island might be notified to Mr W.A. Ross at Port Stephens, Bird Island being so close to Mr Ross's farm. ✓

16/8

18th August, 1965.

Dear Mr. Strange,

You will remember telling me that you are planning a landing on Bird Island sometime during summer.

When you decide to go there will you please let me know before you depart as I would like to tell Mr. W.H. Goss of Port Stephens about it. This will save any misunderstanding about offshore poachers and the like.

Sincerely,

(W.H. Thompson)

COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr. I. Strange,
SEANLEY.

LS

Bu 30/8/65 (47)

BU 159.65

Bu 7/10.65

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& Winthrop

Executive Committee

Affiliations noted only
for identification purposes



World Wildlife Fund

1816 Jefferson Place, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036

Telephone 296-0422

December 2, 1965

Mr. W. H. Thompson
Colonial Secretary's Office
Stanley, Falkland Islands
South Atlantic

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The delay in acknowledging your letter and financial statement on the Ian Strange survey has been related to my absence overseas.

We do appreciate your handling the Falkland Survey funds for us, and shall look forward to receiving Mr. Strange's report on the status of animals in your area.

Sincerely,

Lloyd W. Swift
Secretary

LWS:mmf

Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands,

1st June 1966.

The Acting Colonial Secretary,
Secretariat,
Stanley.

Dear Sir,

In connection with the bringing up to date of my Memorandum on Conservation in the Falkland Islands. I wonder if you would be good enough to offer the following information please.

① Sanctuaries and Reserves in the Jason group.

Notice was recently given of islands in this group being made into sanctuaries, are the two islands known as West and East Cays included in this order.?

② Sealing.

If available could you kindly give me some details of the most recent sealing license such as number allowed to be taken, type, and age groups.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

J. H. Thompson

CS
① At the last meeting of Comm. it was advised that the Flat Jason be declared a I.J. Strange Nature Reserve that all remaining islands rocks in the Jason group owned by the Govt., be declared Wild Animal Bird Sanctuaries. West & East Cays appear to be Crown Land. The order has not yet been made.

② A licence has been issued to C. Bums permitting him to take all adult male sea lions from Emily Island. No other licence has been granted.

Reply at 58.

13.6.66

● NOTE

Nature Reserve Ordinance 1964 Order declaring
Flat Jason Island to be a nature reserve
passed to Printer 1/7/66.

JA.

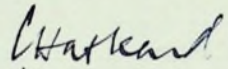
The Nature Reserves Ordinance, 1964.

(Ordinance No. 8 of 1964)

ORDER

(under section 3 of the Ordinance)

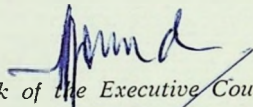
No. 2 of 1966.



Governor.

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon him by section 3 of the Nature Reserves Ordinance, 1964, THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL has been pleased to declare Flat Jason Island to be a nature reserve for the purpose of protecting the indigenous flora and fauna thereon and for providing, under suitable conditions and control, special opportunities for the study of and research into matters relevant thereto.

Made by the Governor in Council this 10th day of May, 1966.



Clerk of the Executive Council.

Ref. 2331.

58

12th July
~~17th June,~~

66.

Dear Sir,

55 The following is the information sought in your letter of 1st June 1966.

Sanctuaries and Reserves in the Jason group

The recent Order in Council declared that Flat Jason becomes a Nature Reserve and that the whole of the remainder of the Crown Land Jason Islands, including all rocks and reefs, become a Wild Animal and Bird Sanctuary.

Sealing

I enclose a copy of the most recent sealing licence to be issued. Only one other licence is in force - valid for 1966, 1967 and 1968 - authorising 900 male sea lion to be taken each year.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgt.) L. E. E. E. E.

ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr. I. Strange,
STANLEY.

Send 57 to S/S pl

F. I. ref: 2331
1099/II
C. O. ref:

59

SAVING TELEGRAM.

From: The Officer Administering the Government of the Falkland Islands.

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date: 16th July 1966.

No 115 SAVING. COLONY

Enclosed herewith are six copies of the following legislation:-

57

Order No. 2/66

Order No. 3/66

GOVERNOR

TE

Pa

600
Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands,

17th October 1966.

The Colonial Secretary,
Secretariat,
Stanley.



CS
You have already
had the triangles to
go ahead. 18/11
with pain

Dear Sir,

It is proposed on the arrival of the "Kungsholm" Swedish American Line next month to take a small party of interested passengers out to Kidney Island in order that they may see something of the wild life to be found here. To facilitate movement across the island I would like to mark a route through the tussac which would entail cutting this growth to a certain degree. This is contrary to certain rules laid down in the Wild life reserves and sanctuaries ordinances and therefore wondered if permission could be granted to carry out this work, this cutting will of course be kept to a minimum.

In the course of the next few months it is my intention to continue my studies of our wild life, this work will entail visiting our Sanctuaries and Reserves. It is possible that specimens would like to be taken for identification purposes from some of these areas and therefore ask if permission may be granted also for this work.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "I. J. Strange". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

I. J. Strange.

See 62. Reply at 64

Noted

Lb

5/11

J.E.,

Please see 60. Mr. Strange made two requests

- a) to cut tussock on Keeney Island for the purpose of clearing a pathway
- b) to take specimens (presumably birds).

