

C.S.

SCIENTIFIC.

(Penguins)

NAT/PEN/1 # 13

1932.

No. 232/32.

Ag. Govt. Naturalist.

SUBJECT.

1932.

23rd July.

Previous Paper.

PENGUIN POPULATION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS:-

Suggested census of.

MINUTES.

(1) Draft Census form.

2-4 Circular letter to all Camp Managers. 29/9/32.

Acting Govt. Nat.

Please see.

[Signature]
12. 10. 32.

Hon. Col. Secy.

Thank you, Sir.

Ag. Govt. Nat.
21. 10. 32.

Subsequent Paper.

RA
21/10/32

Letter from Mr. W. H. Luxton, of 24/10/32.

5.

~~6.4.~~

P. G. M. 2

2. 11. 32

Letter from manager, Hill Cove 1/11/32 6.
Letter from manager, San Carlos, 1/11/32 7-8.
Letter from manager, Port Stephens, 2/11/32 9-10.
" " " Port Bay, West, 7/11/32 11.
" " " New Island, 31/10/32 12-13.
Return from Douglas Station, 11/32. 14.

G. S. Subthal. These replies are

interesting.

P. G. M. 2

11. 11. 32.

Hon C. S.

very interesting

J. G. G.

14. 11. 32

Return from North Arm, E. Falkland. 8/11/32. 15.

Return from Port San Carlos. November 1932 16.

✓ P. G. M. 2

14. 11. 32.

P. H.

14/11/32

17-19 Letter from Mr. H. Clement 7/11/32
 20-21 Report - Port. Howard Str 5/11/32
 22-23 " " 9/12/32

Ag. for! Nat.

To you, please.

W. B. B.

18. 12. 32.

Hon. Col. Secy:

Thank you. Have tabulated returns so far as received; the present results promise interesting facts. As returns may not be received for some of the off-shore beds, I questioned Mr Bundes on the subject & attach his opinions. A sandstone formation is not attractive to penguins, especially the Rockhopper.

Alf Bennett
 17. 12. 32

G.E. Schell for "formation."

W. B. B.

17. 12. 32.

24.

Hon @ S.
 very interesting
 G.O.G.
 19-12-32

b.f. 10. 1. 33.
Jan 29. 12. 32.

b.f. 10. 3. 33.
Jan 10. 1. 33.

Extract of letter from Manager,
 Port San Carlos. 9/11/32 (18)

b.f. 10. 3. 33.
Jan 25. 1. 33.
 26.

Report from Carcass Island,

b.f. 10. 3. 33.
Jan 6. 2. 33.
 (17)

Report from Spring Point

b.f. 10. 3. 33.
Jan 13. 2. 33.

C.S.O. No. 207/32

Inside Minute Paper.

Sheet No. 2

Ag. fort. let.

Referred further

to you, please.

Truitt

10. 3. 33

Hon: Col. Sany:

Thank you, the figures are filed.
I attach a list of places yet to be
reported upon

agreed
of Nat
10.3.33

Ag. fort. let.

Can you not deduce

any useful conclusions from the

data actually available ? 1

scarcely think that we can

trouble from merger further &

this connection.

J. M. M.

14. 3. 33.

Hon. Col. Secy:

When finished with the present Customs
Blue-book will analyse figures in hand
+ submit results.

Ag. Secy
as Nat.
14. 3. 33

G. F. 11. 4. 33.

J. M. M. 14. 3. 33.

Hon. Col. Secy:

Attached information gleaned from various
sources to fill gaps, and analysis of figures
obtained + conclusions arrived at.

Ag. Secy
29. 3. 33
as Nat.

Report by Ag. Secy. 29. 3. 33

30/29
34/31

C.S.O. No. 232/32

Inside Minute Paper.

Sheet No. 3

G. L.

Sub that. Certainly

tone of the ^{perquin} ~~perquin~~ species

seems in danger of extinction.

I did not know, however, that

there was "an immense amount of

" fur seal " any where in the

Colony.

1/2

30. 3. 33

Hon C. S.

Very interesting particulars
in the matter of "fur seal"

JOS

30. 3. 33

Ag. for let.

Please see

Index
3

31. 3. 33

Hon: Col: Secy:

Text corrected. The "immense" amount of "fur seal" was an overstatement when applied to fur seal alone, still, three of the four known rookeries (including the largest) are situated in the area referred to.

There is always a possibility of finding a good quality of guano or even phosphatic Rock where very large penguin rookeries have, for long, existed. As the outer fassons contain large colonies, & are also situated in a much drier zone than Stanley, a survey of these islands might bear results.

Re my minute of 17.12.32. In so far as I know there is not a single Rock-hopper rookery on the Devonian Sandstone, but, most of this formation is not on the coast. The Laponian sandstones are similarly not occupied by this penguin although the formation reaches the coast. The possible one exception, is a Rocky rookery on Bleaker Island, but, from enquiries, even this spot seems to be a fragment of Devonian quartzite & Tillite

Ag Permitt
1. 4. 33
as not.

Y. P.

Submitted. A

detailed survey of these
outlying islands (the Japanese
in particular) would be of
great interest at present,
of value, both scientific and
commercial.

It is a survey on
which the "William Scoresby"
and staff might be well

employed, if the vessel were to

be re-commissioned.

O'Brien I fear is

present circumstances the expense,

coupled with the difficulties of

communication, make such a survey

barely practicable.

Jul
2

1. 4. 33.

Hon C. S.

I think a survey, in
present circumstances, not
practicable.

JOS
3. 4. 33

Ag. for. lab.

To see

J. M. M.

3. 4. 33.

Hon. Col: Secy:

Thank you.

Ag Bennett

4.4.33

Mynd

4.4.33

(35)

Report - Saunders Island 1903.

b. f. when
ag. Naturalist
reminiscent
7.6.33

lf. 4/11/33.

lf. 8/6/33.

(36)

Minute from H.C. The Ag. Governor 18/10/33

ag. Govt. Naturalist.

Harbour Master.

No note for necessary
action.

lf. 18/10/33

Hon: Col: Secy:

Noted. Please see minute inadvertently written

ag Bennett on back of (36 Red)

21.10.33

Hon Col Secretary.

Arrangements will be made for the G. R. "Penguin" to be at the disposal of Mr Bennett when required.

Ans'd
for Harbour Mstr.

20. x. 33.

2/6.

Submitted for information
permits to take up to 12,000
eggs from Kidney Islands
have already been issued.

Hon. Col. Sec.

Thank you. I do not consider
that the hawks will do any
harm as in any case persons
holding permits seldom let the
hawks authorised.

MCH

25. 10. 33.

Ag. Govt. Naturalist,

To see

C. J. 23/10/33.

Hon Col Secy

Minute on visit to Sparrow Cove attached.

Seen. Thank you.

