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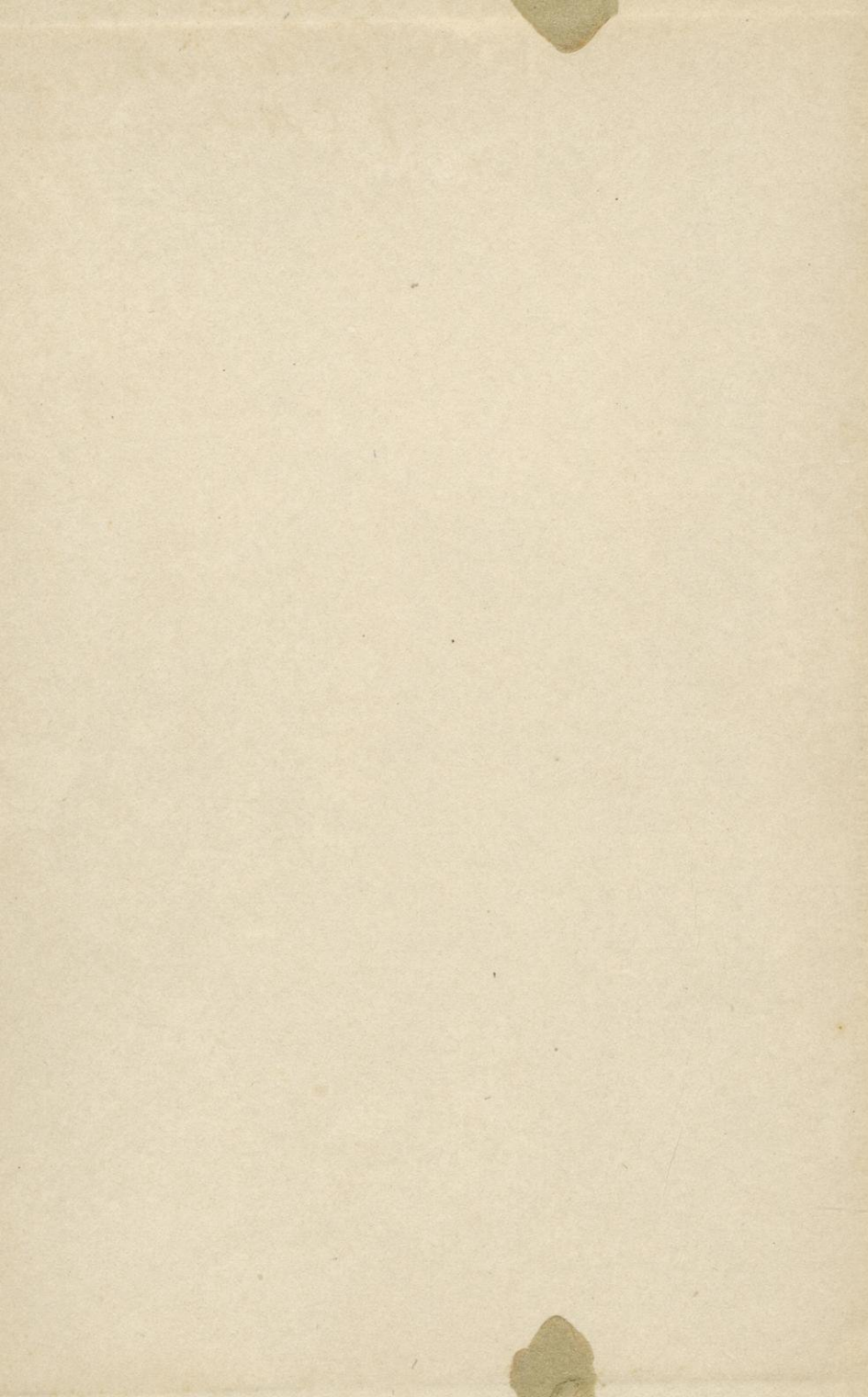
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*The Galapagos Tortoises
in their Relation to the
Whaling Industry* ~ ~ ~

By CHARLES HASKINS TOWNSEND



To Dr. Kellogg
With the best regards
of C. H. Townsend

THE GALAPAGOS TORTOISES

IN THEIR RELATION TO THE WHALING INDUSTRY

By CHARLES HASKINS TOWNSEND

Director of the New York Aquarium



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THE GALAPAGOS TORTOISES

IN THEIR RELATION TO THE WHALING INDUSTRY

A STUDY OF OLD LOGBOOKS

BY CHARLES HASKINS TOWNSEND

Director of the New York Aquarium.

(Figs. 20-32 incl.)

The Galapagos Islands were appropriately named the isles of the tortoises. From the time of their discovery by the Spaniards early in the sixteenth century, down to the middle of the nineteenth century, their outstanding feature was the presence of great numbers of land tortoises of gigantic size. No other product of the lonely archipelago was of more than passing interest to navigators except the fur seals, which they soon disposed of. Most of them however noted the fearlessness of the birds on these uninhabited islands and the strange behavior of the hitherto unknown marine iguanas that lived on seaweed.

The early navigators quickly discovered the high edible value of the big, hard-shelled "galapagos" which they described in extravagant terms. All mariners adventuring that way during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries loaded their decks with tortoises and proclaimed their excellence in all seas where ships sailed.

Then came the fleets of whalers of the nineteenth century, British and American, to gather the rich cetacean harvest of the Pacific. The abundant and long-celebrated tortoises of the islands offered a fresh food supply of which they hastened to avail themselves. A measure of their levies upon the wild pastures of these great reptiles has been brought to light recently through examination of some of their logbook records. It appears that they carried away many thousands during a period of more than a half a century, the closing years of which marked both the diminution of the supply of tortoises and the decline of the whaling industry. While navigators of all kinds—the early explorers, the buccaneers, the sealers, and

¹ For facilities in consulting logbooks of whaling vessels, the writer is indebted to Mr. George H. Tripp, Director of the Public Library, New Bedford, Mass., Mr. A. C. Watson, Assistant Curator, Museum of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society, New Bedford; Prof. Edward S. Morse, Director and Mr. L. W. Jenkins, Assistant Director, Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass., the Librarian of the Essex Institute at Salem and the Librarian of the Historical Association at Nantucket, Mass. Mr. Watson rendered especially valuable service in copying records relative to tortoises from many of the logbooks preserved at New Bedford and Nantucket.

The examination of the logbooks was made under the auspices of the Zoological Society.



Fig. 20. Bark *Morning Star* of New Bedford. At Albemarle Island, Galapagos, July 27 to August 5, 1858. At Chatham Island, Galapagos from June 27 to July 11, 1861. Total catch of tortoises, 212. Built at Dartmouth in 1853. 305 tons. Returned from last voyage in 1914. Crew on first voyage all Americans, on last voyage all Portuguese. Photograph by W. H. Tripp, 1914.

the passing merchantmen, carried away as many tortoises as they had space for, the whalemén made heavier demands upon the supply than any of the others. No other class of sailormén was ever so numerous in eastern Pacific waters.

While in service at the Court of Arbitration at The Hague in 1902, the late Captain George Baker of New Bedford, a veteran whalémán, was associated with the writer, and learning that he had visited the Galapagos imparted much information relative to tortoise hunting by whalemén among those islands. With these interviews in mind, it seemed probable that the logbooks of whaling vessels, if available, would yield new information on these nearly extinct animals, and a search was accordingly made for them, which was crowned with a fair measure of success.

We have now at hand records from the logbooks of seventy-nine whaling vessels² that made one hundred and eighty-nine visits to the Galapagos between 1831 and 1868 for the purpose of securing tortoises. Their combined catch during this period was 13,013. The study of a larger collection of logs would undoubtedly yield more information of statistical value, but the records already available afford a safe measure by which to gauge the effect produced by the fleet as a whole. In view of the facts that there were more than seven hundred vessels in the American whaling fleet at one time, and that the majority of these made repeated voyages to the Pacific during the above mentioned period called the golden age of whaling, it is evident that the catch here recorded was a mere fraction of the numbers of tortoises actually carried away.

It is also evident and much to be regretted, that hundreds of old whaleship logbooks have failed to make a home port in some historical library with other sea-wanderers of their kind. The attics of old whalemén's homes doubtless contain many of them, which it is hoped, may eventually be brought together. We have as yet examined only those preserved in the libraries of New Bedford, Nantucket and Salem. These are of course the logs of American vessels only. What tortoise history lies concealed in those of vessels belonging to Great Britain and other countries formerly engaged in whaling in eastern Pacific waters can only be conjectured. British whalers disappeared from this region during the war of 1812 and the American fleet was greatly reduced. Many vessels

² See lists of vessels, pp. 77-82 and Appendix, pp. 103-135.

were captured on both sides. None of the logbooks at hand is of earlier date than 1831, although vessels of both countries were whaling about the Galapagos during preceding decades.

The extracts from the logs supply data respecting tortoises that have hitherto been lacking, giving not only the dates and the separate islands visited but in most cases the numbers of tortoises secured at each. As each island of this anomalous archipelago bore its own particular species of tortoise,³ the most of which are now extinct, the logbooks of the whalers furnish considerable information respecting the progress of the work of extermination. They contain also information as to the methods practised in collecting and transporting tortoises.

The numbers of tortoises taken by some vessels cannot always be given in full. There are occasional log entries giving the catch by "boat loads," and these being difficult to estimate, are ignored in our summing up. In the list of vessels with catches recorded definitely, there are eight with log entries mentioning additional "boat loads." The ship *Phoenix* at James Island on July 20, 1835, makes record of twelve tortoises brought on board, and from the 25th to 28th, seven "boat loads" more. This being in 1835 when tortoises were abundant enough to permit selection of such convenient sizes for carrying as fifty to seventy-five pounds, a "boat load" might have consisted of twenty or more tortoises of such sizes. Allowing this particular vessel merely the average known catch per vessel during that decade, her supply of tortoises from James Island was not less than eighty-six. Doubtless the number was much larger. The whale-boat, twenty to thirty feet in length, has a large carrying capacity. According to the log of the bark *Morning Star* at Chatham Island on July 10, 1861, "all three boats came on board each one brought 20 Turpin." Captain Barnard's narrative of the ship *Millwood* says "Mr. Coles had forty-five terrapin in the boat," which indicates a still greater carrying capacity.

The number of tortoises actually taken by the vessels on our list was therefore considerably greater than the total given above.

The logbooks of some vessels record the presence of other whaleships among the islands, seeking tortoises, many of them with

³ Naturalists are not in accord as to the validity of some of these so-called species. A few of the islands have been inhabited at times since 1832 and all have been visited by vessels to such an extent that more or less transportation of tortoises among the islands could not have failed to take place. Specific names have been bestowed upon immature specimens which are different in appearance from very old ones, while the localities from which some museum specimens were derived are uncertain.

names not found in the present list. Were the scrawled and stained records of all available, there would be many more tales of arduous hunting of tortoises in the sun-baked, cactus- and thorn-filled gullies of the islands. The log of the ship *Hector* of New Bedford, at Albemarle on November 2, 1841, has this entry: "boats returned with 10 Terrapin, Rodman [another whaleship] about the same, . . . at daylight 7 ships in sight." The log of the ship *Barclay* contains this entry under date of August 11, 1835: "Narborough bore S.E. distant 25 miles, saw 9 ships cruising." In the log of the bark *Henry N. Crapo*, at Barrington Island on April 12, 1853, we find the names of six other whaleships that were in sight at the time. The log of the ship *Congaree*, at Chatham Island on July 6, 1847, has the following record: "3 boats started for Terrapin, saw 3 ships at anchor at Terrapin Road." Since the seventy-nine vessels whose logs constitute the basis of this study, averaged more than two visits each to the Galapagos for the purpose of securing tortoises, we may assume that it was the practise of all vessels cruising for sperm whales in the eastern Pacific to do so. It was in fact a rendezvous for the fleet. In 1852 three whaleships were lost among these islands.

"Turpinning" as the whalemens called it, was therefore the attraction that accounted for their presence at the Galapagos. Some of them got wood for fuel and a very few found fresh water, but all sought tortoises. They relied on them for fresh food and made special preparations for collecting them. In the log of the bark *Atkins Adams* at Chatham Island on July 5, 1861, there is a record which reads, "Employed in getting straps ready to fetch tearpin with." Another log says "All hands employed in making belts to go after terpen."