The Governor in Council is empowered by Section 4 of the Nature Reserve to make Regulation concerning those for the control of cutting of vegetation. None have been made to date. As his meeting next week I suggest the application be considered then. I doubt whether special regulations could be formulated before the visit of the Kuapaholen.

With regard to taking specimens the Governor may grant licences (Section 8 Wild Birds and Animals Protection Ordinance) and I have asked Mr. Strange to be more precise in his requirement.

L.E.

17.10.66

2331

20th October, 1966.

Dear Sir,

60

With reference to your letter of 17th October and in particular to the second paragraph please provide more specific details of the specimens you would like to take.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) L. Gleadell

ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr. I.J. Strange,
STANLEY.

IM

Reply at 63.



Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands,

26th October 1966.

Acting Colonial Secretary,
Secretariat,
Stanley.

Dear Sir,

62 Further to your letter of the 20th October reference number 2331 in which you request more specific details concerning the specimens which I may require to take, although it is almost impossible to list the exact species, the collecting will most likely cover species of petrels. Such species are very difficult to identify correctly, and my request is made should I happen to come across any bird which I am not familiar with and I consider it important enough to have identified.

Discretion will be used when taking any specimens and collecting will of course be kept to a minimum.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "I.J. Strange".

I.J. Strange.

Reply at 63.

17th November,

66.

Dear Sir,

60 I refer to the second paragraph of your letter of the 17th October, 1966, and confirm that it will be in order for you to take specimens of wildlife from Reserves and Sanctuaries.

However I must request you to let me know nearer the dates of your visits which Reserves and Sanctuaries you will be visiting and to report on your return as to the specimens taken.

Perhaps you will discuss the matter with me further before you commence your travels.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) H.L. Bound

for

COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr. I.J. Strange,
STANLEY.

Pa

Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands,

1st January 1967.

The Colonial Secretary,
Secretariat,
Stanley.

Dear Mr Thompson,

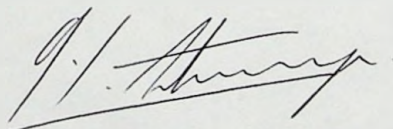
Further to our discussion concerning the arrangements for making a contact between Beauchene Island and the Stanley RT, the following has been planned.

Two RT sets have been obtained, one is the standard RT set used by all camp stations and this will be landed on the island together with an army type 68 set if conditions are such that the two can be landed together. If bad weather conditions prevail at the time of landing gear will have to be cut to a minimum and therefore the 68 set only will be landed, this being a fairly light piece of equipment. Both sets however, have a good range and contact will be attempted every 48 hrs either with Sea Lion Island or Stanley RT, suggestions have been made by the RT operator that our calls are put over during the time that Sea Lion Islands are known to be listening.

It is also intended to carry special flares should the RT sets fail in an emergency, and Sea Lion are to be advised to make one look out every 24 hrs at say nine p.m camp time for any signal that might be made, they are to be advised not to take any notice of any lights other than parachute flares, this is important as lights will be used at times on the island for other purposes.

Hoping these arrangements meet with your approval.

Yours sincerely,



Ian J. Strange.

2

66
Ross Road,

Stanley,

January 2nd, 1967

The Colonial Secretary,
Secretariat,
Stanley.

Sir,

I wish to absolve Colonial Government of any responsibility financial or otherwise in the event of any accident or misfortune to myself during my visit to, and stay on, Beauchene Island. This visit is in the interests of natural history.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Respectfully

Pa

67

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is with regret that Government has to announce that used shotgun cartridges have been found on Kidney Island.

This must indicate that some person or persons have been violating this wild life sanctuary, which is our own very special National Park.

If anyone can give any information about this crass vandalism would they please let the Colonial Secretary have details. Information will be treated confidentially.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

18th December 1967.

Ref: 2331

FA

BROADCAST 3 NIGHTS PLEASE - LOCAL AND CAMP

Pa

5th June,

68.

The Governor has told me about the discussion you had with him regarding the possibility of a wild animal and bird sanctuary for the Volunteer area.

I understand that your intention would be to provide an increased measure of official protection for the King Penguin colonies between Volunteer Point and Cow Bay. Such protection would also extend to other wild life in the area including the wild cattle.

I gather that you receive quite a number of visitors in the summer and that in recent years you have asked them not to use fire-arms in the area you would now wish to protect.

As I understand it, the area would consist of the two camps marked on the 1 : 50,000 map as Volunteer Point and Inside Volunteer, together with the Cow Bay beach and that part of the Carysfort camp which lies south of a new fence not marked on the map but which I understand runs from the Loch Head Pond across to the coast somewhere south of Cape Carysfort.

This would appear to be an area reasonably easy to define. I gather that you consider that people interested in shooting duck would find plenty of sport along the coast north of the proposed protected area, particularly in the neighbourhood of Dutchman's Island.

Needless to say, the Government would be very willing to see the Volunteer/Cow Bay area protected. You might like to know that at the last meeting of Executive Council His Excellency mentioned your interest and members commended the idea.

The Governor mentioned to you that there are certain simple requirements before the area can be officially protected and he has asked me to set these out for your information.

I know you subscribe to the Government Gazette and if you turn to page 108 of the 1964 volume you will find there the Nature Reserves Ordinance and on page 193 of the 1964 volume you will find the Wild Animals and Birds Protection Ordinance.

The Nature Reserves Ordinance is primarily designed for areas which can be completely protected. Under the provisions of that Ordinance the Government has so far made only two Orders; these are in respect of Kidney and Cochon Islands (page 14 of the 1965 volume) and Flat Jason Island (page 120 of the 1966 volume).