C.S.O. No. 232/32

Inside Minute Paper.

Sheet No. 5.

Yk.

Submitted.

C. J. J. J.

26/10/33

Hon. Col. Sec.

Thank you. Rookery should
be visited again next week
as suggested by Mr. Bennett.

McH

27. 10. 33.

Ag. Govt. Naturalist,
Harbour Master

10. note and arrange
accordingly.

C. J. J. J.

28/10/33

Hon. Sec. Secretary.

Arrangements will be made
for the 'Penguin' to be at the disposal of Mr
Bennett, at the first opportunity.

C. J. J. J.
for Harbour Master

31. 10. 33.

Hon. Col. Secy

Report herewith.

Ag Bennett
13/11/33 ag Nat

Minute from the Acting Govt. Naturalist. of 10/11/33. 38.

YK.

Submitted.

C. J. D.
for C. S.
13/11/33.

Hon. Col. Secy.

This is satisfactory. Thank you.

McK.

14. XI. 33.

Ag. Govt. Naturalist.

to see.

J. D.
for C. S.
14/11/33

Hon. Col. Secy;

Seen. Thank you.

Ag Bennett
ag Nat
15.11.33

L.A.
15/11/33

Peru Census Return 15/3/35. (29)

Govt. Naturalist

To see.

MCH

Ch.

2. 4. 35

Hon. Col. Secy:

Seen, thank you. Mr. Rickett's
return agrees very badly with the
previous estimate on (Red 29).

A. J. Bennett

as Nat

3/4/35

P.A.

3/4/35

Ag. Govt. Naturalist,

It is understood that Mr.
B. B. Roberts of the R. of Penola
desires certain information regarding
the Penguin Census. Will you
kindly supply such particulars as he
requires.

A. J. Bennett
30/3/36

Hon. Col. Secy:

Mr B.B. Roberts has studied
some of the figures here, & for the present,
has finished

A. J. Bennett
as Nat

11. 4. 36

P.A.
11/4/36

Extract of letter from B. B. Roberts, R. Y. Penola of 9/4/36. (40)
Copy of letter sent to Mr. B. B. Roberts, of 22/4/36. (41)

Ag. Govt. Naturalist,

To note.

C. S. J. J.
22/4/36.

P.A.
22/4/36

Mr. Col. Secy:

Thank you notes.

Ag. Nat.
23.4.36

P.A.
23/4/36

Minute from Ag. Govt. Naturalist
of 7/11/36.

(42)

T.E. Submitted.

Recd
9/11/37

Hon. C.S.

Please thank Mr. Bennett
for his report. The Agric. Adviser
might see part dealing with
tussock.

MCH

10. XI. 37

Minute to Ag. Government Naturalist 10/11/37. Ht.

— — — Agricultural Adviser 10/11/37. Ht.

P.A.
13/11/37

Minute from ag. adviser of 4/1/38. (45)

Ag. Gov. Naturalist.

To note.

McH
C.S.
11.1.38

Hon. Col. Secy.

Notes, thank you

agrs
ag. Nat:
11.1.38

46-48.

letter from Mr. A. G. Bennett of 8.7.38.

Agri: Adviser: 49

During the season
would it be possible for
an officer of your Dept:
to visit the workers
when visiting the Tassart
Islands. Mr. Bennett will
be leaving the Colony
at any early date and
will not be available.

McH
C.S.

11.7.38

Hon. Col. Sec. 50

Yes an officer of the
Agricultural Department will be
available

Dean
A.A. 16/7/38

51

The Ag. Naturalist.

To note.

mem
C.L.

15.7.58

Hon Col: Secy: 52

Thank you, noted.

agv
ag Nat
19.7.58

P.A.
19/7/58

Minute from Ag. Officer of 25. 11. 49.

53

ACS.

54

This should be filed in the file on reports from
Agric. Officer - the part enclosed in square
brackets should be copied to this file.

Copy done 0797/A at 56

11/12/49

agv
29/12/49

41

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

29th September, 1932.

CIRCULAR

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to inform you that it is desired to form an estimate of the Penguin population of the Colony and that with this object in view it is proposed to hold a Penguin census.

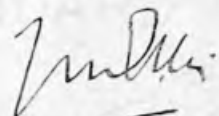
2. I am to say that His Excellency would be grateful for your kind co-operation in this matter and I am to ask that you will be good enough to furnish me with the information desired under the several heads set out in the enclosure in this letter.

3. I am to add that it is realized that the information furnished can be only of an approximate accuracy.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Colonial Secretary.

Form in duplicate.
One copy only to be returned.

FALELAND ISLANDS.

Penguin Census.

STATION _____

DATE _____

Please give the position of every penguin rookery, according to species, on your station including islands. Also please give name of rookery (if any), locality on map (nearest settlement, cape or other landmark and distance away), approximate number of nests, and state whether eggs are taken from it for domestic use and also whether the rookery appears to be increasing or diminishing in size :
thus

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NAME OF ROOKERY</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NESTS</u>	<u>WHETHER EGGS ARE TAKEN</u>	<u>WHETHER ANY ALTERATION IN SIZE NOTICED</u>
Gentoo	Sparrow Cove	North Shore of Port William at Rabbit Cove.	3,000	No	Yes : is diminishing.
Rock- hopper	Mount Low	South Shore of Berkeley Sound beneath Mount Low	80,000	Yes	No apparent change.

SPECIES.

NAME OF
ROOKERY

LOCALITY

APPROXIMATE
NUMBER OF
NESTS.

WHETHER EGGS
ARE TAKEN

WHETHER ANY
ALTERATION
IN SIZE
NOTICED.

KING PENGUINS

Please give particulars of any King Penguins seen during the last year : were they known to nest?

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Penguin Census.

Date.

Station.

Please give the position of every penguin rookery on land or adjacent islands occupied by, or forming part of the station, giving the name of the rookery, (where there is one) and its compass position and distance from named spot on the chart. Also indicate which rookeries are used as a source of domestic supply of eggs.

Gentoo. Give each rookery & roughly the number of nests in each:-

Rock-hopper. Give each rookery, and, roughly the number of nests in each:-

Give ~~any~~ particulars of any King Penguins seen within the last year; did they nest? Kindly state the increase or decrease of any rookery within the last ten years.

232/32

5

The Chartres

West Falklands

Oct 24th 1932

Sir

In reference to your letter of September 29th I beg to state
we have no Penguin Rockery's on this STATION.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

H. V. Vesey

6

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Penguin Census.