Tortoise hunters were sent ashore by the boat load. The log of the *Edward Carey* at Albemarle on November 9, 1862, in company with three other vessels, contains this record: "Each ship have sent one boat with nine men apeace after terrapin." Tortoises weighing from fifty to seventy-five pounds were the sizes most readily transported. A tortoise to a man was the usual load, the carrying of which was called "backing them down." Sometimes men were sent ashore with provisions for several days' work. The log of the ship *Pocahontas* at Chatham Island on August 30, 1861, says "sent two boats ashore with provisions and water for 3 days."

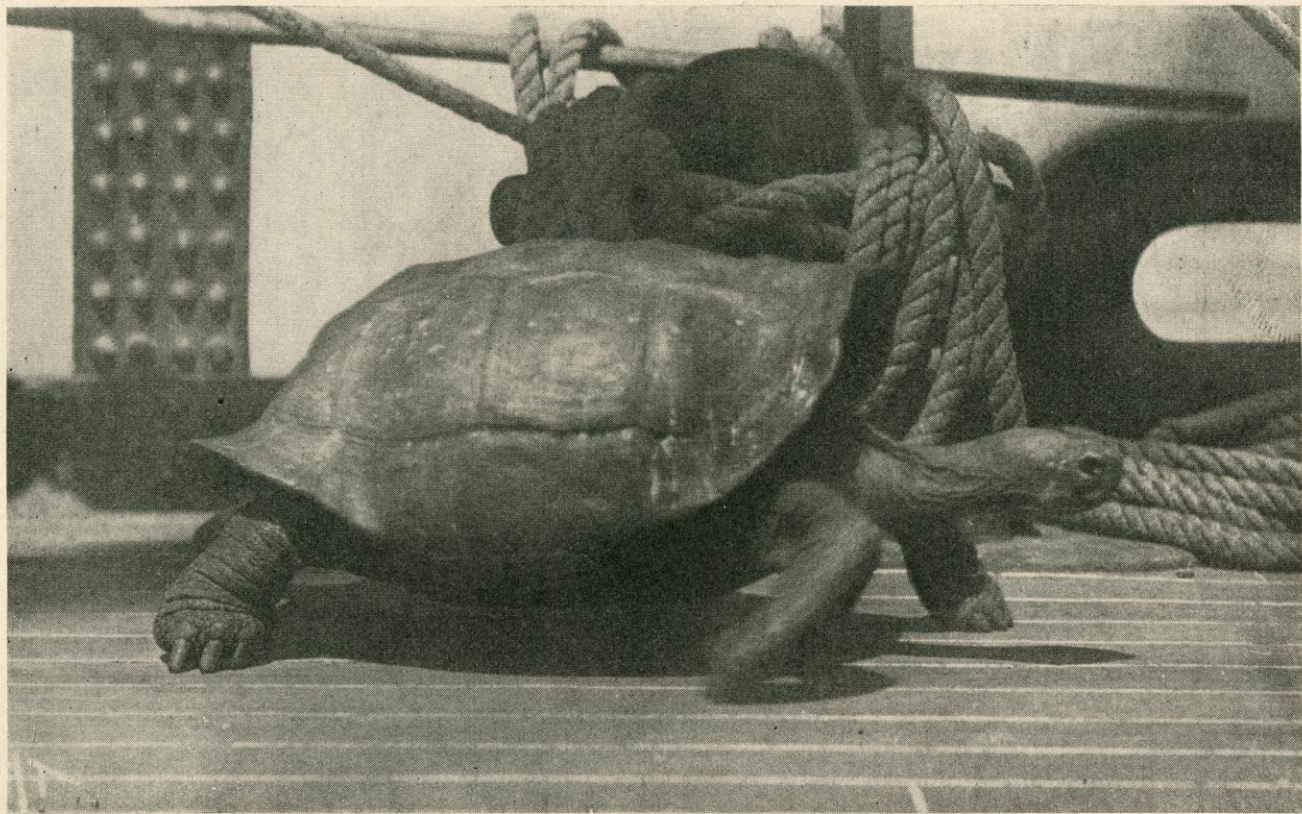


Fig. 21. A Galapagos Tortoise (*Testudo ephippium*), on the U.S.S. *Albatross*. Found on Duncan Island in 1891 by C. H. Townsend. Now in the U. S. National Museum. Photograph by C. H. Townsend.

Tortoises too large to be moved were frequently killed and the meat carried on board for immediate use, while others were turned on their backs and dragged by means of ropes tied to their legs. The latter method of transportation was, however, practicable only on favorable ground and for short distances. Large tortoises were also slung to oars to be carried by two or more men when the distance was not great.

It was unquestionably hard going for the tortoise hunters over the broken volcanic waves that are called land in the Galapagos, even for able-bodied seamen accustomed to long tugging at the oars of whaleboats: One tortoise hunter says "we got about 250 altogether which cost us much trouble." Another writes in his log: "at 8 P.M. on board tired out," and another, "returned with five Terrapin and intirely exhoisted."

The writer, who has tried tortoise hunting, finds it easy to sympathize with them.

Ships visited the islands at all seasons of the year. A successful catch at one season on an island where tortoises were plentiful could not always be duplicated a few months later the tortoises having moved into higher country in search of water. In the larger islands water is usually to be found in the elevated interior regions when totally lacking at lower coastal levels but the tortoises apparently occupied lower country as long as water was there available.

It was to the lower country, chiefly, that female tortoises resorted to dig holes for their eggs; a habit contributing greatly to their decimation, as this region was most exposed to the raids of the hunters. The medium sized animals were the ones most sought for convenient transportation and these happened to be the females. Darwin says: "the old males are the largest, the females rarely growing to so great a size." Porter writes that of the "fourteen tons" of tortoises taken aboard his ship at one time in 1812 "only three were males."

These records throw light on the fact that the tortoises obtained by scientific expeditions later on, were largely males.

Travel is exceedingly difficult in all islands of the group and whalers seldom attempted to penetrate far inland. Otherwise the supply of tortoises could hardly have lasted as it did throughout the long period of whaling activity. It was no uncommon experience for seamen to get lost and remain ashore over night, while in some

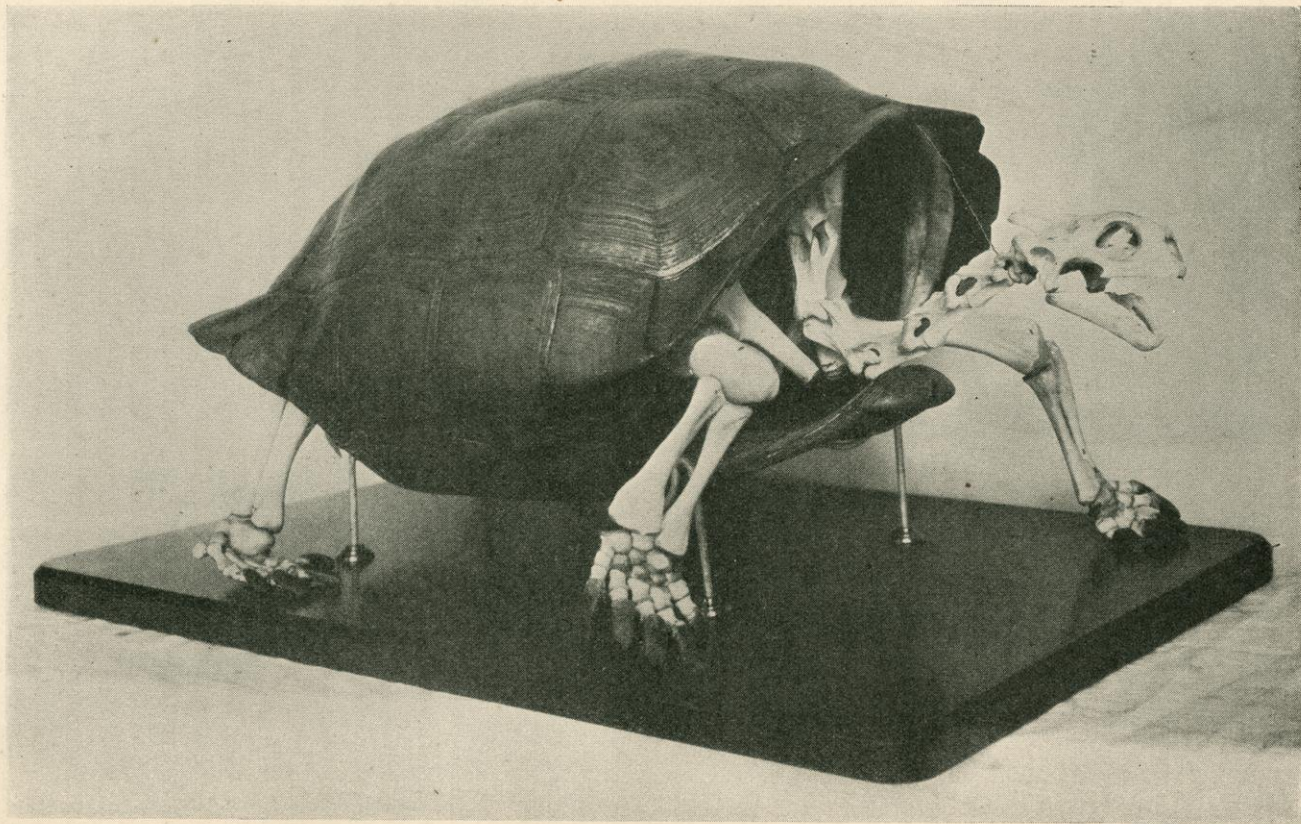


Fig. 22. Skeleton of Duncan Island tortoise (*Testudo ephippium*), as mounted in the U. S. National Museum. Collected in 1891 by C. H. Townsend.

instances lost men were finally abandoned to their fate. The following melancholy record is from the log of the ship *Chili* at Albemarle Island in 1841: "Sept. 25, 6 P.M. two boats came with 22 [tortoises] lost a man, . . . daylight Sept. 26 sent all hands to look for lost man." "Sept. 27, could not find him, left bread and water and directions in a bottle if anyone should ever find him." Occasionally a lost Crusoe, if he had succeeded in finding water, was picked up by another vessel after weeks of solitude.

According to the records at hand, tortoises were taken from nine of the islands of this group: Chatham, Albemarle, Charles, Hood, James, Abingdon, Duncan, Indefatigable and Barrington. Fifteen⁴ species of tortoises have been described from these and the small island of Jervis, five being from the large island of Albemarle. The smaller and lower islands were the first to be stripped of their stocks of tortoises but scattered numbers existed on some of them for many years after the whalers vanished.

Albemarle, the largest of the islands, has a length of seventy-two miles, an average width in its northern part of ten miles and in its southern part of twenty miles. Its greater elevations have heights varying from 3700 to 5000 feet. Indefatigable, the next in size and rather rounded in outline, has a diameter of about twenty miles. Its central elevation is 2296 feet. Narborough, third in size and also somewhat rounded in outline, has a diameter of about fifteen miles. Its volcano is 4300 feet high. Chatham measures nearly twenty-four miles in length by eight in width. Its greatest height is 2500 feet. James is also one of the larger islands having a length of twenty miles and an average width of ten miles. Its elevations are from 1000 to 2700 feet. All of the remaining islands which bore tortoises are of much smaller size than the preceding, but most of them have elevations exceeding 1000 feet. All islands of the group are on or near the Equator.

From Charles Island which was inhabited by a large colony of Ecuadorians during the "thirties," the tortoises practically disappeared during that decade. Darwin who visited Charles Island in the *Beagle* in 1835 stated that the main article of animal food of the settlers was derived from the tortoise. According to the log-book records now before us, the ship *Aurora* "got a few Turrapi" from Charles Island in 1848, but these must have been purchased as the inhabitants were already drawing supplies of tortoises from other islands.

⁴ The late Doctor Van Denburg's List of Species.

The last record for James Island is that of the bark *Alfred Tyler*, in 1845, which took twelve tortoises on October 11. The ship *Good Return* of New Bedford with four boats' crews ashore in 1848, "could not find any."

The very small island of Barrington saw almost the last of its tortoises in 1839, when the ship *George and Susan* of New Bedford took twenty-two on December 21 and 22. The bark *Henry N. Crapo* of South Dartmouth, visited Barrington on April 22, 1853 but found only one tortoise.

Hood Island, which is somewhat smaller than Charles Island, yielded 1698 tortoises to the vessels in our list, the last, seven in number, being taken on September 26, 1853 by the ship *Congaree* of New Bedford.