The Wild Animals and Birds Protection Ordinance allows for the establishment of animal and bird sanctuaries. Orders under this Ordinance have been made in respect of The Twins and Low Island, both near Carriacou Island (page 71 of the 1965 volume), the Crown Land Jason Islands (page 120 of the 1966 volume) and Middle Island, the property of Holmsted, Blake & Company (page 176 of the 1966 volume.).

On/...

See 70

On the whole I think that to declare the land you have in mind an animal and bird sanctuary under the Wild Animals and Birds Protection Ordinance would be the most satisfactory arrangement in view of its fairly extensive size. Such a declaration would in no way affect your right to stock the area and indeed the position as far as sheep and tame cattle are concerned would be exactly as it is today. You will understand that a nature reserve requires much stricter protection than an animal and bird sanctuary.

If you would like to go ahead with your intention, I should be glad if you would let me know officially by writing me a letter to that effect. When writing, could you please give a description of the fence from Loch Head Pond to the coast?

The next step would be for the Government to publish a Notice in the Gazette to give warning of its intention. You will see examples of such notices on page 200 of the 1964 volume.

Thereafter, if there has been no objection, the Governor in Council would declare the area to be a wild animal and bird sanctuary.

O. Smith, Esq.,
Johnsons Harbour.

By 16. 8. 68.

P. G.

SC

Further action

in 1099/III

Copy in 1099/III

Copy

2331

70

26th September,

68.

Dear Mr Smith,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 28th August, 1968, concerning the protection of wild animal and bird life in the area of the Volunteers.

I am arranging to have the notice published in the Gazette to see whether there are any objections and if there are not, we shall then proceed to act upon your request for the area to be set aside.

It is fully understood and will be agreed in any notice published, that (a) wild cattle in the Volunteer Point should be subject to your control on the lines you indicate in your letter, and (b) your right to licence for penguin eggs will be respected.

Thank you very much for all your help and co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

(W.H. THOMPSON)
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

O. Smith, Esq.,
Johnsons Harbour.



Stanley.
Falkland Islands. 71

24th May 1969.

His Excellency The Governor,
Government House.
Stanley.

1/10
30/5

Dear Sir,

This letter serves to cover the report on Bird Island which was forwarded earlier, my apologies for having not sent this letter with the report.

2 Assuming that the Colonial Secretary would not be familiar with the Bird Island visit, I elected to forward it to you, perhaps it could then be passed to the Colonial Secretary. The copy is for Government files together with map and photographs.

filed at
b.c.

3 In a letter to the Colonial Secretary I will be forwarding a recommendation that the island be considered for Reserve Status. I have no hesitation in stating that Bird Island is, of those islands yet investigated, the number is now quite considerable, the finest example of petrel breeding grounds yet discovered in the Falklands.

4 I would like to place the emphasis on "Reserve Status" as against "Sanctuary Status". I have always been an advocate for Reserves but in the case of this recommendation I have looked carefully at both sides. Undoubtedly the island has good feed to offer cattle or sheep, but it also has many hidden dangers and practical difficulties and even with the present method of stocking such islands, the economics of any such venture would seem to be very doubtful.

5 For some years now I have attempted to indicate the potential value of such islands, not only from their pure scientific value, but also their economic value in connection with tourism. I am glad to say the latter is now becoming reality. After a somewhat slow start, I have heard from Mr Lindblad that he has hopes of making four wild life tours to the Falklands this next summer.

6 With careful thought for the future, for tourists can be as detrimental to wildlife as domestic stock, I see no reason why tourists should not be of vast benefit to the future of this wildlife and at the same time be of as much value economically as the stock which might be placed on these islands. "

Yours faithfully,

I.J. Strange.



Port Stanley.
Falkland Islands.

25th May 1969.

The Colonial Secretary.
Secretariat.
Stanley.

Dear Sir,

I have very recently passed to His Excellency The Governor a report on a visit made to Bird Island in the West Falklands.

In a covering letter I explained the reason for forwarding the report to His Excellency, although it was the intention to forward direct to the Secretariat.

The visit to the island and the subsequent report was carried out in an attempt to illustrate the value of this island as a wild life area, and this letter is added to the report in that it is a recommendation that the island should be considered for Reserve Status.

I would like to place emphasis on "Reserve Status" as against "Sanctuary Status" for a number of reasons. "I have always been an advocate for the "Reserve" as it offers better protection, not only is the fauna protected, but also the habitat, which is not always the case with "Sanctuaries". In the case of Bird Island, where there is a vast amount of native flora still in existence, and no evidence to suggest that the island has been stocked, we have a particularly valuable island. As with other tussac islands Bird Island has good feed to offer sheep and cattle, but as the report will show, the terrain is difficult and in many parts dangerous. There are other practical problems, and even with the present method of stocking such islands, the economics of any such venture would appear to be very doubtful.

X

The Falklands now have some 15 Sanctuaries with an approximate total acreage of 8,500 acres. Under Reserve status there is a total of 1001 acres. Although great strides have been made in this field of wild life preservation, it would be most desirable to increase the area of the most desirable status ie "Reserve Status" and in so doing ensure the future survival of the Islands "natural habitat".

The report, photographs and map may be retained for possible future use.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "I.J. Strange".

I.J.Strange.