STATION

Hill Cove

DATE

November 1st 1982

Please give the position of every penguin rookery, according to species, on your station including islands. Also please give name of rookery (if any), locality on map (nearest settlement, cape or other landmark and distance away), approximate number of nests, and state whether eggs are taken from it for domestic use and also whether the rookery appears to be increasing or diminishing in size : thus

Nil.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NAME OF ROOKERY</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NESTS</u>	<u>WHETHER EGGS ARE TAKEN</u>	<u>WHETHER ANY ALTERATION IN SIZE NOTICED</u>
Gentoo	Sparrow Cove	North Shore of Port William at Rabbit Cove	3,000	No	Yes : is diminishing.
Rock- hopper	Mount Low	South Shore of Berkeley Sound beneath Mount Low	50,000	Yes	No apparent change.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NAME OF ROOKERY</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NESTS</u>	<u>WHETHER EGGS ARE TAKEN</u>	<u>WHETHER ANY ALTERATION IN SIZE NOTICED.</u>
Gentoo.	---	3 Miles (approx) West of Port Sussex entrance. North Shore.	300/350.	Not in recent years.	No apparent change in last 10 years

The above is the only Rookery on this Station.

For and on behalf of

MESSRS. GEORGE BONNER

J. P. Bonner. Manager.

- 1 NOV 1932

KING PENGUINS

Please give particulars of any King Penguins seen during the last year : were they known to nest ?

None seen.

For and on behalf of

MESSRS. GEORGE BONNER

J. P. Bonner. Manager.

(P)

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office.

Port Stanley.

1st Novr. 1932.

Sir,

With reference to your circular letter of the 29th Sept. last re Penguin Census, I have the honour to enclose herewith one Form as requested.

There is only the one Rookery on this Station, and it has decreased by approximately 40% in the last 20 years to my Father's knowledge. It was in view of the paucity of birds that we forbade the taking of eggs about 5 years ago, but the Rookery has not increased in size since, nor decreased.

It is my opinion that the previous decrease was due to the Rookery being robbed until too late in the Season for the birds to hatch, and that the taking of eggs until the middle of this month (no later) does no harm whatever to the birds, in fact has the effect of tending to increase their numbers.

I would therefore suggest that it might be advisable to fix a certain period for the collection of Penguin eggs.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

For and on behalf of

MESSRS. GEORGE BONNER

 Manager.

STATION, PORT STEPHENS.

DATE, 2nd November, 1932.

<u>SPECIES.</u>	<u>NAME OF ROOKERY</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NESTS</u>	<u>WHETHER EGGS ARE TAKEN</u>	<u>WHETHER ANY ALTERATION IN SIZE NOTICED.</u>
GENTOO.	Wood Cove.	Sth Shore Stephens Pk.	1,000.	Yes, a few from 1 Rky.	Increasing.
"	Pea Point	Nth Shore Pt Stephens Rineon.	800.	Very few	Increasing.
"	Albamarle.	S.W. Shore West Arm.	1,800.	No.	No apparent change.
"	Lucas Point.	Nth end Lucas Bay.	400.	No.	Increasing.
"	Port Edgar.	South Head Pt Edgar Ridge.	700.	A few.	Increasing.
"	Cape Orford.	E. Shore Reef Hbr.	300.	No.	Increasing.
"	Dyke Island.	White Point.	300.	No.	Increasing.
"					
ROCK-HOPPER.	Stephens Peak.	Sth side opposite Bird Island.	2,000	No.	Increasing.

KING PENGUINS

Please give particulars of any King Penguins seen during the last year : were they known to nest ?

The only one seen here to my knowledge since 1909, was one caught by the American Naturalist Mr. Brookes in 1914. at Wood Cove amongst the Gentoo's. They were never known to nest here to my knowledge.

Port Stephens Station

West Falkland Islands.

2nd November, 1932.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge your Circular letter of 29th September, 1932. In re to the Penguin Census.

Herewith enclose one copy of the Forms sent, which I have filled in approximately as requested.

A few years ago, on most of the Rookeries here, the birds decreased very much, but this last 2 years they are increasing again.

In re to taking eggs, I only allow one man to gather them, and he is given strict instructions only to take them from the one rookery.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. Robertson

The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley.

~~12~~
11
Fox Bay. W.
Nov. 7th / 32

To,
Honble Colonial Secretary
Stanley.

Sir,

With reference to your letter Sept. 29th.
regarding Penguin Rookery on this Station.
I am sorry but I am unable to give
you any assistance on this matter,
as we have no rookery here.

I am

Sir,

Your obedient servant.
Michael Dobson.

New Island

Oct 31st 1932

(12)

<u>SPECIES.</u>	<u>NAME OF ROOKERY</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NESTS</u>	<u>WHETHER EGGS ARE TAKEN</u>	<u>WHETHER ANY ALTERATION IN SIZE NOTICED.</u>
Gentoo	Ship Harbour	East shore	1000	Yes	Increasing
Gentoo	North Harbour	North shore	1000	no	Diminishing
Gentoo	Bald Point	North West shore	500	no	no apparent change
Rock Hopper	Home Rookery	West shore	10,000-000	Yes	Increasing
Rock Hopper	Lands End Rookery	West shore	20,000	no	no apparent change
Rock Hopper	North Harbour	West shore	30,000	no	no apparent change
Rock Hopper	North West Point	North shore	20,000	no	no apparent change
Rock Hopper	North Island	North Island	50,000	no	no apparent change

KING PENGUINS.

Please give particulars of any King Penguins seen during the last year : were they known to nest. ?

there have been no King Penguins
seen here for over 30 Years

George Scott

13
Oct 31st 1932

New Island
West Falklands

To

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary

Dear Sir

I have filled in the Penguin Papers as well as I can but it is a job to say anyway near the number of birds there are on the Rookerys but I have done my best.

The seals kill and eat a great number of them.

Also the seagulls take thousands of Eggs every season

The Gentoo Penguins seem to do a lot of good to the camp

They shift about from place to place and wherever they have been the grass grows much better

I remain

Yours obedient servant
George Scott

Douglas Station

Nov 1932. (14)

SPECIES	NAME OF ROOKERY	LOCALITY	APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NESTS	WHETHER EGGS ARE TAKEN	WHETHER ANY ALTERATION IN SIZE NOTICED.
Gentoo	Lorenzo	North End of Lorenzo Lagoon on sand hills	200	yes	Increasing
Jackass	No Name	Between North End of Lorenzo Lagoon and Salt Lagoon.	300	no	About the same.
Jackass	No Name	Bobs Islands Salvador Water	150	no	No change.
Jackass	No Name	Green Island Salvador Water	75	no	Yes is diminishing

KING PENGUINS

Please give particulars of any King Penguins seen during the last year : were they known to nest ?

Station North Arm

Date Nov 8th/32.

(15)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NAME OF ROBERT</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NESTS</u>	<u>WHETHER EGGS ARE TAKEN</u>	<u>WHETHER ANY ALTERATION IN CIRCUMSTANCES</u>
Gentoo	Port King.	On the west shore, about 1 mile south of "West Cliff Point."	500	Yes	No apparent change.
Gentoo	Bull Point.	On the east side of Bull Cove.	2400	Yes	Seems to be slightly smaller.