There are logbook records for Chatham, a large island, as late as 1863, for Abingdon in 1867, and for Duncan in 1863. During the fifties and sixties five vessels obtained a total of only sixteen tortoises on Abingdon while Duncan one of the smallest, yielded 356 during the same period. It is a singular fact that tortoises survived in small numbers on Duncan Island long after they had practically disappeared from Charles, James, Hood, Chatham and Abingdon, all much larger islands. One specimen only was found there by the Williams Expedition in 1923, none having been seen elsewhere.

Chatham Island was seldom visited by whaleships until 1837 when the ship *Omega* took two hundred and forty tortoises in nine days. In 1861 five vessels secured there an average of only eighty-seven tortoises in nine days' average work. During the period covered by our records, 1831 to 1868, this island yielded nearly twice as many tortoises as Albemarle, next in point of catch by whalers. Chatham was not colonized until 1855, a condition favorable to its tortoise life as compared with Charles Island, colonized in 1832.

For Indefatigable, one of the large islands (named after a British frigate in 1816) the catch by whaling vessels is surprisingly small, although Beck reported them as "not rare" in 1906. The total taken there by whalers from 1833 to 1848—the last, was three hundred and sixty-six. Albemarle, largest of the islands, rugged and mountainous, continued to yield tortoises to energetic hunters long after they had become scarce elsewhere.

While the Galapagos Islands undoubtedly furnished large sup-

plies of tortoises to passing vessels during the greater part of three centuries, the estimates of the numbers carried away seem, in view of the figures contained in our logbook records, to need revision. Doctor Bauer who visited the Galapagos in 1891 thought that ten millions of tortoises might have been taken from the islands since their discovery. Reynolds estimated the tortoise catch of thirty-one whaling vessels at Charles Island in 1832 and 1833 at 200 each. This average may be too high. Our records for the thirties show that the average catch at Charles Island by nine vessels during that decade was 138. The average per vessel for the Galapagos dwindled to sixty-two for the three following decades.

There is no evidence that tortoises were ever found on Culpepper, Wenman, Bindloe or Tower Islands and the logs of the whalers contain no references to them. The first two are little more than rocks. The ship *Good Return* of New Bedford anchored at Tower Island—possibly in the large bay—on December 27, 1848 and “lowered all four boats—went ashore after terrapin—could not find any.” The ship *Gay Head* of New Bedford sent boats ashore at Tower Island on February 17, 1853, which according to the log, returned with “not very flattering accounts as regards Terrapin.”

Their absence from a low island such as Tower is doubtless due to lack of water. This island two miles in length, has an elevation of only 211 feet, while Duncan, still smaller has an elevation of 1300 feet. Other small islands that bore tortoises were all much higher than Tower, Abingdon having an elevation of 1950 feet, Barrington of 900 feet and Jervis, smaller than any of these, a height of 1050 feet. All of the tortoise-bearing islands are known to have water in their higher sections during all or part of the year.

The ship *Zenas Coffin* of Nantucket visited Jervis, the smallest of the tortoise-bearing islands, on July 12, 1850, and “sent in two boats to find terrapins but did not see any.” This is the only reference to Jervis Island found in the whole series of logbooks. There are single specimens of the Jervis Island Tortoise (*Testudo wallacei*) in the Rothschild museum and the California Academy of Sciences, apparently the only specimens in existence of this extinct species. The tortoises taken on Crossman and Cowley, small islets close to Albemarle, are included in the catch made on that island.

Narborough, third in size among the islands, is not mentioned in the logbooks in connection with tortoise hunting, although there

are references to the behavior of the volcano on that island. R. H. Beck in 1906, after a prolonged search, found an old male tortoise on Narborough, the only one apparently ever recorded. It was later described as a new species (*Testudo phantastica*). It is not improbable that tortoises were largely destroyed on that island from time to time by lava flows and by intense heat. In Morrell's⁵ graphic account of an eruption of the Narborough volcano in 1825, he records the temperature of the air where his ship lay becalmed and in great danger, at 147° and of the sea water 150°; temperatures sufficiently high to destroy all animal life about that part of the island.

The log of the bark *Equator* of New Bedford, Thomas H. Mathews, Master, at the Galapagos in 1846, contains the following, relative to the volcano on Narborough Island, which is of interest as a record of volcanic activity for that year: Nov. 6. "Saw a volcano on Narborough Island, east side, in full operation. A river of lava running down to the water at Christopher's Point, bearing S.E. distant 12 miles. The volcano seems to be a split some half-mile in length and is continually sending up a high flame and lava which runs down a space of three miles into the water. We are about 15 miles from it and can see it very plain." Nov. 24. "Being up in Weather Bay, well over on Narborough side, the volcano is in awful operation at present. There is one large cone which is like a large boiling pot which is boiling over. The red lava covers a field of 5 or 6 miles, which is a great illumination in the night." The Narborough volcano as seen by us in 1888 from the U.S.S. *Albatross* was apparently emitting smoke but was not otherwise in activity.

In making some of the larger catches of tortoises during the thirties, vessels spent from five to nine days at an island. The following named vessels each took two hundred or more from 1831 to 1837:

| | | | | | | | | |
|------|-----------------|---------|--------|------|-----|-----------|---|------|
| Ship | <i>Isabella</i> | Hood | Island | 1831 | 335 | tortoises | 5 | days |
| " | <i>Hesper</i> | " | " | " | 250 | " | 6 | " |
| " | <i>Hector</i> | Charles | " | 1832 | 226 | " | 7 | " |
| " | <i>Moss</i> | " | " | 1834 | 350 | " | 9 | " |
| " | <i>Loper</i> | Hood | " | " | 237 | " | 6 | " |
| " | <i>Lima</i> | James | " | 1837 | 224 | " | 7 | " |
| " | <i>Omega</i> | Chatham | " | " | 240 | " | 9 | " |

These large catches make a total of 1962 tortoises taken in an average of seven days.

⁵ "A Narrative of Four Voyages," By Benjamin Morrell, New York, 1832.

The best catches made during the 'sixties by a similar number of vessels, averaged less than half of those made during the 'thirties varying from sixty-three to one hundred eighty-eight, while the time in securing tortoises was from five to fifteen days:

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|------|-----------------------|--------|
| Bark <i>Ohio</i> | Albemarle Island | 1860 | 81 tortoises | 5 days |
| " <i>Ospray</i> | " " | " | 122 " | 10 " |
| " <i>Morning Star</i> | Chatham | " | 1861 188 | " 15 " |
| " <i>Atkins Adams</i> | " " | " | 105 | " 13 " |
| Ship <i>Edward Carey</i> | Albemarle | " | 1862 95 | " 7 " |
| " <i>Roscoe</i> | " " | " | 63 | " 7 " |
| " <i>Edward Carey</i> | Duncan | " | 1863 130 ⁶ | " 7 " |

These vessels took only 693 tortoises in an average hunting time of nine days.

There were other agencies besides food-seeking ships at work affecting the tortoises. The settlements of Ecuadorians on Charles Island and later on Chatham and Albemarle islands, used them not only for food but for their oil, which was sold to whalers for culinary purposes or sent to markets on the mainland. Large numbers of tortoises were regularly killed for their fat alone. In the settlements tortoises were kept for sale to whalers and there were a few small Ecuadorian vessels that gathered them for the same purpose. The log of the ship *Robert Edwards* at Chatham Island on December 24, 1843 contains the following: "At 9 P.M. the boats all came off and brought the remainder of their Terrapin makeing 190 in all and 72 that the Captain bought." The log of the ship *Edward Carey*, at Indefatigable Island on December 28, 1863, has this entry: "At 10 A.M. a small schooner Anchored close to us the Captain went on board bought of them 78 Terripan."

The log of the ship *George and Susan*, off Charles Island on August 30, 1855, contains this record: "Spoke a brig from the coast that wanted to sell Terrapin."

The domestic animals—dogs, cats and pigs, becoming wild and increasing in numbers, proved destructive to the eggs and newly hatched young of the tortoises. At the present time, wild dogs

⁶ Not including those purchased from a small trading schooner.

probably constitute the greatest danger to which the small remnant of tortoises in the mountains of Albemarle is exposed. Beck in 1906 found the native oil makers still at work in the high interior of Albemarle and dogs were both numerous and destructive.

In the various searches that have been made for tortoises during the past thirty years by scientific expeditions, islands have been stripped of all that could readily be found and the belief expressed that few remained, yet later expeditions managed to pick up stragglers. The explanation is probably that where dogs are not found, the very young are easily overlooked, but after a few years became large enough to be detected. These volcanic islands are so rough and brushy, so gashed with deep cactus-filled gullies, that the small tortoises that have escaped rats, cats, dogs and pigs in infancy often find lodgement in places that can be explored only with painstaking effort. It is possible that surviving tortoises may again be found on Duncan, Hood, James and Abingdon islands.

There are a few records respecting the length of time tortoises lived on board the whaleships. An entry in the log of the bark *Equator* of New Bedford, on September 8, 1846, reads: "killed our last Terpen which has lived on air for four months and made a good mess for all hands." This evidently was the last of the one hundred fifty tortoises taken by the *Equator* from Albemarle Island on April 22d of the same year—four and one-half months before.⁷

Morrell says "I have had these animals on board my own vessels from five to six months without their once taking food or water. . . . They have been known to live on board of some of our whaleships for fourteen months." Porter says "No description of stock is so convenient for ships to take to sea as the tortoises of these islands. They require no provisions or water for a year. . . . They have been piled away among the casks in the hold of a ship, where they have been kept eighteen months."

It is known however that tortoises lived indefinitely on board vessels and that whaleships frequently kept one or two throughout the voyage of two years or more, as pets, finally landing them alive at the home port. The following information on this point, was contributed in September, 1924, by Mr. George A. Grant of Nantucket, who spent the greater part of his life as a whaler, and who visited the Galapagos: "Shortly after the ship *Niger* of New Bedford

⁷ See extracts from log of *Equator*, Appendix, p. 118.

left the Galapagos, one tortoise disappeared. Two years later when the ship arrived at New Bedford, the tortoise was found alive among the casks in the lower hold."

Several citizens of New Bedford and Nantucket have spoken recently of tortoises that were brought home years ago by whalers. Mr. Frank Wood, curator of the Whaling Museum at New Bedford, related his experience with two tortoises brought home in the early 'sixties by a whaleship owned by his uncle Mr. Edward W. Howland, who kept them in his garden. Mr. Wood spoke of riding on them, saying that a tortoise had first to be started, after which he got on its back.

According to Mrs. Johnson Whiting of West Tisbury, Massachusetts, Captain James Cleaveland, of the ship *Seaconnet* of New Bedford, brought home two tortoises in 1873. They were kept in his yard where they ate grass and were very contented until cold weather came when for lack of suitable winter quarters they were killed and eaten. In "Four Years Aboard the Whaleships," by William B. Whitecar, Jr., on page 97, the author tells of a Madagascar terrapin that was kept in the hold of a whaler for fifteen months and at the end of that time was "still quite fat and good eating."

The name tortoise was seldom used by the whalers. They knew the animals as terrapin, which they usually spelled "turpin" but there were many variations; captains, mates and occasional seamen keeping private logs, wrote it "turpin," "turpine," "tarpain," "turupin," or "terapen," the spelling depending as Sam Weller says "on the taste of the speller." When at anchor, the shipkeeper sometimes wrote in the log, "the boats ashore turpining" or "all hands a-turpining." In the log of the ship *Loper* only, are they referred to as tortoises.

There is nothing in the logbooks of the whalers respecting the habits of tortoises, but this subject is well presented in an interesting and important article by R. H. Beck, which was published in the "Report" of the New York Zoological Society for the year 1902.

The sizes attained by tortoises of the Galapagos were probably as great as those recorded of tortoises taken from islands of the Indian Ocean, one of which, now in the British Museum, had a weight of eight hundred and seventy pounds. They may have been even greater, but the weights of the monsters described by whalers

in the following pages were estimates only. In the matter of length we are better informed. There are specimens in European museums in which the straight length of carapace exceeds four feet and in American museums, three and a half feet, Porter describes the taking of tortoises on Indefatigable Island in 1812 "of an enormous size, one of which measured five feet and a half long."

The Galapagos tortoise described by Messrs. Daggett and Heller, lived sixteen years in California, having attained a length of forty-one inches and a weight of four hundred and fifty pounds. It was a young tortoise when captured. The weight of Porter's five and a half foot tortoise may have approached those celebrated among the whalers as giants of marvellous size.