• Ls. for Secretariat file ~~778~~

30 May, 1969. 73

Thank you for your letter of
24th May received today regarding Bird Island.

I have read your report with interest
and would like to thank you for the trouble you
have taken in ascertaining details of the wild
life population of the island.

It is intended that the question of
declaring Bird Island a reserve should be
considered at the next meeting of Executive
Council and, meanwhile, I have passed all the
papers to the Colonial Secretary, who will be
asking you to clarify one or two minor points
in the report.

LS

I.J. Strange, Esq.,
Stanley.

C.S.

Bird Island

~~12~~ 74

would you please have a memo prepared for next ExCo seeking advice as to whether Bird Island should be declared a reserve. I personally favour his idea; indeed Mr Triange fought to have this done some years ago but was told that it would prove be necessary for someone to visit the island & report - this has now been done.

I would like Triange's report reproduced in full, less map & photos which can be displayed at the meeting.

Triange should be invited to check his typescript - I have made a couple of small queries in pencil re points of compass.

Typist should alter spelling of the word "promontory" where it occurs to coincide with his spelling in his dictionary.

Ch 20/8/69

Please also add Bird Island to your list of items to discuss with me next week.

sanctioned by Ordinance No.1 of 1964.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make further provision for the service of the Colony for the period 1st July, 1964 to 30th June, 1965.

Preamble.

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislature of the Colony of the Falkland Islands, as follows —

Enacting clause.

1. This Ordinance may be cited for all purposes as the Supplementary Appropriation (1964-65) Ordinance, 1965.

Short title.

2. The sums of money set forth in the Schedule hereto having been expended for the services therein mentioned beyond the amounts granted for those services by the Ordinance providing for the service for the period 1st July, 1964 to 30th June, 1965, the same are hereby declared to have been duly laid out and expended for the service of the Colony in that period, and are hereby approved, allowed and granted in addition to the sum mentioned for those services in the said Ordinance.

Appropriation of excess expenditure for the period 1st July, 1964 to 30th June, 1965.

SCHEDULE

Schedule.

Number	HEAD OF SERVICE	Amount		
		£	s.	d.
FALKLAND ISLANDS				
III.	Audit	1,014	2	7
IV.	Aviation	3,616	17	3
IX.	Military	29	9	3
X.	Miscellaneous	21,925	14	4
XI.	Pensions & Gratuities	3,699	4	2
XVII.	Secretariat & Treasury	972	3	0
		£ 31,257	10	7
XXI.	Colonial Development & Welfare	2,405	6	5
	Total Expenditure	£ 33,662	17	0

A.C.S.

~~180~~
75

W.R.T. attacked, have we a previous
Exco. decision in the appropriate file
(presumably entitled Bird Island: but perhaps
in file on Nature Reserves)? I would
be grateful

- a) to have the pp. back in file;
- b) to be referred to ^{earlier} any Exco.
decision on Bird Island which
my exco. (X of H.E.'s minute refers:
but of course, the matter may not then
have progressed as far as Exco.).

17/3/5

Per.

9th July, 1969

78a
No. 46/69

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Nature Reserves - Bird Island

Memorandum by Colonial Secretary

Some years ago it was suggested that Bird Island, lying off the south-west coast of Port Stephens, should be declared a nature reserve. It was thought at the time that insufficient information of the island's flora and fauna was available and as a first step it would be necessary for someone to visit the island and report on its suitability.

2. It now appears that the island holds much of interest to wild life enthusiasts and that in addition to the fur seal and sea lion, at least twenty-five different species of birds breed there.

3. In a recent letter Mr. Strange places emphasis on the reserve status as opposed to sanctuary status, in support of which he writes -

"I have always been an advocate for the 'Reserve' as it offers better protection, not only is the fauna protected, but also the habitat, which is not always the case with 'sanctuaries'. In the case of Bird Island, where there is a vast amount of native flora still in existence, and no evidence to suggest that the island has been stocked, we have a particularly valuable island. As with other tussac islands Bird Island has good feed to offer sheep and cattle, but as the report will show, the terrain is difficult and in many parts dangerous. There are other practical problems, and even with the present method of stocking such islands, the economics of any such venture would appear to be very doubtful."

"For some years now I have attempted to indicate the potential value of such islands, not only from their pure scientific value, but also their economic value in connection with tourism. I am glad to say the latter is now becoming reality. After a somewhat slow start, I have heard from Mr. Lindblad that he has hopes of making four wild life tours to the Falklands this next summer."

He adds that in his opinion Bird Island is the finest example of petrol breeding grounds yet discovered in the Falklands.

4. Honourable Members are invited to study the attached report and advise that an Order be made under the authority of the Wild Animals and Birds Protection Ordinance, 1964, declaring Bird Island to be a Nature Reserve.

COLONIAL SECRETARY

Ref: 1099/III

MJ

WILD LIFE SURVEY OF BIRD ISLAND, WEST FALKLANDS.

Introduction.

Bird Island is a small offshore "tussac" island with an area of approximately 305 acres or 1.232 sq kilometres. The island lies some 4½ kilometres from the mainland of West Falkland in the region of Port Stephens. The approximate position of this island is given as 52.10'S and 60.55'W.

For some years the island has had the attention of the author, this stemming from the knowledge that, as far as is known, it has never been stocked with domestic animals and the apparent abundance of bird life to be found there.