KING PENGUINS.

Please give particulars of any King Penguins seen during the last year : were they known to nest ?

A "king penguin" is said to have been seen at Bull Point 2 or 3 months ago; but if one was there, the bird did not stay as it has not been seen since.

B. Elliott

Manager. North Arm.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NAME OF ROOKERY</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NESTS.</u>	<u>WHETHER EGGS ARE TAKEN</u>	<u>WHETHER ANY ALTERATION IN SIZE NOTICED.</u>
Gentoo	There are five rookeries in Cape Dolphin totalling approximately-		4000	Yes	No.
Gentoo	Little Creek Cape Dolphin		1000	Yes	Getting bigger.
Gentoo	Elephant Beach		800	Yes	No.
Gentoo	Smiley's Village <i>N^e Middle Point</i>		600	Yes	No.
Gentoo	Picos Section 37		500	Yes	No.
Gentoo	Race Point		1000	Yes	Getting bigger.
Rockhopper	Fanning's Head		500	No	No.

Jackass Penguins are common along the North shore of Cape Dolphin and on the two tussock islands (Fanning's Islands) in Port San Carlos

KING PENGUINS. Please give particulars of any King Penguins seen during the last year : were they known to nest ?

Mr. Keith Cameron.

For PORT SAN CARLOS LTD.

Walker Creek

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<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NAME OF ROOKERY</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NESTS.</u>	<u>WHETHER EGGS ARE TAKEN</u>	<u>WHETHER ANY ALTERATION IN SIZE NOTICED.</u>
Gentoo	Seal Cove	Seal Cove Rincon Inside Motley Island	832	Yes	Yes is Diminishing

KING PENGUINS

Please give particulars of any King Penguins seen during the last year : were they known to nest?

No king birds been seen for years and never known to nest

Roy Cove Station November 21st 1932.
Penguin Census

Species	Name of Rookery	Locality	Approximate Number of Eggs	Whether Eggs are taken	whether any alteration in size noticed	Nearby Settlement
Gentoo	Grave Cove	Hope Harbour South side	1500 ¹⁷⁵⁰	300	gradually increasing	Dunbar.
Gentoo	Hope Point	Hope Harbour North side	1400 ⁵⁰⁰	350	gradually increasing	Dunbar
Gentoo	Whaler Bay	Whaler Bay	850 ⁴⁰⁰	50	Increasing	Roy Cove
Rock-hopper	Deaths Head	East of Deaths Head South Coast	9000 ¹¹⁵⁰⁰	No Eggs taken	Increasing	Dunbar
Rock-hopper	Bowwood Point	Further East of Deaths Head South Coast	4000 ²⁰⁰⁰	No Eggs taken	Increasing	Dunbar
Rock-hopper	—	Grave Cove Rookery South Coast	600 ⁷⁰⁰	No Eggs taken	Increasing	Dunbar.
Rock-hopper.	—	Rabbit Island North Coast	800 ¹¹⁰⁰	No Eggs taken	No apparent change	Roy Cove.

King Penguins : To my knowledge a King Penguin has not been on Roy Cove Station within the last 46 years.

Howard Clunney.



(19)

West Falkland Islands

Nov. 21st 1932.

The Hon.

Colonial Secretary.

Stanley

Sir,

I have the honour to herewith enclose the Penguin Census
of Roy Cove Station as desired.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Howard Clement.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NAME OF ROOKERY</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NESTS</u>	<u>WHETHER EGGS ARE TAKEN</u>	<u>WHETHER ANY ALTERATION IN SIZE NOTICED.</u>
Rock-hopper	White Rock	West side of North entrance. to Falkland Sound.	5,000	No	No apparent change.
Rock-hopper.	Jamat Point	North coast. outside Jamat Pass	10,000	No	Increasing - but slowly.
Gentoo.	Pirate Creek	North shore inside Jamat Pass.	300	No	Diminishing.
Gentoo.	Long Point	South side of Port Purvis	270	No	Slight increase
Port Howard 1/2 ago					

KING PENGUINS.

Please give particulars of any King Penguins seen during the last year : were they known to nest ?

King Penguins are very incidental to this locality.

401/32

51

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Penguin Census



STATION *Port Howard.*

DATE *5/11/1932.*

Please give the position of every penguin rookery, according to species, on your station including islands. Also please give name of rookery (if any), locality on map (nearest settlement, cape or other landmark and distance away) approximate number of nests, and state whether eggs are taken from it for domestic use and also whether the rookery appears to be increasing or diminishing in size : thus

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NAME OF ROOKERY</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NESTS</u>	<u>WHETHER EGGS ARE TAKEN</u>	<u>WHETHER ANY ALTERATION IN SIZE NOTICED</u>
Gentoo	Sparrow Cove	North Shore of Port William at Rabbit Cove	3,000	No	Yes : is diminishing.
Rock-hopper	Mount Low	South Shore of Berkeley Sound beneath Mount Low	50,000	Yes	No apparent change.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NAME OF ROOKERY</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NESTS</u>	<u>WHETHER EGGS ARE TAKEN</u>	<u>WHETHER ANY ALTERATION IN SIZE NOTICED.</u>
E. enteb. Vultur.	Vultur.	Point	1.000	yes.	yes - is diminishing
E. enteb. Cow Bay -	Cow Bay -	Cape Curfoot	1.500	yes.	yes - is diminishing
Rock Hopper, Eagle	Point.	North Shore of Bushy Sound beneath Eagle Hills	150.000	no.	yes - is diminishing
				<p>I do not believe this statement yes</p>	

Johnson's Island

KING PENGUINS

Please give particulars of any King Penguins seen during the last year : were they known to nest ?

one King Penguin seen on Vultur Rookery
and one on Cow Bay Rookery
but was not known to nest there

The Colonial Secretary
Stanley

Johnsons Harbour
9th December 1932

Dear Sir

I enclose estimate
of the Penguin Population. on this Station
and trust that the Information furnished
will be satisfactory

I am

Dear Sir
Yours Faithfully

Dr Smith



Re penguin census 1932. Mr Bundes, in answer to questions, gives as his opinion the following:-

Sea Lion Isds. Gentoo 5-6 rookeries along South side of the island numbering 14,000 to 15,000 nests. Rockhopper, 10,000 to 12,000 nests on the south side. About 50 Giant Petrels breed.

Bleaker Isd Gentoo, about 300 nests west side. Rockhopper, 5,000 nests middle of isd East shore.

Speedwell Isd Gentoo 1,000 Phillips Point

George Isd Gentoo 1,000 scattered over isd.

Barren Isd Gentoo 3,000 " " "

Weddell isd. Gentoo 12,000 in Cold Harbour. = Gull Nod-?