While American whaleships, numbering more than seven hundred at one time, did not all go to the Galapagos, or even to the Pacific, those that did so undoubtedly made repeated visits, as the logs at hand indicate. It would be within safe limits to credit American whalers with taking not less than 100,000 tortoises subsequent to 1830. The whaleships of other countries also visited the Galapagos, although not to the same extent.

There are no records available respecting the possible numbers of tortoises removed from the islands by passing merchant vessels during the whaling period and preceding it. This source of destruction continued as long as tortoises were available either by hunting or by purchase from the settlers. No one has attempted to summarize the captures made by the early navigators that have left records, and little is known of what the buccaneers and the sealers that followed them did to the tortoises. A couple of centuries of tortoise hunting prior to the advent of the whalers must have resulted in the taking of great numbers. It doubtless would be possible to recover some of the logbooks of the sealing fleet. The men-of-war also are to be considered, since like the buccaneers, they had larger crews to feed than the whalers. Porter confesses to loading "about fourteen tons" of tortoises from James Island on one of his ships in 1812. He also mentions taking on board "between four and five hundred" at Charles Island.

The greater part of the destruction subsequent to the establishment of the first settlement in 1832, may well be attributed to the hundreds of Ecuadorian inhabitants on Charles, Chatham and Albemarle islands who found in the tortoises not only their main

subsistence for many years but the basis of the oil making industry that, according to Beck, was still in progress in 1906.

Doctor Bauer's supposition that ten millions of tortoises were carried away by ships may be incredible, but there is little doubt that such figures would be required to account for the enormous numbers that have disappeared in various ways since the discovery of the Galapagos.

While the object of the writer in the present paper is to report upon the hitherto overlooked records of the whaling fleet, he can not entirely ignore the problem of the origin of the tortoises for which the Galapagos Islands are chiefly celebrated.

The long-isolated and very peculiar animal and plant life of the islands is remotely of American origin. In attempting to account for its presence some naturalists are disposed to accept a theory which presupposes a former land connection between these volcanic islands and the mainland. This would require as Milton says, "a bridge of wond'rous length." The coast of Ecuador lies five hundred miles from the most easterly of the islands, with ocean depths between as deep as two and a half miles. In the direction of Central America the distance is six hundred miles, with intervening depths exceeding two miles. Participation in the actual work of sounding these depths has naturally served to render their measurements impressive to the writer.

If a former land bridge from the American tropics, with their surpassingly rich fauna and flora, is necessary to account for the very limited number of animal and plant forms inhabiting the Galapagos, it is pertinent to inquire, *why was it so little used?* Mammals are represented only by a few bats, of land birds there are only about sixty species, of reptiles only twenty-six, and of insects and of plants only a few hundreds. The transportation of some of these can be accounted for readily in other ways:

The numerous islands, one of them seventy-two miles long in a north and south direction, extend through one hundred thirty miles of latitude and one hundred forty of longitude. Lying directly across the paths of the prevailing westerly currents and winds the position of the Galapagos Archipelago is such as to favor the accumulation of drifting objects. With such conditions enduring through a long period of time, it is inconceivable that various forms of living flotsam could have failed to arrive there.

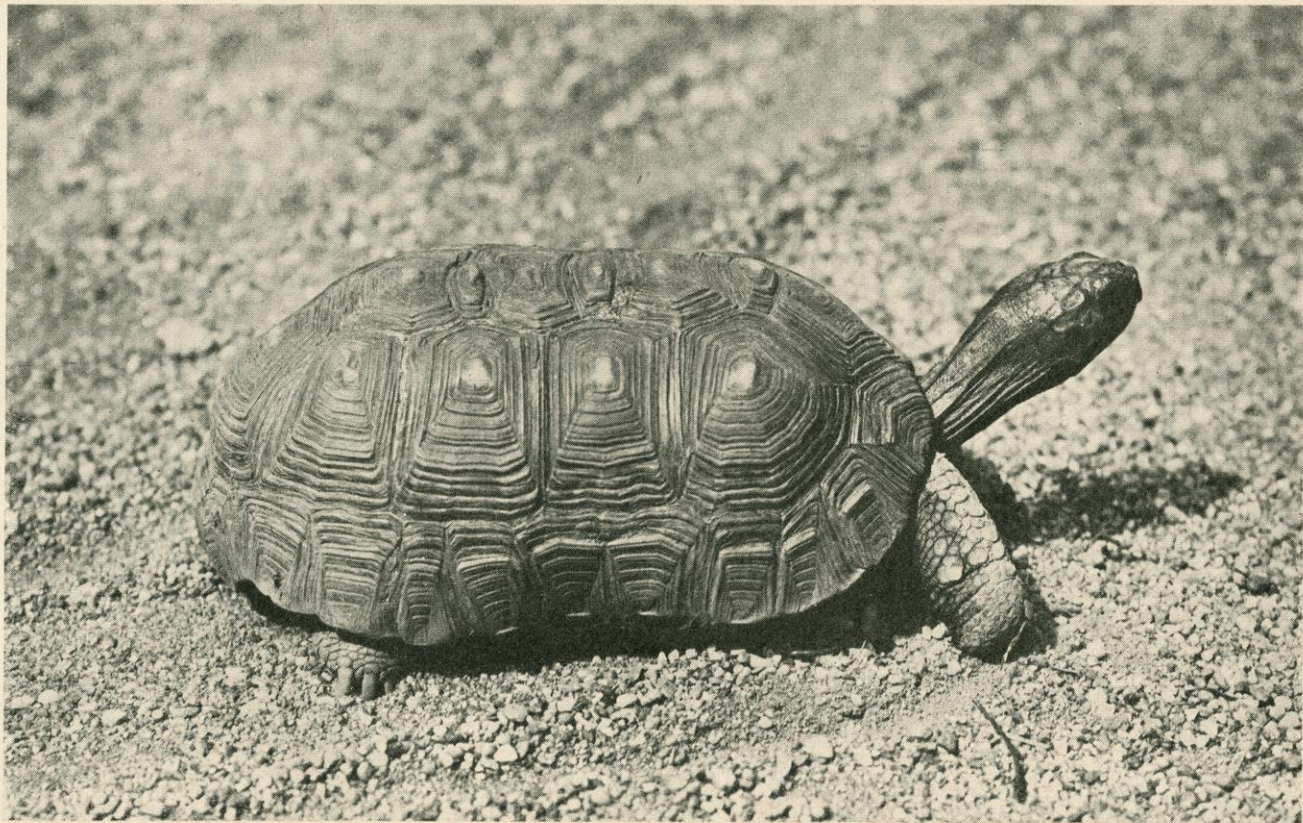


Fig. 23. The South American tortoise (*Testudo tabulata*), with which the origin of the Galapagos tortoise is doubtless connected. Collected on the Isthmus of Darien in 1924 by Charles M. Breder. Now in the New York Zoological Park.

The hardy tortoise, able to live for months without food or water, and like all four-legged animals, able to float and even swim for a time, would have as good a chance to survive the voyage as the lizards or any of the early involuntary Galapagan immigrants that lacked the power of flight. The ancestry of the island tortoises need not be regarded as mysterious, with so close a relative as *Testudo tabulata* living no farther away than the Isthmus of Panama. Within the past year, our associate, C. M. Breder of the Aquarium staff, has found this large and widely distributed species living in considerable numbers on the Isthmus, where it is a common pet with children of the native villages. He also brought living specimens to the Aquarium. Individuals are recorded of more than two feet in length of shell. What size and coloration it might acquire, if removed from the rainy forests of the Isthmus, where it is subject to human molestation, and placed in the dry volcanic environment of the Galapagos, affords food for thought. The longer we contemplate this Panama tortoise, with characteristics differing but little more from the average Galapagan animal than do the various island forms of the latter from each other, the more are we disposed to agree with Garman that "the origin of the Galapagos tortoises is directly connected with the species *Testudo tabulata* of northern South America."

It is within the range of possibility that the introduction of tortoises was brought about through human agency. While there is no evidence that these islands were known to primitive man, there is also no evidence that he was not there temporarily. With a vast, populated mainland lying a few hundreds of miles to windward and from which currents set continually toward the islands, it is conceivable that canoes or floating trees with castaway tortoises might have drifted there. All explorers of the rivers of tropical America are familiar with the food gathering canoe of the aborigine. Whatever agency was responsible for the tortoises, and that will doubtless remain unknown, they found abundant food and no enemies at the Galapagos. Their amazing development both in size and numbers was a matter of isolation under conditions exceptionally favorable to them.

The only other instance of existing species of tortoises attaining equal development, was under similar conditions on islands in the Indian Ocean.

Remarks on Sunday December 4

This 24 hours begins with brisk Trades Steered NE all
 Sail Set at 7 PM hauled aboard East Point Bore No the
 distant about 3 Leagues Shortland Sail and hauled on a
 wind East SE under 3 Top Sails gills & Spanker
 at 12 midnigh Lay the main Top Sail & Back headed
 So Eastward at 5 AM saw the land Steered in for the
 So Lighthouse of Hood Island at 11 AM Set 90 the Lighthouse
 visible in 15 fathoms of water hoisted out 65 fathoms
 of Chain at noon moderate wind from SSE So End

Remarks on Monday December 5

This Day begins with brisk Trades at 3 PM 2 boats
 went on Shore after Serapin at 7 PM returned brought
 of about 30 at 4 AM 3 Boats went on Shore after Serapin
 Latter part of this 24 hours moderate Trades and Light
 drisk of rain at 9 AM Longitude By Chronometer $89^{\circ} 27' 30''$
 Laying in Hood Island harbour So Ends this Day

Remarks on Tuesday December 6

This 24 hours begins with moderate Trades from SE
 3 Boats on Shore after Serapin at 7 PM Boats returned
 on Board brought of about 100 Serapin Through the
 Night moderate Trades Latter part the Term at 4 AM
 3 Boats went on Shore after Serapin Latter part of
 this 24 hours pleasant weather So Ends this Day

Remarks on Wednesday December 7 1831

This 24 hours begins with moderate Trades & Light squalls
 of rain at 6 PM the Boats came on board brought of
 about 90 Serapin Through the night moderate wind
 at 5 AM 3 Boats went on Shore after Serapin
 at Noon Moderate Trades SE So Ends this Day

Fig. 24. A page from the logbook of the whaleship *Isabella* of New Bedford. At Hood Island, Galapagos in 1831. Between December 4 and 8, this vessel captured 335 tortoises.

In the following list of vessels there is shown a catch of 10,373 tortoises. The number of vessels participating is given as one hundred and fifty-one, but it should be understood that this number means *visits when tortoises were secured*; many vessels having called at the islands two or more times. The ship *George and Susan* obtained tortoises seven times between 1835 and 1856; the ship *Hector* seven times between 1832 and 1843, and the ship *Congaree* eight times between 1847 and 1853. Large catches were often made. Four vessels took over three hundred each, eight other vessels over two hundred each, thirty-three over one hundred each, and twenty-four over fifty each.

The largest recorded catches of tortoises from a single island are 350, 335, 315 and 310:

TORTOISES TAKEN FROM THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS BY CERTAIN
WHALESHIPS FROM 1831 TO 1868⁸

Catch shown by Islands

| Year | Vessel | Island | Tortoises |
|------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1831 | Ship <i>Isabella</i> | Hood | 335 |
| " | " <i>Magnolia</i> | Charles | 155 |
| " | " <i>Hesper</i> | Hood | 250 |
| " | " <i>Flances</i> | Charles | 179 |
| 1832 | " <i>Abigail</i> | { Hood | 50 |
| " | " <i>Hector</i> | { Abingdon | 8 |
| 1833 | " <i>Hector</i> | Charles | 226 plus |
| " | " <i>Pacific</i> | Albemarle | 9 |
| 1834 | " <i>Abigail</i> | Indefatigable | 44 |
| " | " <i>Bengal</i> | Indefatigable | 140 |
| " | " <i>Moss</i> | Charles | 100 |
| " | " <i>Loper</i> | { Chatham | 8 |
| " | " <i>Hector</i> | { Charles | 350 |
| " | " <i>Benezet</i> | Hood | 237 |
| " | " <i>Barclay</i> ⁹ | James | 23 plus |
| 1835 | " <i>Hector</i> | { Charles | 120 |
| " | " <i>George & Susan</i> | { Indefatigable | 12 |
| " | " <i>Hector</i> | Charles | 50 |
| " | " <i>George & Susan</i> | James | 124 |
| " | " <i>Hector</i> | Albemarle | 2 |
| " | " <i>George & Susan</i> | James | 68 |

⁸ For extracts from the logbooks of these vessels see appendix, where they are arranged chronologically as in this list.