Following the compilation of information on the island from the 1965-66 "Aerial survey of seal stocks in the Falklands", a short visit made by a party from Port Stephens and other notes from individuals who have been in the close vicinity of the island, a more detailed inspection of this island was indicated. Due however, to the difficult position of the island several previous plans to reach the island failed, and it was not until December 1968 that with the valuable assistance of the Air Service a successful landing was made. The following is a report on a survey made of the flora and fauna and the island's physical makeup, information gathered from a 15 day stay on the island.

Past History.

The history of the island is rather obscure, little mention is made of the island in old records. From information handed down over the years and from evidence found on this visit, we do know however, that this small island played a part in the old sealing and penguin oil industries of by-gone days. Fur seal were also taken from the island for some years prior to the island being listed as a Seal Reserve in 1921. Licenses were issued to individuals to take Fur Seal and there is evidence to indicate that "pelagic" sealers also took this species from the island.

In more recent times the island was most likely worked for sea lion by the "Falkland Islands and Dependencies Sealing Company" during its life between 1928-1931 and again in the years 1935-1937. In 1949 the South Atlantic Sealing Company also operated from the factory at Albemarle and are known to have taken seal from the island, apparently both Sea lion and Sea elephant being taken.

Although plenty of evidence was found illustrating the working of the Penguin Oil and Seal Oil Fisheries, there was no indication that the island was used as a land base for such activities. From the very acute shortage of fresh water, it is very doubtful if sealers lived on the island.

General Description.

In describing the island's topographical features, it could be said that the island has three main promontories radiating almost geometrically from a central position. This central point is marked by a small flat plateau some 10 metres above sea level. On the plateau is situated a shallow fresh-water pond, probably formed only in wet seasons.

One of the promontories faces north, the whole area forming a hill with gently inclined sides except for the western edges which fall steeply to the sea. This hill rises to approximately 70 metres above sea level. At the highest point of the hill, the actual dome is cut into by narrow vertical-sided ravines. These cuts are made in such a way as to form small "stacks" each one largely composed of rock with a topping of dense tussac growth. Even with strong

cont/

winds blowing across the island, in the centre of this formation there is perfect stillness.

To the south east the second promontory is largely composed of two dome-shaped hills each rising to some 112 metres, the intermediate valley dividing the area equally. Many of the slopes on the two hills are severe, covered with loose rocky debris. On the coastal sections these slopes are cut off abruptly by steep and often undercut cliff faces, these often rising 40 metres from the sea below. In many parts the cliff is cut away with wide but shallow sea caves.

The remaining and largest promontory consists of a relatively flat area which rises from the central plateau of the island and from the north-west coasts to a height of about 48 metres on the south and south-west coasts. At this point it drops in vertical cliffs to a littoral zone consisting largely of flat rocky shelves, these running into undercuts which in places form sites for small groups of Fur Seal.

Taken in section this area would resemble a gradually inclined wedge. The whole area is covered in tussock grass which varies in height and thickness. On the higher slopes where there is a thin layer of soil the tussock plants are relatively small while those towards the centre of the island are much larger.

A notable feature of this section of the island, are the extensive fissures which cut into the island from the steep cliffs on the south side. These fissures vary in width from between 10 and 12 metres to areas where they are less than 1 metre wide and barely visible through the cover of tussock. In depth it is known that these sections close to the coast go down to sea level, for those sections inland there is no indication of their depth.

The geological structure of the island appears to be the same as the Port Stephens area, a form of soft red sandstone from the Lower Devonian. Other formations were discovered but would have to be identified.

Except for a small boulder beach on the north-east side of the island, a large proportion of the coast is composed of vertical or overhanging cliffs which vary in height between 10 and 48 metres. Generally speaking, the island's coast is a most formidable assortment of rock faces and shelves.

Vegetation.

The waters offshore are subjected to considerable tidal action and possibly as a result little kelp of the Macrocystis spp grows except in the relatively sheltered bay on the north-east side; here this species forms a very dense belt a few metres offshore. In the lesser depths, growing in close proximity to the shore, Durvillaea spp forms a dense matt; again this species is largely restricted to the north-east shores.

Tussock grass Poa flabellata is prolific over the entire island except for a few small areas in varied localities. The form in which the tussock grows also varies from area to area, probably influenced by the different species of fauna on the island, etc. In those areas frequented by Sea Lion the tussock forms into a plant with a tall base with the growing point at the apex, the area between the bogs is clear of vegetation and smoothed off by the passage of soil. In other regions the tussock is deep with an almost impenetrable mass of interwoven leaves. Of particular interest is the extensive area of tussock growing over the north-east promontory. In this area vast numbers of Prions (Firebird) Pachyptila belcheri nest, forming a maze of underground nesting chambers. In this area the ground is

cont/

spongy with loose earth mingling with the growing crown of the tussock. So great is the inter-cultivation by these birds that the tussock does not appear to form a base. This area of tussock was noted as being the richest in growth yet observed in the Islands.

Although the slopes on which this tussock grows are extremely steep, and the soil between the plants deep and loose it was of interest to note that there were no signs of erosion; this it is considered had a great deal to do with the form in which the plant is growing, which in turn can only be attributed to the large numbers of Prion supporting the rich growth.

In those small areas devoid of tussock grass the now not so common Blue grass Poa antarctica was found growing with Native Bent Agrostis maritima. Other plants discovered were Native sorrel Rumex maritimus Sea stonecrop Utricularia and Galery.