Lively Isd Gentoo 400 Plum Point

Eagle Point. RockHopper In his opinion there are 40,000 nests, (compare with 22 red).

A. J. Semm

17.12.32.

Please file in

Penguin Census R.P.

Port San Carlos,

Falkland Islands, I.A.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
"CARLOS, PORTSTANLEY"

1932. 24. 1. 37

November 9, 1932.

Dear Mr. Ellis,

I enclose the Penguin census form. I can't pretend to any great accuracy with respect to the number of nests in each rookery as I could not find the time to visit them all, but I took the most reliable opinions available. I was particularly careful to try and establish whether the rookeries were decreasing or otherwise in size and, rather surprisingly, it seems to be the case here that the two rookeries which are most consistently robbed are the only two in which any appreciable increase has been noticed.

May I take this opportunity of explaining my point of

Ed
16

272/32.

(34)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NAME OF ROCKERY</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NESTS</u>	<u>WHETHER EGGS ARE TAKEN</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>WHETHER ANY VARIATION IN SIZE NOTICED.</u>
Gentoo		200	Yes	East end of Lincars	yes: is diminishing.
Jack Ass		Impossible to say	Yes	In all tussock ground	yes is diminishing

KING PENGUINS. Please give particulars of any King Penguins seen during the last year : were they known to nest ?

One King Penguin seen on North side of Lincars Island.
It did not remain to nest.

Station Spring PointPenguin Census.Date. 20th Nov 1932

(27)

<u>SPECIES.</u>	<u>NAME OF ROOKERY</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NESTS</u>	<u>WHETHER EGGS ARE TAKEN</u>	<u>WHETHER ANY ALTERATION IN SIZE NOTICED.</u>
Gentoo	Queen Pt.	Queen Point.	2700	Yes	Yes is increasing

KING PENGUINS

Please give particulars of any King Penguins seen during the last year : were they known to nest ?

No King Penguins have ever been seen on this rookery. There are about 400 eggs taken yearly for domestic use. The Rookery is increasing & is distant of about 15 miles from Spring Point Station.

Yours Faithfully
Sydney Shannon

Penguin Census 1932/33

10/3/33 No returns have been received to date from:-

W Falklands
Pebble I
Kepple I
Jasons
Elephant Jason
South "
Flat "
North Fur
South "
~~West Point~~ A. J. J. J.
~~Saunders I~~ N. J. J.
Weddell I
Beaver I
Passage Is
Split I
Pack Bros F B
Wreck, Sedge Isda
Swan & Little Swan

E. Falklands.
Speedwell
George
Barren I
Great I
Darwin
Fitzroy
Sea Lions
Bleaker
Lively
~~Teal Inlet~~ none.
Salvador
~~Rincon Grande~~ none N. J. J.
Port Louis
Bluff Cove
Fitzroy North
Port Harriet
Long Isd etc

Appended

Mr Tom Mc Kay Sealions Gentoo N side Nr House 1000 ✓
 " NE end 20,000 ✓
 Rocky 2 miles along south side 150,000

Fox Bay Carcass Pt outside of East Head Gen 2000 ✓

Dunnose Head 1 mile from Narrows facing Roy Cove
 Gentoo 2000 ✓
 Shallow Harbour 2000. ✓

Mr A Porter

Elephant Jason West End, Gentoo, 2000 + many Molluscs
 South Jason " " " 3-4000 ✓

N side Rocky penguins say 20,000 ✓

immense Molluscs

S side ditto but smaller say 5,000 Rocky

Mt Low Rocky rookeries 10,000 ✓

Kidney & Buckhorn Isds 2,000 ✓

Sparrow Cove Gentoo 400 ✓

Salvador Limpet Creek 1,000 Gentoo ✓

S Aldridge Fitzroy Camp

Fox Point Gentoo 200 ✓

Pt Harriet " 200 ✓

200

A large number of islands are not taken in
 including Bird Isd. & Beuchene

A. J. Bennett
 27.3.33

The following persons have been questioned by me they being people well able to give an estimate of various rookeries, especially those in remote places:-

Mr Bert Ratcliffe. Places Eagle Point Rockhopper rookery at over 100,000 nests, as it exceeds 4 miles in length the estimate seems to be good, Thus, 7,000 yards of a cliff face would give 14,2 nests per ~~xx~~ yard; a really small number.

Mr, N. Bound, gives Saunders Isd:-

Elephant point (inside base) Gentoo 1000 increasing,
Rocky 1400 nests Inc Mollys 3-400

Rame Head Gentoo 500 Inc some Mollys

N shore, sand bay Pt Edmont Gentoo 400 dec

Mt Richard Rocky 2000 inc 3-400 Mollys.

Mr A. & Miss A Felton. West Point Isd, Rocky all West side 50,000 nests, at least. Gentoo have migrated to Grave cove.

Hon M.C. Halkett. Port Louis. Flat rock 500 gentoo Dim:
MC Brides Head gentoo 500 Dim: 3000 rocky Inc:

Mr A. Porter Grand Jason Gentoo East side 5000 ✓

Rocky SW of mountain S. end 500 ✓
1 mile x 800 yds -- NW end 1000 ✓
very big Molly rookery 300000 ✓

Steeple Jason Gentoo NW end 3 rookeries 20,000 ✓

Rocky West side from the south end 2 1/2 miles x 900 yds
- - - 2,000,000 ✓

West end 300,000 and many thousands of Mollys

Note, the above numbers have been calculated on the area given at the exceedingly low figure of one nest to two sq yds, - a figure very much below the actual possibilities

An island between the above two, Gentoo 3,000 ✓

1st Passage Isd SE end Gentoo 1,000 ✓

West end Rocky 1000 yards along a steep cliff
-- 10,000 ✓

Bleaker Id N corner 1000 Gentoo

East side facing NE. 1000 Gentoo

SW corner 1000 gentoo ✓ See Mr Bundes 24 red

Barren Isd NW corner 500 gentoo ✓

NE " 2000 ✓

George Isd West side 800 gentoo ✓

Speedwell Isd west end gentoo 4000 compare 24 red

Mr G.J Lyse Pebble Isd Gentoo NW corner 500 ✓

NW from settlement two hills 500 gentoo

Rocky, Cape Tamar-Tamar Pass 2000 ✓

West end SE of White Isd 4000 ✓

W.J. Bowles Liveley Isd Gentoo East side of Useless Water 2000

Walker Creek Seal Cove Gentoo some 2000 ✓

(34)

The Penguin population of the Falkland Islands in
1932/3

I beg to submit, for the information of H E the Governor, the following analysis of the figures obtained from the census of these birds.

The approximate number of nests were asked for as being a fixed quantity and would indicate, roughly, the number of adult birds by doubling the number of nests. No account can here be taken of the immense number of immature birds, although they may be taken at a further 20%.