⁹ First voyage made in 1795.

| | | | |
|------|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1835 | Bark <i>Benezet</i> | { Charles | 40 |
| | | { Abingdon | 12 |
| | | { James | 35 plus |
| " | Ship <i>Lima</i> | { Albemarle | 67 |
| | | { Abingdon | 10 |
| " | <i>Phoenix</i> | { Hood | 65 |
| 1836 | Bark <i>Pioneer</i> | Indefatigable | 2 plus many |
| " | Ship <i>Eliza Adams</i> | Albemarle | 23 |
| " | Bark <i>Hesper</i> | James | 13 plus many |
| " | Ship <i>Lima</i> | { Chatham | 20 |
| | | { James | 118 |
| 1837 | " <i>Abigail</i> | Abingdon | 142 |
| " | " <i>Eliza Adams</i> | Charles | 24 |
| " | " <i>Lima</i> | James | 224 |
| " | " <i>Omega</i> | Chatham | 240 |
| 1838 | " <i>Corinthian</i> | Hood | 136 |
| " | " <i>Charles</i> | Albemarle | 8 |
| " | " <i>George & Susan</i> | Chatham | 67 |
| " | " <i>Phoenix</i> | James | 12 plus 7 boat loads |
| 1839 | " <i>George & Susan</i> | Barrington | 22 |
| " | " <i>Charles</i> | Albemarle | 20 |
| " | " <i>Robert Edwards</i> | { Hood | 12 |
| | | { Albemarle | 7 |
| 1840 | " <i>Robert Edwards</i> | Chatham | 59 |
| " | " <i>Rousseau</i> ¹⁰ | Hood | 45 |
| " | " <i>Mariner</i> | Chatham | 115 |
| 1841 | " <i>Elizabeth</i> | Chatham | 102 |
| | | { Albemarle (Crossman) | 16 |
| " | " <i>Chili</i> | { James | 93 |
| | | { Albemarle | 10 |
| " | " <i>Rousseau</i> | Albemarle | 12 |
| " | " <i>Pocohontas</i> | Albemarle | 47 |
| " | " <i>Hector</i> | Albemarle | 24 |
| 1842 | " <i>James Munroe</i> | Albemarle | 64 |
| " | Ship <i>Eagle</i> | Albemarle | 36 |
| " | " <i>Rousseau</i> | Albemarle | 10 |
| " | " <i>Chili</i> | Chatham | 118 |
| " | " <i>Lion</i> | Albemarle | 5 |
| " | " <i>Robert Edwards</i> | Chatham | 107 |
| " | " <i>Hector</i> | Hood | 173 |
| " | " <i>Navigator</i> | { Chatham | 30 |
| | | { Hood | 5 |
| 1843 | Bark <i>Garland</i> | Hood | 100 |
| " | Ship <i>Robert Edwards</i> | Chatham | 262 |

¹⁰ The oldest whaler built in 1801 for Stephen Girard of Philadelphia. Broken up at New Bedford in 1893.

| | | | |
|------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| 1843 | " <i>Hector</i> | Abingdon | 67 |
| 1844 | " <i>Callao</i> | { Hood | 20 |
| | | { Albemarle | 4 plus |
| 1844 | Bark <i>Equator</i> | { Chatham | 24 |
| | | { Albemarle | 9 |
| " | Ship <i>Levi Starbuck</i> | { Hood | 14 |
| | | { Chatham | 130 |
| " | " <i>Charles</i> | Chatham | 100 |
| 1845 | Bark <i>Equator</i> | Albemarle | 69 |
| " | " <i>Alfred Tyler</i> | { James | 20 |
| | | { Abingdon | 7 |
| | | { Indefatigable | 45 |
| 1846 | " <i>Equator</i> | { Albemarle | 150 |
| | | { Chatham | 14 |
| " | (Name lost) | Chatham | 190 |
| " | Ship <i>Aurora</i> | { Albemarle | 2 |
| | | { Hood | 7 |
| " | " <i>Minerva</i> | Chatham | 120 |
| 1847 | " <i>Coral</i> | { Albemarle | 1 |
| | | { Abingdon | 1 |
| " | " <i>Susan</i> | Albemarle (Crossman) | 30 |
| " | Bark <i>Alfred Tyler</i> | Abingdon | 3 |
| 1847 | Ship <i>Charles Frederick</i> | Hood | 67 |
| " | " <i>Aurora</i> | Chatham | 100 |
| " | " <i>Congaree</i> | Chatham | 4 |
| " | " <i>Elizabeth</i> | Chatham | 100 |
| 1848 | " <i>Susan</i> | { Albemarle | 186 |
| | | { Abingdon | 23 |
| " | " <i>Corinthian</i> | Chatham | 54 |
| " | " <i>Roman</i> | { Duncan | 50 |
| | | { Indefatigable | 36 |
| " | " <i>Congaree</i> | { Abingdon | 10 |
| | | { Chatham | 70 |
| " | " <i>Coral</i> | Chatham | 200 |
| 1849 | " <i>Susan</i> | Albemarle | 2 |
| " | (Name lost) | Albemarle | 63 |
| " | Ship <i>Congaree</i> | Chatham | 130 |
| " | " <i>Kingston</i> | Abingdon | 6 |
| " | Brig <i>Vesta</i> | { Hood | 1 |
| | | { Abingdon | 5 |
| 1850 | Ship <i>Susan</i> | Chatham | 156 |
| " | " <i>Peruvian</i> | Duncan | 131 |
| " | " <i>Martha</i> | Chatham | 110 |
| 1851 | " <i>Pocahontas</i> | Chatham | 90 |
| 1852 | " <i>Congaree</i> | Abingdon | 5 |
| " | Bark <i>Eugenia</i> | { Albemarle | 2 |
| | | { Chatham | 107 |

| | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| 1853 | Ship <i>George & Susan</i> | Abingdon | 3 |
| " | Bark <i>Henry H. Crapo</i> | Barrington | 1 |
| " | Ship <i>Congaree</i> | { Chatham | 315 |
| " | " | { Hood | 7 |
| " | Bark <i>Peru</i> | Albemarle | 150 |
| " | " <i>Martha</i> | Chatham | 13 |
| 1854 | Bark <i>Eugenia</i> | Abingdon | 3 |
| " | " <i>Superior</i> | Albemarle | 1 |
| " | Ship <i>Potomac</i> | Chatham | 43 |
| 1855 | " <i>George & Susan</i> | Chatham | 152 |
| " | Bark <i>Cornelia</i> | { Chatham | 28 |
| " | " | { Albemarle | 14 |
| " | Ship <i>Mary Ann</i> | { Chatham | 4 |
| " | " | { Duncan | 17 |
| " | Bark <i>Superior</i> | Albemarle | 11 |
| " | " <i>Benjamin Cummings</i> | Chatham | 310 |
| 1857 | " <i>Bevis</i> | Albemarle | 13 |
| 1858 | " <i>Morning Star</i> ¹¹ | Albemarle | 24 |
| 1859 | " <i>Montgomery</i> | { Chatham | 78 |
| " | " | { Albemarle | 7 |
| " | Ship <i>Lancer</i> | Chatham | 70 |
| 1860 | Bark <i>Ohio</i> | Albemarle | 81 |
| " | " <i>Ospray</i> | Albemarle | 122 |
| " | " <i>Atkins Adams</i> | Albemarle | 14 |
| " | Ship <i>Edward Carey</i> | Albemarle | 56 plus |
| 1861 | Bark <i>Stella</i> | Albemarle | 6 |
| " | " <i>Ospray</i> | Albemarle | 41 |
| " | " <i>Morning Star</i> | Chatham | 188 |
| " | Ship <i>Roscoe</i> | Chatham | 50 |
| " | " <i>Arnolda</i> | Chatham | 42 |
| " | Bark <i>Atkins Adams</i> | Chatham | 105 |
| " | " <i>Ohio</i> | Chatham | 50 |
| 1862 | " <i>Stella</i> | Abingdon | 4 |
| " | Ship <i>Edward Carey</i> | Albemarle | 95 |
| " | " <i>Roscoe</i> | Albemarle | 63 |
| 1863 | Ship <i>Edward Carey</i> | { Chatham | 1 |
| " | " | { Duncan | 208 |
| 1867 | Bark <i>Osceola 2nd</i> | Abingdon | 1 |
| 1868 | Ship <i>Roscoe</i> | Albemarle (Cowley Islet) | 5 |

Total visits by above-named
67 vessels—151

Total recorded
catch 10,373

¹¹ Built 1843, last voyage 1914, see frontispiece.

ABOVE CATCH OF TORTOISES ARRANGED BY DECADES

Showing number of visits by vessels and average taken at each visit

| Decade | Tortoises | Visits by Vessels | Average |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1831-1839 | 3809 | 44 | 86 |
| 1840-1849 | 3567 | 61 | 58 |
| 1850-1859 | 1865 | 28 | 67 |
| 1860-1868 | 1132 | 18 | 63 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Total Tortoises | 10,373 | Total visits 151 | General Aver. 68 |

SAME CATCH ARRANGED BY ISLANDS

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------|------------------|--------|
| 1. Chatham | 4,326 | 6. Duncan | 356 |
| 2. Albemarle | 1,581 | 7. Abingdon | 310 |
| 3. Hood | 1,524 | 8. Indefatigable | 279 |
| 4. Charles | 1,244 | 9. Barrington | 23 |
| 5. James | 730 | | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Total tortoises | | | 10,373 |

In the following list of twenty-nine vessels making thirty-eight visits to the islands the numbers of tortoises taken are not recorded. Allowing these vessels the same average catch for each decade, as the sixty-seven vessels making one hundred and fifty-one visits, with definite records, their catch may be estimated conservatively as follows:

ESTIMATED CATCH OF TORTOISES

Based on the Recorded Catch—Arranged by Decades

| Decade | Visits by Vessels | Average | Tortoises |
|-----------|-------------------|---------|----------------------|
| 1833-1838 | 12 | 87 | 1044 |
| 1840-1849 | 14 | 58 | 812 |
| 1850-1859 | 7 | 67 | 469 |
| 1860-1867 | 5 | 63 | 315 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| | 38 | | Estimated catch 2640 |

The recorded catch of 10,373 tortoises by vessels making one hundred and fifty-one visits, and the estimated catch of 2640 by vessels making thirty-eight visits, gives a total of 13,013 tortoises taken during one hundred and eighty-nine visits.