Note. (Where mention is made of small areas devoid of tussock grass, this does not include those areas taken up by the rookeries of Black-browed albatross and Rockhopper penguins, which rarely if ever support any form of vegetation on the actual site)

Bird and Animal Life.

Although collections were made of some smaller forms of animal life, only the larger animals will be discussed in this report.

Seal. Three species were found on the island, two of these are known to breed, namely the Fur Seal Arctocephalus australis and Sea Lion Otaria byronia. The third species Sea elephant Mirounga leonina was observed in very small numbers but it is very doubtful if conditions are suitable for breeding of this species.

Sea Lion Otaria byronia. Less than three hundred of these seal were found on the island, these in groups of between 20 and 40 animals. Several regions were discovered where it is most likely that the animals once bred; these areas were denoted by the unusually large numbers of skeletons lying over the bare ground.

Fur Seal. Arctocephalus australis. In some cases it was possible to reach or view at close quarters the small breeding grounds of this species. In others sound had to be relied upon to estimate numbers. However in the case of all breeding groups they were restricted to very small shelves of rock with only 5 or 6 animals. The total number of this species was estimated to be no more than 200 animals, 25 to 30 pups were seen or estimated from the method mentioned. This figure compares very well with the aerial census carried out in 1965-66 and would also appear to meet with Law's survey made some years previously when six pups were counted. This count was made from a vessel moving fairly close inshore.

Note. (In the case of those seal estimated by sound, this was restricted to a small group breeding at the bottom of one of the fissures described earlier in the report.)

Bird Life. In all thirty-two different species were observed on the island which is a very good percentage of the total birds to be found in the Falkland Islands. Of these thirty two, twenty five were discovered breeding with a possible three others. It is not proposed to list all species but mention will be made of those of special interest:-

Johann Rock Phalacrocorax australis. Some three or four pairs were discovered breeding on the island, a figure much lower than was originally thought. It is possible however that this low figure

cont/

is due to difficulty in observing the birds during daylight hours. Feeding largely on petrels the birds have developed semi-nocturnal habits which in turn made observations difficult.

Falkland Diving petrel Pelecyanoides urinatrix berard. This undoubtedly was one of the most important finds on the island. This small burrowing petrel was found in large numbers over much of the island. From previous investigations in many areas of the Falklands no colonies of equal size have yet been discovered.

Thin-billed prion. Pachyptila belcheri. This species was also very common, nesting in most areas of the island. With the discovery of a new race of Prion on Beauchene Island by the author in 1967 there were some hopes of finding the same species on Bird Island; this is still a very strong probability although on this visit nothing was discovered.

Wilson's Petrel. Oceanites oceanicus. This species although common was perhaps not as prolific as the two former ground nesting petrels mentioned. However the island can be recorded as being an important breeding ground for this species.

Black-browed albatross and Rockhopper penguins were found in fairly large numbers, but without doubt the island's importance lies in the colonies of ground nesting petrels to be found there.

Summary.

The island was discovered to be extremely rich in bird life, in particular those species which frequent the island at night such as petrel species. Many of the other species, Black-browed albatross, Rockhopper penguins, and Johnny Rooks thought to be in large numbers were perhaps not as prolific as first expected.

From the richness of native plant life, the belief that the island has never been stocked is strongly supported.

Seal stocks were low; comparing favourably with counts made on previous aerial surveys over the island. Numbers of Fur seal expected to be found in larger numbers appear to have maintained a fairly even level for some years.

The island's terrain was found to be fairly difficult to traverse with hidden dangers in the form of narrow fissures which intercut the main west promontory.

Generally the island is a very fine example of an offshore tussac island featuring ground nesting sea birds living in perfect harmony with the natural vegetation of the area.

(Sgd.) I.J. Strange.
Port Stanley
Falkland Islands.

~~107~~ 76A.C.S.

At a recent meeting Exco. decided that Bird Island should be made a Nature Reserve under the Wild Animals & Birds Protection Ordinance.

2 I assume (but am open to advice on the subject) that there are no owners to be consulted. If this is correct may R.P.C. be asked to draft the necessary Order, after which perhaps you, or Mr. Col. Sec. on behalf, can draft the coming memo. under which the Order can be put to the next Exco. meeting.

M/S

R.S.C.

~~107~~ 77
77

Bird Is. is Crown property & it will not be necessary to approach anyone on the subject.

Wd. you pl. prepare the necessary draft legislation

Col. Sec.

78

J. B. 69

Draft O. i. C. submitted pl.

should not this matter now be moved to 2331.

J.P.B.

8. VIII. 69.

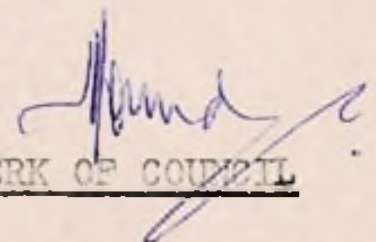
EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 7/69 OF EXECUTIVE

COUNCIL HELD ON 15th, 16th, 17th JULY, 1969.

2331 15. NATURE RESERVES - BIRD ISLAND (Memo 46/69)

Arising from an earlier proposal to declare Bird Island a Nature Reserve, Mr. Ian Strange had carried out a recent survey of the island and submitted his report.

Council studied the report and advised that an order be made under the authority of the Wild Animals and Birds Protection Ordinance declaring Bird Island to be a Nature Reserve.