No large "rookery" could be accurately counted especially if, as is often the case, it is placed in tussock grass and is further hopelessly mixed with breeding shags (*Phalacrocorax albiventer*) and the mollymauk - a smaller albatros - (*Thalassarche melanophris*) Such sites are generally remote.

I believe the figures attached are on the conservative side of an estimate and should at once passify any fears there might be of a near future extinction.

The data is filed in C/S 232/32. Owing to the many islands that are seldom or never visited, such as Bird Island and Beuchene, both quite large and smothered with breeding birds, no estimate has been found possible, but, to cover these a further 10% could be added with safety, and there are hosts of smaller islands about which nothing is known of the birds thereon.

The two common species enumerated are the Gentoo (*Pygoscelis papua*) and the Rock-hopper (*Eudyptes nigrivestis*). A third species the Jackass (*Spheniscus magellanicus*) is not less numerous than the gentoo: its enumeration is not possible because of its burrowing nesting habits, most commonly on tussock clad islands. The few King Penguins that appear, and the small number of the Macaroni (*Eudyptes chrysolophus*, probably immature birds) have not been considered. Apart from the penguins, the known breeding sites of the Mollymauk are all situated on the north and west outliers of the West Falklands, Beuchene excepted.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PENGUIN NESTS ON WEST FALKLANDS.

(33)

Gentoo, Pygoscelis papua.			
Camp.	nest	Camp	nest
Port Howard	570	Pebble Isd	1,000
Saunders Isd	1,900	Carcass Isd	200
Jason Isds	35,000	Roy Cove	1,900
Passage Isds	1,000	Donnose Hd	4,000
Spring Point	2,700	New Isd	2,500
Weddell Isd	12,000	Port Stephens	5,300
P.B. Fox Bay	2,000		
	55,170		14,900
	14,900		
	70,070		

EAST FALKLANDS

Camp	nest	Camp	nest
Sparrow Cove	400	Johnsons Harb	2,500
Port Louis	1,000	Salvador	1,000
Douglas sta	200	San Carlos N	7,900
San Carlos S	300	North Arm	2,900
Speedwell Etc	6,150	Sea Lions	18,000
Bleaker Isd	1,600	Walker Creek	1,400
Lively Isd	2,400	Fitzroy	200
	12,050		33,900
	33,900		
	45,950		

East Falklands 45,950 gentoo nests
West " 70,070
116,020 " "

WEST FALKLANDS

Rock-hopper Eudyptes nigrivestis			
Camp	nest	Camp	nest
Port Howard	15,000	Pebble Isd	6,000
Saunders Isd		Jasons	2,625,000
West Point Isd	50,000	Roy Cove	7,200
Passage Isds	10,000	New Isd	130,000
Port Stephens	2,000	Saunders Isd	3,400
	77,000		2,771,600
	2,771,600		
	2,848,600		

EAST FALKLANDS.

Camp	nest	Camp	nest
Kidney Isd Etc	12,000	Johnsons Harb	150,000
Port Louis	3,000	San Carlos N	5000
Sea Lions	150,000	Bleaker Isd	5,000
	155,500		155,500
	320,500		

East Falklands 320,500 nests
West " 2,848,600
3,169,100

Known Rookeries of the Mollymauk Thalassarche melanophris 1932.
Kepple Isd-a small number. Saunders Isd over 4,000. Grand Jason very large. Steeple Jason many thousands. Elephant Jason large. South Jason large, West Point a fair number. Split Isd a number. New Isd a large number. Bird Isd a number. Beuchene, more than 15,000

600 eggs from
here in 1921? one day
... many more

The Gentoo penguin seems to be exclusively a fish eater; it is not migratory in the sense of most penguins, it remains about the land the whole year, although some wandering may take place in the winter.

From the numbers of nests given on the previous page the distribution of this species can be shown :-

West Falkland and outliers	140,040 adults
East Falklands " "	91,900 "
	<u>231,940</u> "
Add 20% for immature birds	46,388
Add 10% for uncounted "	<u>23,194</u>
	<u>301,522</u>

The West Falkland is the smaller island, but is chosen by 60% of the breeding birds for nesting purposes. The North and West coast of the group carry 74.6% of the adults against 35% for the East and South coasts.

This penguin favours flat, grassy land, and a more or less sheltered sand beach landing.

The Rock-hopper is migratory, arriving in November and leaving in April. Numbers are calculated from nests given:-

West Falklands and outliers	2,848,600	
East " "	<u>320,500</u>	nests
	<u>3,169,100</u>	"
	<u>6,338,200</u>	adults
Add 20% for immature birds	1,267,640	
" 10% " uncounted "	<u>633,820</u>	
	<u>8,239,660</u>	

The Jackass can be taken, at least, in equal numbers to the Gentoo

	<u>300,000</u>	
Adults.	Estimated stock	
Gentoo 231,940	301,522	
Rock-h 6,338,200	8,239,660	
Jackass 232,000	<u>300,000</u>	
<u>6,802,140</u>	<u>8,841,182</u>	

The insular distribution of the Rock-hopper is even more westerly than the Gentoo. The western side of the ^{islands} group carries 89% of the birds, leaving but 10.7% for the rest of the group. The Rock-hopper selects bold, rocky headlands in exposed situations for nesting purposes, and is not known to breed along the shores of the extensive Falkland Sound.

The distribution of the Gentoo, and the Rock-hopper together with that of the Mollymauk are strikingly similar

A, very high percentage of the penguins, nearly all of the Mollymauks, and vast numbers of Shags are concentrated on the North-west and West of the Colony during the breeding season; this is certainly not due to accident, or the presence of man. In seeking for some explanation, it might be mentioned that the same area attracts an immense amount of ~~both~~ hair, and ^{some} fur seal. Whales, too, are quite numerous, at times. The answer is obviously one of food in abundance, at least during the months of September - April; it is in this period that the small pilchard is commonly met with, especially in this area.

In order to secure some data on the subject, I have fed, experimentally, a tame Macaroni penguin with the object of finding its capacity for food. This bird thrives on 8 - 12 ozs of fish per day, has no exertion, and is ever ready for food. On one day, this bird ate 21, 13, 6, ozs of small fish within six hours, 2½ lbs. It is reasonable to suppose that in a wild state, with the expenditure of much energy, a medium sized penguin would eat not less food, if obtainable. If 80% of the penguins of the Falklands is taken as the number living for half of the year on the West and Northwest and multiplied by this weight of food, the daily consumption derived from the sea runs into thousands of tons, apart from the other birds mentioned, and they are all voracious feeders.

It seems desirable to farm some portion of this life without depletion. The export of eggs offers the least objectionable method, always providing there is a market for them, and that the collection could be done systematically. As an alternative to shipping as fresh eggs, they could be either dried or frozen. As a food, the Gentoo egg is much to be preferred to the Rock-hopper.