LIST OF VESSELS SEEKING OR OBTAINING TORTOISES AT VARIOUS ISLANDS
FROM 1833 TO 1867, BUT NUMBERS TAKEN NOT RECORDED

| Year | Vessel | Island | Date | Logbook Entries |
|------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1833 | Ship <i>Loper</i> | Abingdon | Aug. 7-8 | "At anchor at Abingdon" |
| 1834 | " <i>Bengal</i> | Albemarle | Apr. 1 | "went for terrapin" |
| " | " <i>L. C. Richmond</i> | Charles | July 16 | "the boat wint on shore" |
| " | " <i>Ohio</i> | James | Feb. 26- | |
| | | | Mar. 1 | "employd giting turpin" |
| 1835 | Bark <i>Pioneer</i> | Charles | May 7-14 | "boats returned with turpin" |
| " | Ship <i>Lima</i> | Chatham | June 23-25 | "boats returned with turpin" |
| 1836 | " <i>Ohio</i> | Charles | Apr. 12-15 | "boats after turpin" |
| " | Bark <i>Pioneer</i> | Charles | July 16-17 | "boats returned with turpin" |
| 1837 | Ship <i>Elizabeth</i> | Albemarle | May 17-18 | "obtained Terapine" |
| " | " <i>Eliza Adams</i> | { Indefatig- able James | May 7-9 | "imployed getting turpin" |
| 1838 | " <i>Omega</i> | | June 26- July 2 | "stowing Terrapin" |
| 1842 | " <i>Ocean</i> | { Albemarle (Cross- man) Chatham | Jan. 25-27 | "employed turpinning" |
| | | | July 26- | |
| | | | Aug. 3 | "getting turpin" |
| " | " <i>George Wash- ington</i> | Hood | Nov. 1 | "Terrapin very scars" |
| " | " <i>James Monroe</i> | Albemarle | July 2-3 | "3 boats loded with turpin" |
| 1843 | " <i>Phebe</i> | Albemarle | Jan. 12 | "got a few Turrapin" |
| 1845 | Bark <i>Alfred Tyler</i> | Albemarle | Nov. 11-12 | "on shore for terphin" |
| | (Name lost) | James | Aug. 18-23 | "got some turpin" |
| 1846 | Ship <i>Ann Alexander</i> | Hood | (Records mislaid) | |
| 1847 | Bark <i>Persia</i> | Hood | Jan. 6-7 | "got but few tarapin" |
| " | " <i>Alfred Tyler</i> | Albemarle | Apr. 24-25 | "on south head for terphin" |
| " | Ship <i>Congaree</i> | { Abingdon Charles | July 10 | "one Terrapin" |
| | | | Oct. 26-27 | "some Terrapin" |
| 1848 | " <i>Aurora</i> | Charles | Jan. 12 | "got a few Turrapin" |
| 1849 | " <i>Phoenix</i> | Albemarle | June 25-27 | "Several turpin" |
| | | Chatham | Mar. 19-22 | "3 boat loads of Terrapin" |
| 1850 | Ship <i>Potomac</i> | Albemarle | Oct. 18-19 | "after terrapin" |
| 1854 | " <i>Montreal</i> | Albemarle | Jan. 19 | "four boats go Turpin" |
| 1856 | " <i>George & Susan</i> | Albemarle | June 9-10 | "after Tarrapin" |
| 1858 | Bark <i>Stella</i> | Chatham | June 10-12 | "few Turpin" |
| " | Ship <i>Fabius</i> | Charles | Mar. 1 | "boats ashore after turtle" |
| 1859 | Bark <i>Ospray</i> | Chatham | July 14-20 | "employed Turpinning" |
| 1860 | Bark <i>Montgomery</i> | Chatham | July 8-13 | "the crew after Terrapin" |
| 1861 | " <i>Montgomery</i> | { Albemarle Chatham | Feb. 9-10 | "some Terrapin" |
| | | | Mar. 15-19 | "crew after terepin" |

| | | | | | |
|------|---|----------------|-----------|------------|--|
| 1861 | " | <i>Alto</i> | Albemarle | Feb. 13 | "their boats after terrapin" ¹² |
| 1867 | " | <i>Osceola</i> | Albemarle | Aug. 24-25 | "after Turpin" |

ESTIMATED CATCH ARRANGED BY ISLANDS. BASED ON RECORDED CATCH

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| 1. Albemarle | 912 | 5. Hood | 174 |
| 2. Charles | 531 | 6. Abingdon | 145 |
| 3. Chatham | 472 | 7. Indefatigable | 87 |
| 4. James | 319 | | — |
| Total 2640 | | | |

The following table of the total catch shows that whaleships obtained a larger number of tortoises during the 'thirties than in any subsequent decade. The catch from 1840 to 1849 was smaller, although more vessels visited the islands. The catch and the number of vessels both decreased during the two succeeding decades:

TOTAL CATCH OF TORTOISES ARRANGED BY DECADES

| Decades | Tortoises | Visits by Vessels |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1831-39 | 4853 | 56 |
| 1840-49 | 4379 | 75 |
| 1850-59 | 2334 | 35 |
| 1860-68 | 1447 | 23 |
| Total tortoises | 13,013 | Total visits 189 |
| Average per vessel | 68 | |

Arranging the total catch of tortoises by islands, we find Chatham Island, with 4,798, far in the lead in point of numbers taken. Albemarle is next, with 2,493; the position of other islands in respect of catch being in the following order: Charles, Hood, James, Abingdon, Indefatigable, Duncan, Barrington. The yield from the last four is small as compared with the others:

TOTAL CATCH OF TORTOISES ARRANGED BY ISLANDS

| | | | |
|-----------|------|---------------|--------|
| Chatham | 4798 | Abingdon | 455 |
| Albemarle | 2493 | Duncan | 356 |
| Charles | 1775 | Indefatigable | 366 |
| Hood | 1698 | Barrington | 23 |
| James | 1049 | | — |
| Total | | | 13,013 |

¹² Reported in log of ship *Edward Carey*, February 13, 1861.

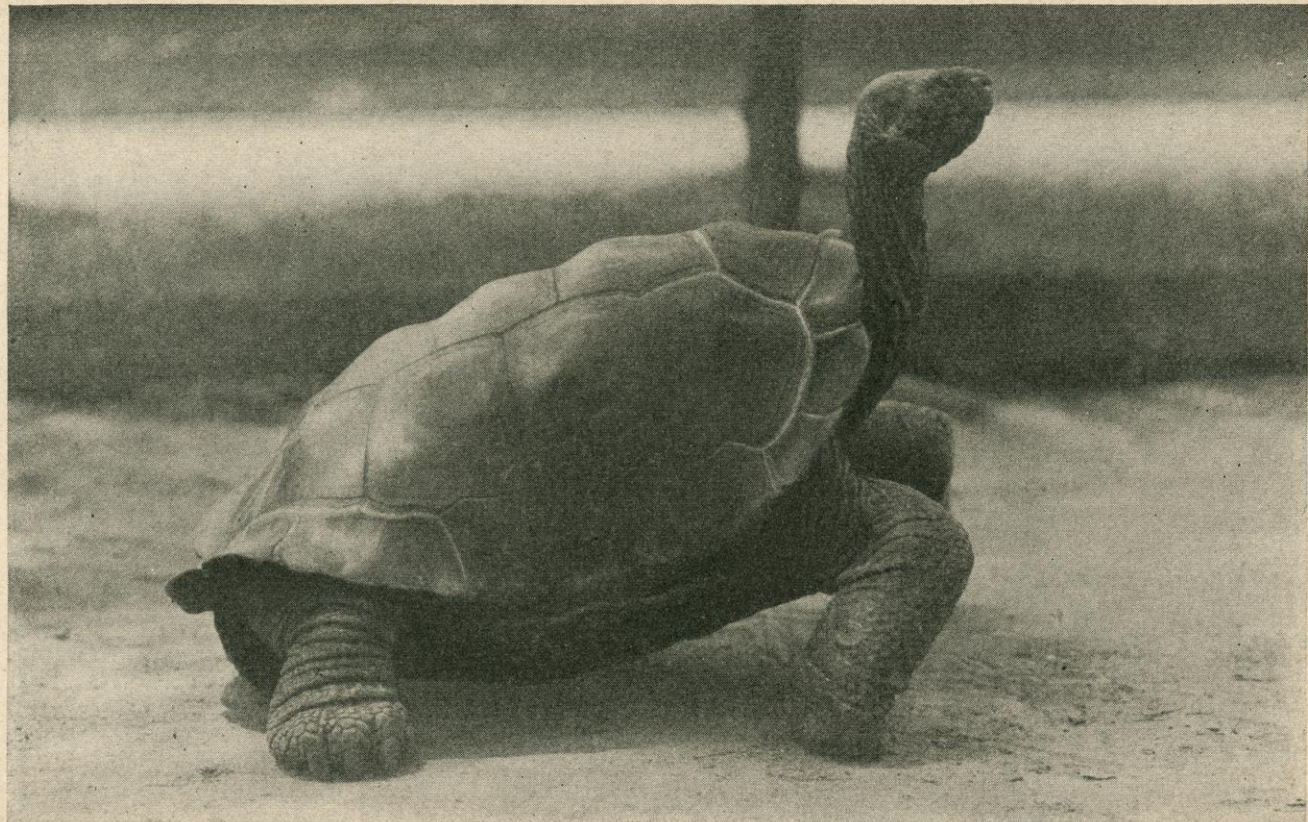


Fig. 26. A Galapagos tortoise (*Testudo vicina*) from Albemarle Island, which has lived in the National Zoological Park at Washington for twenty-seven years. Straight length of carapace, two feet. Photograph from the National Zoological Park.

Subsequent to the period under consideration—1831 to 1868, the visits of whaleships had but little effect on the tortoises of the Galapagos Islands. The discovery of petroleum in 1859 affecting the price of whale oil, and the Civil War immediately after, with its heavy losses of vessels, marked the beginning of a decline from which the industry never recovered.

UNPUBLISHED NOTES ON GALAPAGOS TORTOISES
Contributed in 1924

Most of the later writers on the tortoises of the Galapagos have quoted extensively from the works of the navigators who saw them in the days of their greatest abundance. We need not here repeat these much-quoted accounts, but there are some works relative to the whaling industry that have not, so far as we know, been quoted in connection with the hunting of tortoises, which contain interesting information on this subject. It is possible to add also some unpublished accounts of tortoise hunting received from veteran whalers and others while engaged in our search for logbooks of whaling vessels in 1924.

Mrs. Johnson Whiting of West Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard, contributes the following account of tortoise hunting, given her in August, 1924, by her neighbor, Mr. Russell Hancock, a vigorous man of eighty-two: "I went to the Galapagos Islands for terrapin. It was in 1865, on my first voyage to sea on the bark *Samuel and Thomas* of New Bedford, of which my brother-in-law, Captain Wm. Lewis, then of West Tisbury, was master. We landed on Albe-marle, uninhabited, of a volcanic mountainous construction, full of crevasses which made it hard and almost dangerous walking. We went ashore at daylight and walked until noon climbing up the mountain and crossing sort of bridges across the crevasses that former parties had made; then we left half our drinking water and went on capturing the terrapin which were feeding on the very sparse tufts of grass. We had hard work finding turtles small enough for two men to carry. When we did we rolled them over on their backs until we had enough, about 50 I think. Many huge turtles had carved on their backs the name of some whaling ship and a date of years before. I have often heard tell that a vessel went over from Panama with two donkeys and procured terrapin so large that two of them weighed 2,200 lbs. We had brought long iron

poles with us and we lashed the terrapins' legs together, slung them on the poles and so carried them back to the ship,—one man on each end of the pole. We valued them very much for fresh meat. I don't think anything ever tasted much better than fried terrapin liver. One thing we used to feed the turtles on board ship was bananas."

Mr. Lafayette Gifford of Westport Point, Massachusetts, makes the statement that his father, who was a whaling captain, "visited the Galapagos in the 'fifties and saw there a renowned tortoise that was supposed to weigh over a thousand pounds. This tortoise had names carved all over its back. A British war ship finally took it away with the aid of tackles and a derrick. It was then but little longer than it was 150 years previously." Perhaps the original dimensions were carved on its back.

Mr. George A. Grant of Nantucket made a visit to the Galapagos in 1881 on the bark *Alaska* of New Bedford. At Perry Isthmus on Albemarle Island he saw a tortoise of extraordinary size that was famous among the whalers and was known as "Port Royal Tom." There were dates and names carved on his back, the oldest date being 1791. Mr. Grant said that tortoises too heavy to lift were turned on their backs and dragged by means of ropes tied to their legs.

An unpublished note on the Galapagos tortoises, written by Weston Howland, who visited the islands in a whaleship, "probably in 1830," is contributed by his daughter, Miss Rachel Howland, of Fairhaven, Massachusetts: "We proceeded to James Island, which is about sixty miles in circumference—and there anchored in a safe bay and sent a boat ashore. We found no inhabitants, but a pond of brackish water. Birds were plenty and so tame that a number of them were caught by hand, mostly teal, and the awkward flamingo with its beautiful plumage. In the morning a boat was fitted for an excursion in a bay or cove several miles away, for a load of terrapin. Arriving at the cove, a party consisting of sixteen officers and men, leaving we (two) boys to have a care of the boat, left for a cruise up the sharp volcanic side of the hills, to the feeding grounds of the hard shelled and long necked fellows. The principal food of the Gallipagos terrapin is the cactus tree and grasses which are found on the high lands and which get their moisture from the near neighborhood of the clouds, as it seldom rains on the west

coast of South America so near the equator. The terrapin can and does, live six or more months without water, as he is provided with a vessel or bladder, in which he lays in a stock which he carries with him. This water is at any time as clear as amber and seems entirely pure and clean. The officers and men having returned from their mountain expedition, each with a large terrapin secured on his back, that would weigh seventy-five pounds or more, lunch and a good drink of water was served. They then returned to the feeding ground for another load, which they came back with in time to load the boat and return to the ship before dark, with a supply of delicious food for a month or more."

The catch in this case appears to have been thirty-six tortoises, which, at seventy-five pounds each, weighed 2,700 pounds.