CLERK OF COUNCIL

NATURE RESERVES ORDINANCE 1964

(No. 8 of 1964)

ORDER

(under section 3 of the Ordinance.)

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Nature Reserves Ordinance 1964, the Acting Governor in Council has made the following Order -

Citation.

1. This Order may be cited as the Nature Reserve (Bird Island) Order 1969.

Declaration of
Nature Reserve.

2. Bird Island, which is adjacent to Stephens Peak, West Falkland, is hereby declared to be a nature reserve for the purpose of protecting the indigenous flora and fauna thereon and for providing, under suitable conditions and control, special opportunities for the study of and research into matters relevant thereto.

Made by the Acting Governor in Council this day of 1969.

Clerk of Councils.

21st July,

69

I am asked to write to you to express the appreciation and thanks of Government for all the hard work which went into your excellent report on Bird Island. The report itself, together with the plan and photographs which accompanied it was of material help in advising Government to reach the conclusion (which I feel sure will be welcome to you) that Bird Island should be declared a Nature Reserve, under the terms of the Wild Animals and Birds Protection Ordinance as recommended by you.

(H. L. Bound)
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

I. J. Strange, Esq.,
Port Stanley.

Ver.

21st July

69

Registrar General.

Assistant Colonial Secretary

Nature Reserve - Bird Island.

At a recent meeting of Executive Council it was decided to declare Bird Island a nature reserve under the terms of the Wild Animals and Birds Protection Ordinance. I should be grateful if you would draft the necessary legislation and pass it to this office for the necessary action.

The file reference is 2331 and you may wish to call for this.

(H. L. Bound)
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Issued today 80.
25/8/69

CONFIDENTIAL

25th August, 1969.

No 74/69.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

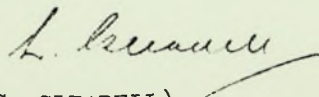
Nature Reserve - Bird Island

Memorandum by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

Previous Reference: Meeting No. 7/69 Minute 15.

At the meeting of Council held on 15th July it was agreed that Bird Island be declared a Nature Reserve under the authority of the Wild Animals and Birds Protection Ordinance. The attached draft legislation is designed to make formal provision for this.

Council is invited to advise that the Order be made.



(L.C. GLEADELL)
ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY

Ref: 2331

ARA.

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT

NATURE RESERVES ORDINANCE 1964.

(No. 8 of 1964)

ORDER

(under section 3 of the Ordinance).

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Nature Reserves Ordinance 1964, the Acting Governor in Council has made the following Order -

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2. Bird Island, which is adjacent to Stephens Peak, West Falkland, is hereby declared to be a nature reserve for the purpose of protecting the indigenous flora and fauna thereon and for providing, under suitable conditions and control, special opportunities for the study of and research into matters relevant thereto.

Made by the Acting Governor in Council this
day of 1969.

Clerk of Councils.

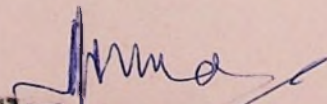
Ref: 2331.

ARA.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 11/69 OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD
ON 2ND & 3RD SEPTEMBER 1969.

2331 7. NATURE RESERVE: BIRD ISLAND. (Memo 7/9/69)

Council advised that the Nature Reserve (Bird Island)
Order, 1969, be made.


Clerk of Council.

New Reader.

5th September, 1969.

File Reference: 2331.

BIRD ISLAND TO BE DECLARED A NATURE RESERVE.

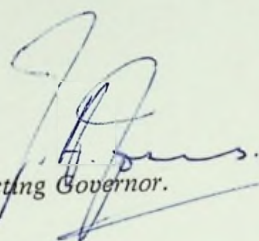
Continuing the policy of protecting our wild life, yet another island is to be added to the list of protected areas. This time it is Bird Island, a small tussac island lying off the south coast of Port Stephens. Bird Island is the breeding ground of at least twenty five different species of birds and is one of the few remaining breeding grounds of the fur seal. There would appear to be no evidence to suggest that the island has been stocked at any time and thus it has a particularly valuable collection of native flora.

This is the fourth such island to be declared a nature reserve - the others being Kidney Island, Couchon Island, and Flat Jason. In addition we have some fifteen other areas known as wild animal and bird sanctuaries.

Nature Reserves Ordinance 1964.
(No. 8 of 1964)

ORDER
(under section 3 of the Ordinance)

No. 4 of 1969.

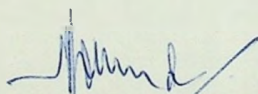

Acting Governor.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Nature Reserves Ordinance 1964, the Acting Governor in Council has made the following Order —

1. This Order may be cited as the Nature Reserve (Bird Island) Order 1969. Citation.

2. Bird Island, which is adjacent to Stephens Peak, West Falkland, is hereby declared to be a nature reserve for the purpose of protecting the indigenous flora and fauna thereon and for providing, under suitable conditions and control, special opportunities for the study of and research into matters relevant thereto. Declaration of Nature Reserve.

Made by the Acting Governor in Council this 2nd day of September 1969.


Clerk of the Executive Council.

Ref. 2331.

C.S.

Interesting. I see Mr Thompson's letter to Mr Smith of 26.9.68 states that "It will be agreed in any (Gazette) notice published that (2) your right to license for penguin eggs will be suspended". In fact the relevant Order does not mention any such agreement: nor does the notice published in the Gazette (No 12, Vol. LXXII, p 119, of 9 October 1968).