A survey, largely of the birds of the outliers, together with seals, seems desirable, especially those to the West and Northwest of the Colony.

A. G. Bennett

737/34

Saunders Island

1933

<u>SPECIES.</u>	<u>NAME OF ROOKERY</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NESTS</u>	<u>WHETHER EGGS ARE TAKEN</u>	<u>WHETHER ANY ALTERATION IN SIZE NOTICED.</u>
Rock-Hopper		North Coast of M. Richard East end	500	No	Diminishing
Rock Hopper		North Coast of M. Richard West end	2000	No	No apparent change
Gentoo		North Coast of M. Harston	1000	No	No apparent change
Gentoo		South Coast of Rams Head	500	Not since 1930	No apparent change; had diminished between 1916 & 1930.



KING PENGUINS

Please give particulars of any King Penguins seen during the last year : were they known to nest ?

No.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute the above Number and the date may be quoted.)

MINUTE.

18th October 1933

From To

To From the R. Governor.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Hon. Col. Sec.

I should be glad if the Gov. Naturalist would visit the Gento rookery in Port William and ascertain whether the birds are nesting and also whether the rookery shows signs of disturbance. I consider the rookery should be visited periodically for protection purposes.

2. Harbour Dept: to be instructed to arrange for launch when Mr Bennett is ready to go.

MCH

18. 10. 33.

Hon: Col: Secy:

Noted, thank you. I have abstracted
the two loose copies of my memo of $\frac{29}{3}$ 33

No licences should be granted for Kidney
Island for the coming year; Last year,
but very few birds remained

Agg. Secy
as Nat
18/10/83

Hon: Col: Seely:

37

Sir.

Following instructions Of His Excellency the Ag: Governor I visiter the Sparrow Cove Gentoo rookery in the "Penguin" yesterday 25th October.

The rookery is composed of four patches and contain in all 800 -1000 nests. Fully one third of these contained no eggs, another third contained but one. In this case some were quite dirty, indicating incubation, others clean, one of which proved to be quite fresh. The remainder contained two eggs, in two cases three; some were incubated pairs, others contained one incubated and one more or less fresh egg, of two opened both were quite fresh. The birds were wild.

The indication is that this rookery has been interfered with, but not to the extent of stripping. This is confirmed by the accidental discovery of a new nesting site some half a mile to the eastward, and out of sight of the old spot. This new colony, - just up from the beach of "Hells kitchen" contains about 83 nests, the birds are quiet, empty nests are few, one egg is not common, one opened showed some days incubation, and the rest had two eggs; obviously this removal has not been "discovered".

The rookery should, in my opinion, be visited again next week. I feel sure that the rookery has been "milked"; in case all the blame may fall on one suspect it should, in fairness, be stated that the motor boat "Dawn" is said to have been anchored in Sparrow Cove over the weekend with eight persons on board, returning on Monday afternoon,

A. G. Bennett.

Ag Naturalist.

26/10/33.

222/32

Naturalist

38

M/P

The Hon:Col:Secy:

On the 9th I revisited the Gentoo rookery at Sparrow Cove. There is no sign that the birds have been, in any way, molested since my last visit two weeks ago. The birds sat tight, showed no signs of panic; there are but very few nests now without eggs, most have two, some one, and I saw three with three eggs, without disturbing most of the birds.

The question of the sudden removal of a "gentoo" rookery to a new spot may, I think, be attributed to vermin. I find that the obviously older section of this rookery is infested with blood sucking insects of the flea and tick types; many of the nests are alive. In the newer part no such vermin was found.

Ag Connolly

Ag Gov:Nat:

10/11/33

<u>SPECIES.</u>	<u>NAME OF ROOKERY</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NESTS</u>	<u>WHETHER EGGS ARE TAKEN</u>	<u>WHETHER ANY ALTERATION IN SIZE NOTICED.</u>
Gentoo	Horne Rookery	100 yds South of Settlement	1000	a few for home consumption	Slight increase
Gentoo	Sand hills Rookery	1/2 mile East of Settlement	5000	no	Slight increase
Rock Hopper	West-End Rookery	5 miles West of Settlement	2500	no	no change

KING PENGUINS

Please give particulars of any King Penguins seen during the last year : were they known to nest ?

No King penguins noticed

Sea Lion Islands Station
15th March 1938
H. Rickards

EXTRACT FROM LETTER FROM DR. FRANK S. ROBERTS,
OF N.Y. PUBLIC MUSEUM, THE 9TH APRIL, 1936.

Hon. Col. Sec.

Sir,

With reference to the Penguin Census (C/S 252/32) which you kindly let me see at Mr. Bennett's house, I have the honour to request that permission may be obtained from His Excellency for me to use this material in connection with other work on Penguins which I have done during the past two years. As part of the results of this expedition I am hoping to prepare a monograph of the Penguins of the world. The data obtained during this voyage will give much valuable information as to their status in these islands, and I feel that with a certain amount of additional work it should be possible to draw more useful conclusions.

.....

Original filed in N.P. D/1/54.

7
41

D/4/34.

22nd April,

36.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 9th of April, 1936, I am directed by the Governor to inform you that you may obtain such information as you require from the Penguin Census compiled by Mr. A. G. Bennett, and that permission is granted for you to make use of the literature at the Government Naturalist's Office in connection with the work you are carrying out.

2. The necessary permit required to enable you to kill and take penguins for scientific purposes is enclosed herewith.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. J. J.

for Colonial Secretary.

B. B. ROBERTS, ESQ.,
R.Y. "PENOLA",
AT STANLEY.

(H2)

Stanley.

7th November 1937.

Sir,

7500?
I visited Kidney Island on the 6th and examined the penguin rookery. The birds have recently arrived and are nest building and pairing; quite a number had one egg. Enumeration is quite impossible, there are less numbers now as compared with three ago, and I place the number of nests at about 2000. Tussock grass has encroached very much and covers the ground that was formerly bare nesting ground. It may be expected that the numbers of birds will decrease for the next year or two even though not in any way molested; due to natural mortality and the very few young birds that are likely to mature.

X
I beg to point out that tussock grass must have heavy dressings of powerful guano on order to thrive, this is even more necessary where the tussock is regularly reaped. Sealions and penguins are necessary if Kidney Isd is to continue as a source of fodder supply for Stanley.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

ag Bennett

Ag: Gov: Naturalist.

The Hon: the

Colonial Secretary.

43

No. **232/32.**

MINUTE.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted.)

10th November, 1937.

From **The Colonial Secretary,**

To **The Acting Government Naturalist**

STANLEY.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Red 42

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your minute of the 7th of November, on the subject of the number of Penguins on Kidney Island and to thank you for the interesting matter contained therein.

48
ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

No. **232/32.**

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted.)

MINUTE.

10th November, 19 37.

