



Protected Species and Laws

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The Wild Life Protection Act

- The Act was enacted in 1945
- Only law in Jamaica which specifically protects designated species
- Section 6 of the Act makes it an offence to have in possession any protected animal/bird or their parts
- The act list twenty animals, excluding the birds as all birds are protected except those considered as pest, domestic animals and the Game Birds
- There are also provisions to protect fish and the taking of turtle eggs

Protected Animals

■ The twenty protected animals are:

- Sperm Whale, Baird's beaked Whale, Short-finned pilot Whale, Humpback Whale, Common Bottlenose Dolphin, Pantropical spotted Dolphin
- West Indian Manatee, Caribbean Monk Seal (Pedro Seal)
- Jamaican Hutia (Coney), American Crocodile, Jamaican Iguana, Yellow Snake/Jamaican Boa
- Green Turtle, Hawksbill Turtle, Loggerhead Turtle, Atlantic Kemps Ridley, Leatherback turtle
- Reid Seahorse
- Jamaican Kite Swallowtail, Giant Swallowtail Butterfly
- Black Coral
- White Coral

Protected Animals



Short-finned pilot
Whale



Sperm Whale

Baird's beaked Whale



Common Bottlenosed Dolphin



Humpback Whale

West Indian Manatee





Pantropical Spotted Dolphin



Jamaican Hutia (Coney)



Caribbean Monk Seal (Pedro Seal)

New York Zoological Society, 1910



Yellow Snake/Jamaican Boa



Giant Swallowtail Butterfly



Leatherback turtle



Green Turtle



Hawksbill turtle



Loggerhead turtle



Atlantic Kemp's Ridley

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Jamaican Iguana



American Crocodile



Black Coral



Seahorse



Jamaican Kite Swallowtail



White Coral



Protected Birds

- all birds are protected except for twenty-three species
 - protected birds – e.g. Black-billed Parrot, Olive-throated Parakeet, hummingbirds, migratory birds



Yellow-billed Parrot



Ring-tailed Pigeon



Black-billed Parrot



West Indian Whistling Duck



Jamaican Mango



Vervain Hummingbird



**Chestnut-bellied
Cuckoo**



**Olive-throated
Parakeet**



Jamaican Tody



Brown Booby



Mangrove Warbler

Birds not Protected

- ✱ not protected (geese, House Sparrow, Budgerigars, Cattle Egret)
- ✱ Game Birds (White-winged Dove, Bald-pate, Long-tailed, Pea Dove, Pea Dove)



Long-tailed Pea Dove



Cattle egret



Bald-pate



Budgerigars

Content of the Wild Life Protection Act

- The act includes a title and interpretation section
- Under Animals and Birds
 - Designation of Game Reserves, Hunting season

Powers of designated personnel

■ Designated personnel under the Act [s.15]

- Game Warden
- Fishery Inspectors
- Constable

Offences

- hunts any animal or bird; takes the nest or egg of any bird; suspected of hunting; take dogs; carries gun, catapult or other weapons to hunt in a Game Sanctuary [s.4]
- hunts any protected animal or bird [s.6]
- has in possession the whole or any part of a protected animal or bird or takes or has in possession the nest or egg of a protected bird [s.6a]
- takes or attempts to take; sells or has for the purpose turtle eggs
- hunts any animal or bird or takes any eggs in the Exclusive Economic Zone [s.8a]
- takes or attempts to take; kills or injures or attempts to kill or buys, sells, exposes for sale or has in possession immature fish [s9]
- uses dynamite or other explosive substances to take, kill or injure fish in any water [s.10]

Offences cont'd

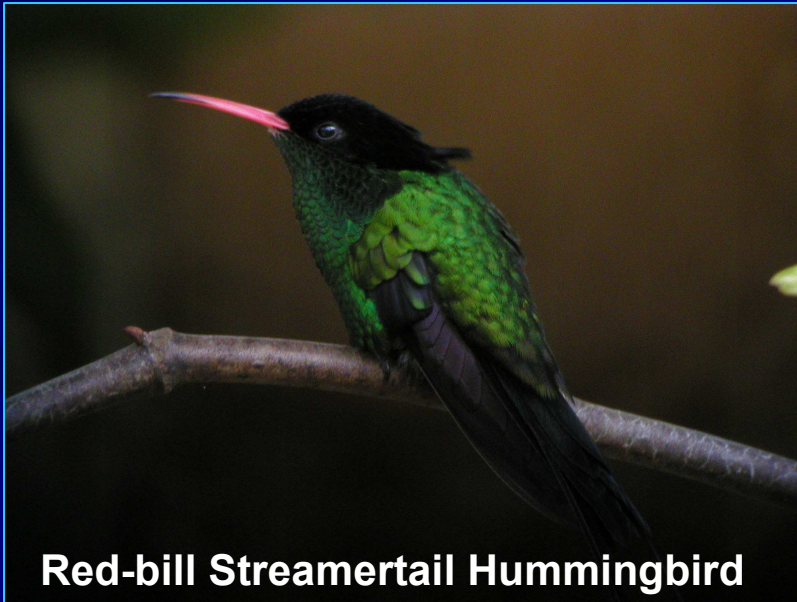
- places or causes to be placed any poison, lime or noxious material in any water intending to take, kill or injure fish [s.10]
- unlawfully and maliciously cuts, breaks down or damages or destroys any dam, floodgate or sluice to take, kill or injure fish [s.10]
- permits into any harbour, river, stream, canal, lagoon or estuary with fish any effluent or industrial waste or sewage [s.11]
- buys, sells or has in possess, fish taken, killed or injured in contravention of the Act or regulations
- offender does give his name or place of abode [s.18];
- assaults, obstructs, hinder or resists or aids, abets or incites any person to assault, obstructs, hinder or resist any Game Warden, Fishery Inspector or Constable [s.19].
- refuses to admit or obstruct [s.15(3)];
- fails to give to satisfaction of an officer their name and address or if is not known by the Officer, may without warrant apprehend and detain the person [s.17];

Bird Shooting Season Offences

- ✱ hunts any game bird during close season; during season any day other than that prescribed; takes or has in possession for sale, hawks, offers for sale, stores in a commercial cold storage [s.7]
- ✱ hunting without a hunters' licence
- ✱ fails to carry the hunters' licence
- ✱ fails to produce hunters' licence on request

Penalties

- S.11
 - ✱ Protection of water - \$100,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 12 months
- S.14 (Regulations related to schedules)
 - ✱ Maximum penalty for an offence is \$100,000 and imprisonment for two years



Red-bill Streamertail Hummingbird

Penalties cont'd

- s.18 (Persons found offending)
 - ✱ \$40,000 or default of payment imprisonment not exceeding 2 months
- S.20 (where no special punishment provided)
 - ✱ \$100,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 6 months

Issues and Challenges

- enforcement of provisions of the Act
- monitoring based on terrain and human resources
- lack of awareness of the various offences and role of the Act
- plants are not protected

Current Status of the Act

- Amending act to include
 - ✱ the protection of plants
 - ✱ control of introduced species damaging to the environment
 - ✱ control of the collection of plants and animals
 - ✱ greater management of Game Reserves

THANK YOU