2 Provided it is confirmed by R.P.C. that the term 'a Deputy Collector of Customs' (which post does not exist) mentioned in section 11 of Ordinance No. 15 of 1964 cannot be interpreted to mean the Collector of Customs (which post does exist) - & I would think that, even on a reasonably strict interpretation of sec. 2 of Cap. 16 it does mean the Collector - I would agree that the authority to grant a license lies with the Governor. However I would expect R.P.C.'s view to be that on a normal interpretation of the law the power lies with the Collector of Customs unless, & upon this point also R.C. will be able to advise, some 'Other officer' has been appointed by the Governor for the purpose.

3 But - and again R.P.C.'s advice will be helpful - Mr O. Panth's application cannot be entertained by the Governor, the Collector of Customs or any other duly appointed official because it is out of time. Under regulation 3(6) of the Regulations published in Gazette No. 5, Vol. LXXIV, of the 1st of May, 1965, (Regulations No. 4 of 1964) all applications for licenses to take penguin eggs must reach the Superintendent of Police or other officer authorized under the Ordinance by the 1st of October. (It is odd that Ordinance No. 15 of 1964, sec. 11, refers to Agriculture Officer, Collector of Customs or other duly appointed officer as the licensing authority, whereas the Regulations refer to a Secretary for an application to reach the Superintendent of Police or other duly authorized officer. ? Perhaps the Superintendent of Police (an office which does not exist) has been the 'Other officer' duly authorized to issue licenses to take penguin eggs.)

4 However that may be, today is the 15th of October & the law forbids a license to take penguin eggs to be issued after the 1st of October.

11/10

T.E.,

Mr. O. Smith the Manager of Johnson's Harbour has applied for a licence to take

1000 Gentoo Penguin eggs

1000 Rockhopper Penguin eggs

from the Volunteer + Cross Bay Sanctuary (please see Order 11/68 at P 14 of the 1969 Gazette).

In a letter dated 26/9/68 Mr Thompson wrote that his right to licence for penguin eggs will be respected.

The authority to grant a licence seems to rest with the Governor (Section 11 of Ordinances No 15 of 1964).

The fee is 5/- per 1000.

Will T.E. approve the issue of the licence on payment of the fee of 10/- please?

L.G.
15/10/69

Bol. Dec.,

1. The Wild Animals and Birds Protection Ordinance 1964 offers no protection of any right otherwise vested in the owner or occupier of the land.
2. At the time of the enactment of the W. A. B. P. Ordinance the Agricultural Officer was the officer who issued licences for the collection of penguins' eggs in the Colony and the Deputy Collector of Customs, South Georgia, issued and, I believe, still issues similar licences in the Dependency of South Georgia.
3. "Deputy Collector of Customs" does not include "Collector of Customs" but "Collector of Customs" includes "Deputy Collector of Customs" sec 2 Cap 16.
4. In the absence of an Agricultural Officer or a Deputy Collector of Customs in the Colony, "other officer" is the person who may grant licences and I assume the O. i. C. Police is the "other officer" appointed by the Governor.
5. The office of Superintendent of Police was created on the 15th Dec 1962 and expired about September 1965.
6. The fact that the Agricultural Officer resigned (an office which has not since been filled) in Oct. or Nov. 1964, I think, accounts for the insertion of "the Superintendent of Police" in the Penguin and Albatross Regulations 1964,

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which were made on the 30th Dec. 1964.
7. The Regulations are mandatory on this point - applications for licences to take penguins' eggs must be received not later than the 1st October. In any case Gentoo penguins' eggs will now be "bad".

8P.B.
20.5.69.

A.C.S. 89

via

C.T.

Recalling pp. 85-6 (with which there is now associated) R.S.'s advice at pp. 87-8¹ he discussed & it was agreed that as Mr Smith's original oral application was made in time the licence could issue on payment of the prescribed fee. This in fact occurred?

2. For the future the solution appears to be for this file to be B.L. annually on, say, 1 September, so as to enable C.T. Pöhl, who is the proper authority, to issue a licence in good time. On return of file I will take necessary steps to arrange accordingly.

J
16/2/10

90

C.S.

1. Yes.
2. Noted.

L.C.
21/10/69

16th October 1969.

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COLONY

Legislation.

Enclosed ~~herewith~~ are six copies of Order No 4 of
1969.

GOVERNOR.

ARA.

WILD ANIMAL AND BIRD SANCTUARIES

The Twins near Carcass Island	Order 2/64
Low Island near Carcass Island	Order 3/64
Beauchene Island	Order 4/64
Middle Island, King George Bay	Order 4/66 19.7.66
Jason Island Group -	
Elephant Jason Is. & adjacent islets	} Order 3/66 12.8.66
South Jason Is. & adjacent islets	
North Fur Islands	
South Fur Islands	
Jason East Cay & adjacent islets	
Jason West Cay	
The Fridays	
White Rock & Seal Rocks	
Volunteer Point	Order 11/68 29.11.68
Cow Bay	Order 11/68 29.11.68
Part of Cape Dolphin	Order 12/68 30.12.68
Bleaker Island North	Order 3/70 5.6.70

NATURE RESERVES

Kidney Island	Order 1/64 23.10.64
Cochon Island	Order 1/64 23.10.64
Flat Jason Island	Order 2/66 10.5.66
Bird Island	Order 4/69 2.9.69
Jason Island Group	Order 10/73 24.10.73

21st December 1970