From **The Colonial Secretary,**

To **The Agricultural Adviser,**

STANLEY.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Red 42
I am directed by the Acting Colonial Secretary to transmit an extract of a report submitted to this Office by the Acting Government Naturalist.

cf
ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

45
No. G. 7/37.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted.)

MINUTE.

7th January, 19 38

From The Agricultural Adviser,

To The Honourable

Colonial Secretary,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Stanley.

11/11/44
I am in receipt of 232/32 of 10th November last covering an extract from a report by the Acting Government Naturalist of 7th November, 1937.

This is of special interest to this Department, which will make special observations in this direction, in view of suggestions made by Mr. Wm. Davies, Grasslands Investigator.

Franken
Agricultural Adviser.

Stanley,

Government Naturalist,

June 26th, 1938.

Stanley.

On January the 8th I visited the Mount Lowe Rockie Rookery to see the penguins, and I was greatly surprised to such a decrease in the number of birds in the last twenty years. As a matter of fact I thought at first that I was not on the original rookery, During the Great War I was station at Mt Lowe battery on outpost duty, and made many visits to this penguin colony, my last one being in 1918. And at this time the birds covered the whole of the face of the deep slope that runs from the bull rushes to the edge of the cliffs on the north shore, this place lies practically north of the gap between Mt Lowe and Mt Twelve O'clock.

To travel from the east side of this rookery to the small rise on the west side was a very difficult matter, with the dense population of bird life at that time, which seem to have very little more than standing space, I think I would be safe in saying that between twenty and thirty thousand birds colonized this area in 1918.

It may be interesting to you to know that in January last I tethered my horse along with five others on a beautiful green in the centre of the original rookery which was at one time rock and mud. It appeared to me that only a fifth of the area now occupy this rookery as compared with 1918, and the area is by no means so densely populated. Another point I would like to mention is the number of young that are on this rookery, I had hunted for some considerable time before I found one small bird on the large rookery, I was told afterwards that another member of the party had found two young birds, I then went on along the coast line and found the same thing practically on the smaller rookeries, just one little bird here and there, I also noticed that the birds in general all seem very wild and want to clear off, on most rookeries this type of penguin is rather inclined to stand his ground and show fight to the newcomers.

As you are very interested in the bird life I hope that some of my notes will be found useful, owing to the weather being rather wet I was able only to take a very few snaps, of which I shall forward to you, I hope to visit this rookery again this year, and I shall be very glad

glad to furnish any particulars you may require.

B. Stewart

Yours Faithfully,

The Hon:Col:Secretary.

I beg to attach, from Mr B, Fleuret, a letter on the subject of Mount Lowe Rock-hopper Penguin Rookery.

I have always understood that this was a large rookery with scattered outlyers, and for that reason I advised that eggs should be taken there while Kidney and Cochon Isds ~~were~~ closed to egg collecting.

From Mr Fleuret's letter it is quite clear that egg collecting meant stripping the rookery, when only three young birds were to be seen later in the season. I can see no alternative but to close this rookery, too, in the coming season.

I understand, from other sources, that Eagle Point rookery, on the North side of Berkeley Sound, has also diminished during recent times. No eggs are taken here. It is said to extend along the coast for seven miles in a sort of connected communities.

It is just possible that wholesale destruction by the Sea-leopard does as much towards reducing penguins as over egg collecting, perhaps more. This animal seems to have become more numerous in recent years, at least one hears more about them. In order to try to stop the rapid decline, now certainly taking place at the rookeries in Berkeley Sound, steps should be taken to visit these spots, once a week, during the season and all leopards shot off, while strictly closing all but Eagle Point to egg taking.

The decline may not be arrested, under the best safeguards, for some years, while no marked improvement should be expected for a space of five years. The Rock-hopper appears not to breed until two years of age.

A. G. Bennett

Ag:Gov:Nat:

8.7.1938.

53

Leaving Stanley at 8 a.m. the sheep passed through in Moody Valley Camp appeared to run well and seemed in much improved condition to that which they exhibited in the Winter. Very few lambs ran with them and some looked very much like wethers.

The tide was high at the Drunken Rock Pass so that a long detour to the West had to be made along the Murrel's banks where several dead lambs were seen, quite large lambs of say 1 month to 6 weeks old, upon examination the cause was not far to seek being infestation of the intestines by the tape worm (*Taenia Moniczia Esparana* or *Plaximina*). Drenching with a suitable anthelmintic could eliminate this source of loss.

Eventually crossing the Murrel a course was taken through the Saddle Backs Camp over Jamieson's Pass and through a green pen into the Murrel Camp from which all the sheep had been moved to Fitzroy for shearing. However 12 in all were seen around stone runs and along the North Coast in the vicinity of the Penguin Rookery, which had been missed. (The Rookeries lay along the Coast from Strike Off Point to about 3 miles East where the largest Rookery of the Rocky Penguins was of about 4,000 birds. The other 5 smaller rookeries amounting to about the same total of birds had been robbed so that not many eggs were on them but the large one appeared to have been left alone, all eggs there being in the process of incubation. Here it might be noteworthy to remark that all wild eggs not fresh are termed by the local Falkland Islander as bad. Thus all these eggs seen would be referred to as bad although perfectly fertile and half incubated in 90% of cases. No distinction is apparently made in the colloquial between them and addled eggs. A similar colloquial specialisation is the reference to "a clucker" for a broody hen. To the point of the word broody not being everywhere understood in this connection.

Passing along the Coast a track was taken to the East of the site of the Army's Mount Low Camp thus missing out inspection of the remotest Gentoo rookery to the West of the fresh water pond opposite Kidney Island which because of its more remote position from Stanley was thought to be the least likely to have been robbed of the 2 protected Gentoo Rookeries in this area.

The other on the shores of Port William almost was visited

about/

about 1,500 birds were on the rookery and all the eggs appeared to be incubating but varied greatly some being fresh and clean others almost ready for hatching and dirty whilst many birds were sitting on only single eggs instead of the usual two and these had to use the local term thus showing that the rookery had been robbed more extensively than by the hovering ^{Sea Hens} ~~Puffins and Patris~~ and Sea Gulls.] ~~Passing West by North a stop was made in Sparrow Cove to block up the outlets in the dam on the fresh water there so that some reserve water could collect in the what appears to be going to be^a most dry season.~~

Arriving at the Murrel House which was unoccupied about 4-30 to 5 p.m. we passed on and took advantage of the low tide to cross by the lower pass to the black projecting point in Moody Valley camp. Here the few lambs seen ~~unmarked~~ looked very well but in the stream which had to be crossed a little in the interior no less than 3 drowned sheep were seen in the short length where we had to follow the bank in order to find a crossing.

The rest of the journey back to town was uneventful the camp being exceptionally dry and hard everywhere.

John P. Kline.