Mr. Paul W. Ryder of New Bedford sends an account of tortoise hunting as related to him in December, 1924, by Captain Samuel Bumpus of Fairhaven, now in his eighty-third year:

Captain Bumpus visited the Galapagos twice in 1860 in the ship *Louisiana* of New Bedford, John Kelly, master. Sixty tortoises were taken at Albemarle Island on the first visit and forty-eight on the second. He saw one tortoise of about 300 pounds lying in a moist spring hole which was too far up the mountain to be carried down. Most of the tortoises were secured about a mile inland. Some of those taken on board weighed as much as 300 pounds, but the average of most of them was from fifty to seventy-five pounds. While on board, the tortoises were fed on potato sprouts and peelings. At that time "turpin" as Captain Bumpus called them, were still plentiful. Fresh water was not found by the crew, which numbered thirty-two men. On the morning of the last day at Albemarle the deck of the *Louisiana* was covered with volcanic ash. Captain Bumpus spoke with enthusiasm of tortoises as food, declaring that the liver was the greatest of delicacies. The meat was usually prepared in the form of a stew called "sea pie." The fat made the finest of shortening.

The following information was given by Captain Gilbert L. Smith of Vineyard Haven, in September 1924:

Captain Smith was the master of the bark *Northern Light* of New Bedford on a voyage that took him to the vicinity of the Galapagos Islands about 1875. He never went ashore at the islands but was near enough to see them. He bought ten or twelve terrapin

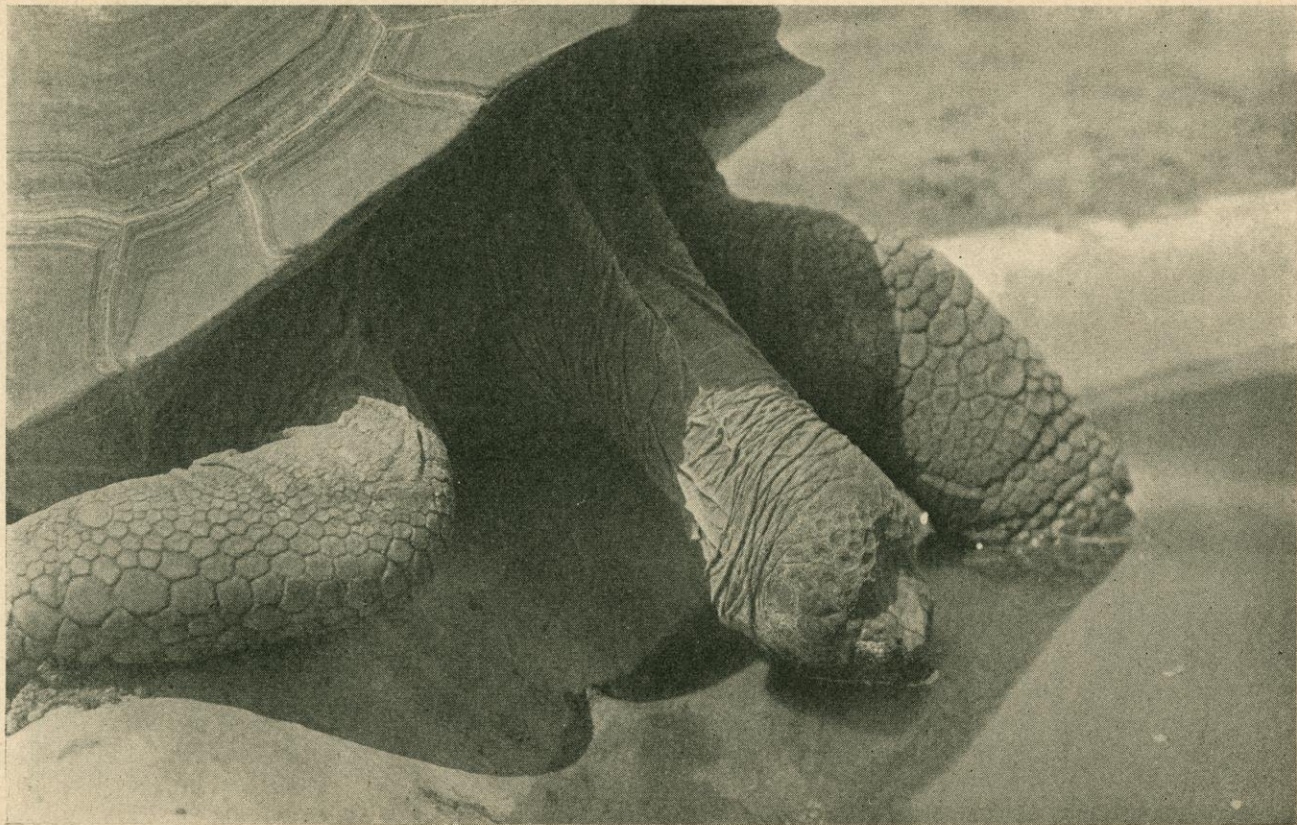


Fig. 27. A Galapagos tortoise (*Testudo vicina*) drinking. From the New York Zoological Park.

from a small Ecuadorian vessel that had been sealing at the islands. There were a few vessels from Ecuador that were engaged in sealing and terrapin hunting. The terrapin would be sold for various articles that the whalers might offer in exchange.

Captain Smith said that terrapin were seldom fed anything when kept on board whaleships. Sometimes, however, they were given a few bananas. In his trading with the Ecuadorians, he bought also a barrel of terrapin oil, which he took home and distributed among the housewives that he knew at Vineyard Haven.

Captain Smith said that the terrapin on Charles Island were exterminated very early, and that Albemarle was the island where whalersmen of his day had the best luck. The terrapin were hard to locate, being usually high in the mountains. The smaller ones were carried on a man's back by a strap arrangement, and the larger ones were carried on a pole, borne by two or more men. Captain Smith heard of one terrapin that the finders had to abandon. It was estimated to weigh about a thousand pounds, and the men were unable to get it down to the shore. It was found about four miles inland.

EXTRACTS RELATIVE TO GALAPAGOS TORTOISES FROM WORKS ON WHALING

The following passages relative to tortoises are from "A narrative of the Sufferings and Adventures of Capt. Charles H. Barnard, in a Voyage Around the World during the years 1812 to 1816:" published in New York in 1829. The author's first visit to the Galapagos, antedated that of Darwin by nearly twenty years.

Captain Barnard, an American, was on board the British whaler *Eliza* when the latter visited the Galapagos Islands in company with another British whaler. They "came to at Charles's Island," . . . "Boats were dispatched from each ship on the 23d of June (1816) to the shore, to procure terrapin. They were so successful, that at night they returned loaded. . . . After a few days, the *Indefatigable*¹³ (a British frigate there at the time) departed for England. The officers and crews of both ships had been actively engaged in procuring a full supply of terrapin." Later, Captain Barnard was on

¹³ The vessel for which *Indefatigable* Island was named.

the ship *Millwood* (a merchant vessel) of New York, Captain Bailey, which called at Charles Island to procure tortoises:

"At 4:00 A.M. of the 28th of October, we accompanied Mr. Cole and ten men, in the pinnace, to the black beach, about three miles distant, to procure terrapin: we arrived there at daylight, and proceeded to the spring, about two miles from the landing. We found a great many terrapin there. They were generally too large for a man to carry, and it was only by culling them that one could be obtained to convey down to the shore. While the men were gone to the boat, Mr. Cole and myself searched among the surrounding rocks and brambles for more terrapin, and by selecting the smallest, had procured one for each man on his return from the beach.

"This spring of fresh water, the only one of living water on the island, is resorted to by the terrapin from the most distant parts of it, instinct being their pilot. They remain round the spring several days, occasionally drinking, until they have filled their five internal reservoirs, when having their twelve months' stock on board, they return to their burrows. While we were here, there was a continual stir among them. Those that had obtained their stock were marching off, and others arriving to procure theirs. There was one remarkable for his size, as it was supposed he weighed six hundred pounds. Mr. Cole was desirous to get this mammoth on board, but to carry him to the pinnace was considered almost impracticable. I therefore instructed one of the boys how to manage and drive him, and calculated he would be able to reach the landing place by sunset; but he was one quarter of a mile distant from it, when we came up; for his rogue of a driver, when he thought he was not observed, would get on his back, but the terrapin, not being well broken, would not proceed far without stopping. We turned him over, and lashed him to a tree to prevent his getting away, intending to terminate his land travels in the morning. On getting down to the beach, we found we had thirty-four fine terrapin there. On trial we perceived the boat would not carry them all at once; and accordingly five of them were left, four men remaining at the spring. We started for the ship, but the boat was so deep, and rowed so heavily, that we made slow headway, and it was ten o'clock before we got alongside. . . . On the 29th we got out the long-boat before daylight, and when it was light, Mr. Cole and six men left for the Black Beach, to procure as many terrapin as they could. . . . At 6:00 P.M. the long-boat not

appearing, I went in the pinnace, with a crew, to assist in getting her down, met and took her in tow, and got alongside about eight. Mr. Cole had forty-five terrapin in the boat, including the patriarch. Having now more than seventy on board, Captain Bailey considered that number sufficient."

Extracts from "A Narrative of the Life, Travels and Sufferings of Thomas W. Smith," written by himself, and published in Boston in 1844. The following account concerns a part of his experiences on board a British whaling vessel, the ship *Spring Grove* of London, in the year 1821.

"After this we proceeded to Woods' [Hoods] Island, and came to anchor in a suitable harbor. Here we lay three days, during which time we collected 200 terrapins for the cruise and then proceeded to Charles' Island and from thence to Sea. . . .

"Having watered our ship [coast of Peru] we sailed for the Gallipagos islands to take in a sufficient number of terrapins to last for the ensuing season on the coast. In two days we arrived at Chatham Island, where we took in 300 large terrapins. . . .

"The terrapin resort to the low lands in the rainy season, drinking a sufficient quantity of water, at that time, to serve them during the dry season, which is six months. They then retreat to high ground, in consequence of which the labor of the ship's crew, who go there to collect them, is great; as they have to pass through a thicket of bushes for a mile or two before they can fall in with any of them.

"Individuals have strayed away in these thickets, in search of terrapins, and not being able to find their way out, have perished there for the want of water. My sufferings in this particular, as well as those of some of my ship-mates, were great; and we at times were under the extreme necessity of drinking the blood of the terrapin, and even the water of the animal, with which they like the camel abundantly provide themselves for the season."

The following extracts, relative to tortoise hunting on the Galapagos Islands, are from "The Nimrod of the Sea" by William M. Davis, published in New York in 1874. This work is a composite account of the author's whaling experiences. According to Starbuck's History of the American Whale Fishery, Captain Davis was master of the ship *Chelsea* of New London, on two voyages to the Pacific Ocean—in 1827 and again in 1831. Chapter VIII begins after a landing had been made at Black Beach on Charles Island:

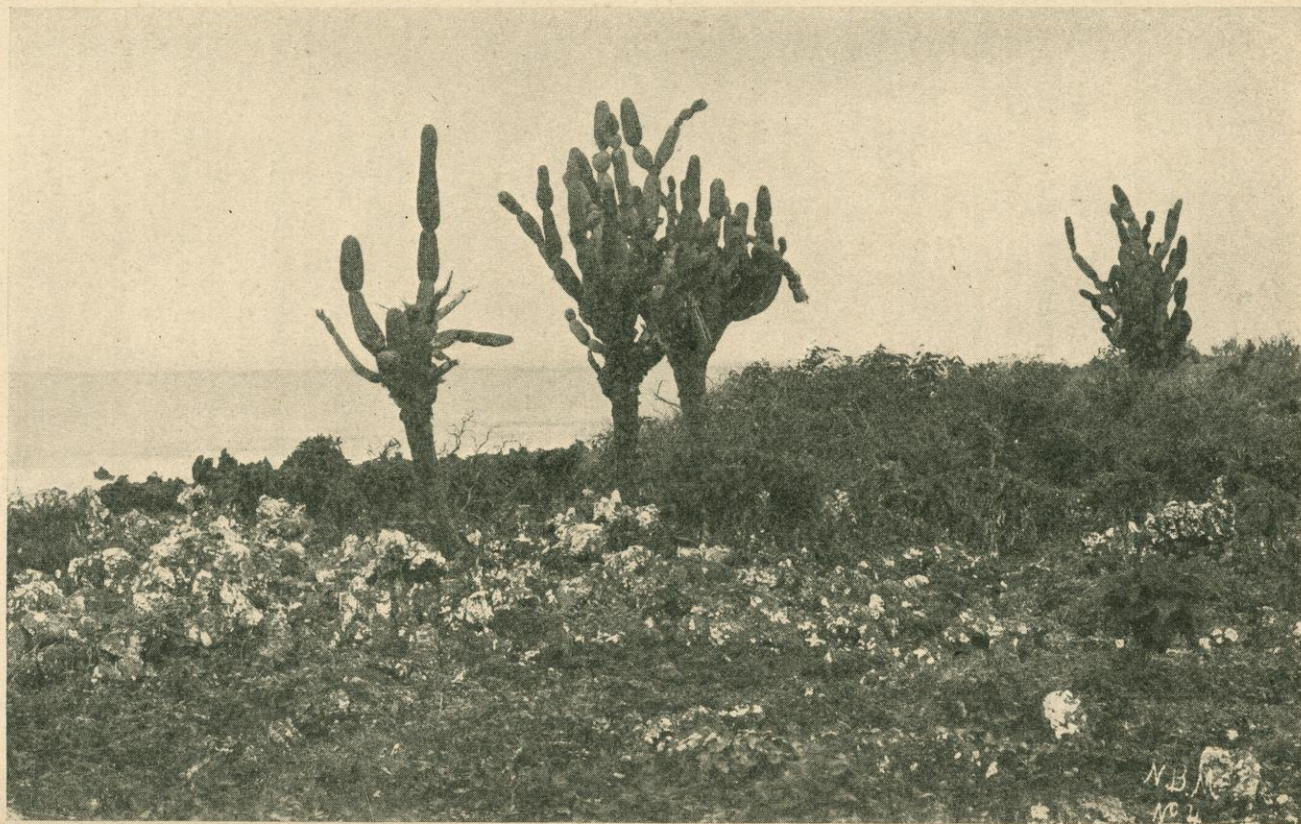


Fig. 28. Vegetation near Blackbeach, Charles Island, Galapagos. Photograph by U.S.S. Albatross Expedition 1891.

