

No. XXII.

GAME PROTECTION. An Act to provide for the preservation of Imported Game and during the breeding season of Native Game. [7th April, 1866.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS certain persons have imported and may import from parts beyond the seas at considerable expense for the benefit of the Colony game not previously existing therein and it is expedient that encouragement should be given to such importations of game by protecting it and its progeny as also that native game should during the breeding season have a similar protection. Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows:—

Interpretation terms.

1. For the purposes of this Act the term "game" shall mean and include all birds and other animals mentioned in the first Schedule to this Act and the terms "native game" shall mean and include all birds and other animals mentioned in the second Schedule to this Act.

Commencement of Act.

2. This Act shall come into operation and be in force as regards birds and other animals named in the first section of this Act from the date of its passing and shall continue and be in force for the period of five years and for a further like term during the period of the year mentioned in the first Schedule from that date and as regards the birds and animals mentioned in the second Schedule to this Act for the space of ten years.

Game Protection.

3. The period of the year during which this Act shall be in operation as regards birds and other animals mentioned in the second Schedule to this Act shall be the periods and times mentioned in such Schedule.

4. If any person shall wilfully capture kill or destroy at any time any game or shall use any instrument whatever net or any other means for the purpose of capturing killing or destroying any game such person shall upon conviction forfeit and pay a penalty not exceeding the sum of two pounds in addition to the value of each bird or other animal so destroyed which value shall be the sum set opposite the name of such bird or animal in the first Schedule to this Act which value shall be adjudged to the owner if claimed by him.

5. If any person shall wilfully kill or destroy any native game within the period mentioned in the second Schedule to this Act as the period of prohibition in regard to any bird or other animal being native game or shall use any instrument whatever net or any other means within the period aforesaid for the purpose of killing or destroying any native game such person shall upon conviction forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding the sum of two pounds.

6. If any person shall buy sell or knowingly have in his possession house or control any game at any time or any native game within the period referring to such native game respectively in the second Schedule to this Act every person so offending shall forfeit and pay a penalty not exceeding the sum of five pounds for every head of game in addition to the value of any such game such value to be assessed by the Justice or Justices hearing the case for every head of native game so found in his house possession or control.

7. If any person shall wilfully take out of the nest or destroy in the nest the eggs of any bird of game or native game or shall knowingly have in his house or possession any such eggs every such person shall forfeit and pay a penalty not exceeding the sum of ten shillings for each egg so destroyed or found in his possession or control.

8. Nothing in this Act shall extend or be construed to extend to any person being the owner of any game or native game having in his possession any such game or native game in confinement or in a domesticated state provided such game shall not have been found wild or such native game shall not have been caught or taken within a period prohibited by the second Schedule to this Act nor to the owner of any eggs taken from the mew or breeding-place or to the possession of such eggs.

9. If any person shall be found offending against the provisions of this Act and shall not give his name and address and shall not deliver up any game native game or any instrument net or other means used to kill or destroy any game or native game to any person who may demand the same it shall be lawful for such person with any assistance he may require and for any constable to take such person into custody and take him before the nearest Justice of the Peace to be dealt with according to law and any person who shall assault or resist any such person so demanding such game native game instrument net or other means of destruction shall forfeit and pay a penalty not exceeding five pounds besides any other penalty he may have incurred under this Act.

10. All offences under this Act may be heard and determined in a summary way before any Justice of the Peace and if any person shall feel himself aggrieved at any decision given under this Act he may appeal to the next General Sessions holden nearest to the place where such decision shall take place.

Game Protection.

Disposal of penalties.

11. One half of all penalties recovered under this Act shall go to and for the sole use of any person who may sue for the same.

Justices may dismiss complaints with costs.

12. Any Justice hearing any complaint under this Act may dismiss the same with such costs as to such Justice may seem fit not exceeding five pounds and a certificate of such dismissal shall be a bar to any other proceedings for the same act in any Court of Law or Equity.

Act not to extend to aborigines.

13. This Act shall not extend or apply or be construed to extend or apply to any aboriginal native of Australia unless employed by any other person or as regards animals mentioned in the second Schedule to any Collector of specimens of Natural History for any Public Museum in the Colony and duly authorized in that behalf.

SCHEDULES.**THE FIRST SCHEDULE.**

Pheasants	£5	Deer	£15
Partridges	£5	Swans.....	£5
Grouse	£5	Antelope	£15
Hares.....	£5		

All birds not indigenous to Australia and their produce £1.

From the 1st day of August to the 31st day of December in each year.

THE SECOND SCHEDULE.

Wild Ducks of any species.	Mallee Hen.
Teal.	Quail.
Emu.	Land Rail.
Native Companions.	Curlew.
Wild Turkey or Bustard.	Tallegalla or Brush Turkey.
Black Swans.	Plover of any species.
Wild Geese.	Great Kingfisher commonly known as the Laughing Jackass.
Bronzed-winged and other wild Pigeons.	

From the 1st August to 31st December.