"We left two men to prepare camp, while the rest started for the back country to hunt terrapin Presently to my surprise, I saw our happy darkey 'Zekiel . . . sitting on the rear of an enormous terrapin about the size of a wheelbarrow, and much the shape of my mother's forty-gallon apple-butter kettle . . . Here was a 'baste' that would weigh three hundred pounds at least. In the vicinity were numbers of others of more manageable size, and we selected two of perhaps fifty pounds weight. We tied the fore and hind legs of each so as to leave convenient loops through which to slip our arms, intending thus to carry our capture home, knapsack-fashion, on our backs. . . . I have not a certain idea of the weight these creatures attain, but think I am within the mark in placing them at four or five hundred pounds.

"The true way to carry a terrapin is to form a hand-barrow with deal clubs, or for the largest, of the steering oars, such a contrivance, manned by two or ten men, will bring down the capture with comparative ease." Penetrating into higher country the author continues: "Great numbers of terrapin were about, some of them of immense size—very much larger than any seen on the shore plains here."

From Chapter IX: "we took the head off the largest terrapin we could find—one great enough to furnish a feast for a hundred men.—We were exceedingly thirsty, moreover, and had tried to satisfy our craving with the warm insipid juice obtained from the trunks of the giant cactuses, but in our capture, in our terrapin, we found the living spring of the wilderness. An ample supply of pure limpid water was discovered in the pearly sack placed at the base of the animals neck. There were some three gallons of water here, and, wonder of wonders, it was cool. The temperature of the animal is but 62°, but that of the country may reach 110° in the sun. . . . With one hundred and fifteen terrapin of all sizes secured, we then returned to the ship whose decks were covered with our sleeping captives and the cook's galley steamed with a new and savory odor."

From Chapter XIX: "A curious feature of the Galapagos is the novel post-office, established there by Commodore Porter, during the last war with England, while the *Essex* harbored in the island which bears the name of her worthy captain. He placed a large terrapin shell on a conspicuous point of Black-lava Rock. As round and white as a huge skull, it is a prominent landmark to vessels

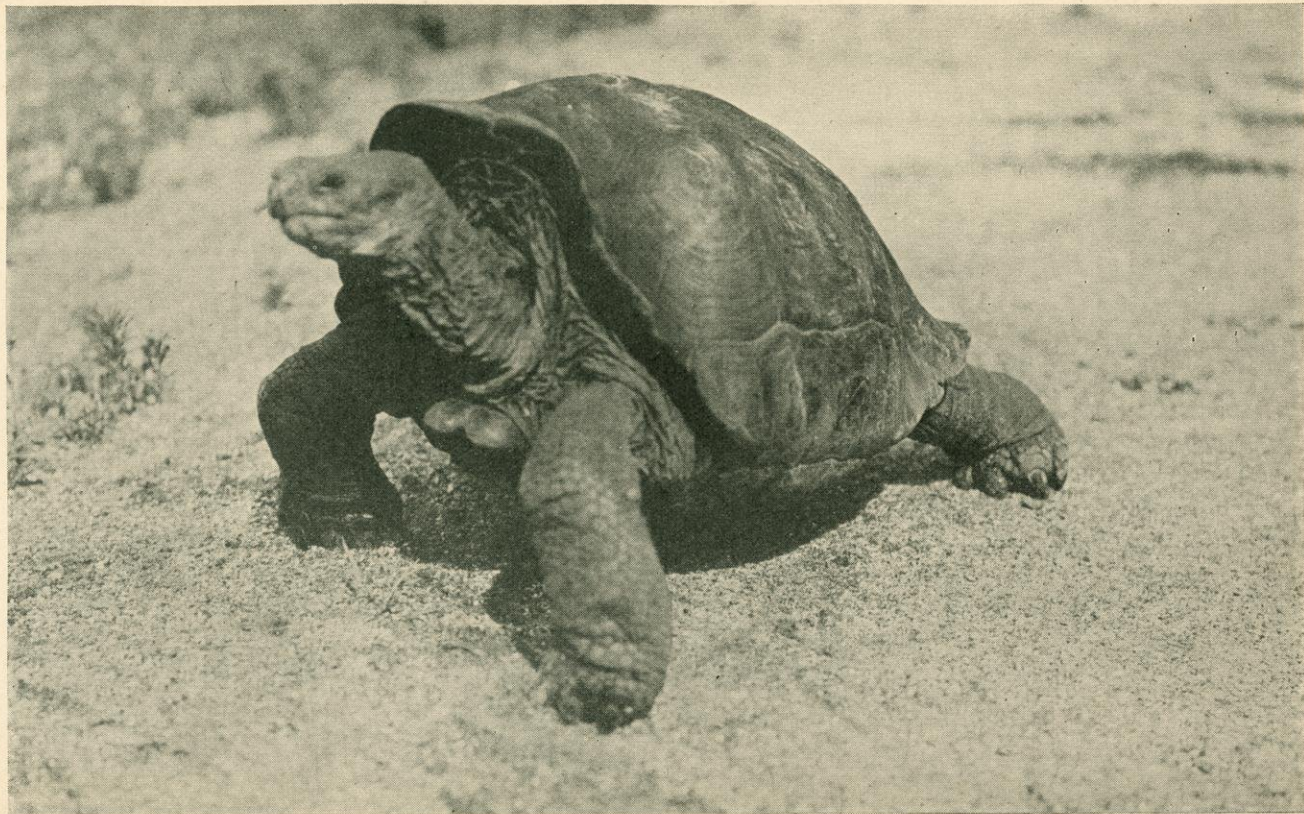


Fig. 29. A Galapagos tortoise (*Testudo abingdonii*) from Abingdon Island. This specimen was among the first of these wonderful tortoises brought to the New York Zoological Park.

coasting among the islands. The enormous shell forms the roof of the letter-box, and it is the custom of ships to send a boat ashore and overhaul the mail for any letters that may have been left there for them, and to deposit any letters they may have directed to ships long out which may touch at the islands."

In "Eighty Years Ashore and Afloat," by E. C. Cornell, the following extract concerns an incident in the voyage of the ship *Apollo*. The account is probably true, as there was a ship *Apollo* of Edgartown, which sailed under Captain Daggett on a whaling voyage to the Pacific in 1816. The captain's name, the vessel's name and the year of sailing check with the book's statements:

"After many days reached Charles Island, where we fell in with two Englishman whalers and a Nantucketer. We came to anchor close by them, and everything being secure went on shore after terrapin. Went far into the interior over to Black Beach, so called from its cinderry appearance. Trees called cabbage wood and prickly pears were scattered here and there; only one spring of water was found, and that on the extreme south end. We succeeded in taking a good lot of terrapin, usually selecting those most convenient to carry on our backs, the usual way of transporting them.

"Here we remained about one week, occupying ourselves daily in the same manner. Frequently it required some time to enable us to find the sized ones best suited to our ideas; they were all the way from as large as a silver dollar to the size of a Henry Clay cook stove. Some were so large that they could easily travel with four good-sized men on their backs. Their chief article of diet when on land is the cabbage-tree leaves, which are broken down by the force of the winds; but sometimes when no high winds lay their food on the ground for them, a large number will congregate, and with one accord gnaw into the bark of these trees, till, coming to the pith which is soft and tender, the tree falls before them. The trees grow to the size of half-barrel. I have often taken them from their work and pointed them in another direction, but if allowed they will return to complete their job, never leaving it until it is completed. Though they appear to enjoy eating as well as other animals, yet they will live and thrive on ship-board for months with nothing on which to subsist.

"Three hundred were put on board our ship, stowed between

decks or anywhere out of the way. They were a strange kind of birds; did not seem to care whether they stood on their head or heels. Their meat was most excellent; usually made it into stifles and soups. They were so fat that half a bucket full of grease could be taken from their upper shell when butchered. The fat was sometimes used to shorten those favorite "duffs" previously alluded to.

"The terrapin we had taken were stowed in different parts of the ship, some among the casks between decks, some on deck; it mattered little to us, and apparently less to them, what their accommodations were, so long as they kept out from under foot. With the food they afforded and that of the blackfish constantly on hand, we fared quite sumptuously. Our cook used to parboil a sufficient quantity of terrapin over night for next morning's breakfast, when not obliged to be in the boats."

There is a detailed account of tortoise hunting on the Galapagos in Captain Thomas Crapo's "Strange but True" published in New Bedford in 1893, pp. 37-38. Captain Crapo visited Albemarle Island in 1858 in the bark *Greyhound* of Westport, Massachusetts, George G. Cathcart, Master; "On arriving there (Albemarle Island) we dropped anchor. After everything was put in shape, about two-thirds of the crew went ashore, taking with us boat sails to make tents of and water to drink and cook with, as fresh water cannot be found there. After fitting up our temporary camp we started for the mountains after turpin, which are very numerous, and are not found on any other islands.

"Turpin are a species of turtle, the shell being in large checks like an alligators skin, and their flesh is unsurpassed as food for soups and stews: its equal cannot be found. The liver is far superior to any kind of meat I ever ate. It is as large as a beef critter's (from a large one), and is many times superior to it in any way you choose to cook it.

"In order to get them we had to go high up in the mountains, as that seems to be their roaming ground. They are black in color and move very slow. We did not disturb the large ones, as we would have had to kill and cut them up and carry the pieces down on our backs, as many of them will weigh, I should think, nearly half of a ton. So we caught the smaller ones, none weighing over five or six hundred.

"We went hunting them every day for a week, and as they are so



Fig. 30. A Galapagos tortoise (*Testudo vicina*) from Albemarle Island, which has lived twenty years in the New York Zoological Park. Weight when received 140 pounds. Present weight, 305 pounds. Photograph from the New York, Zoological Park.

clumsy and move so slow, made it an easy matter to capture them. We built a pen to put them in, and while on shore lived on them mostly, and used hard bread from the ship for soups and stews and other ways: the cook dished it out to us. The small ones we caught we carried down to camp on our shoulders, but we had to drag the larger ones. They are perfectly harmless and never known to bite. We caught about a hundred during the time. At the close of the week we took them aboard. Their weights would range from about five pounds to five hundred and over. We put them on deck and between decks, and let them crawl around as they chose. It was all of six months before they were all gone. I never knew one to eat or drink a drop while they were on board, and yet they looked as fat as a ball of butter when they were killed."

A record of tortoise hunting at the Galapagos from "Whaling," By Charles Boardman Howes, New York, 1924, p. 117, is as follows:

Ship *Sukey* of Nantucket, John Macy, Master, at Charles Island, June 14, 1812: "I leave this port this Day with 250 Turpin."

In "Wanderings and Adventures of Reuben Delano," printed in 1846, the author having sailed on the ship *Stanton* of Fairhaven, in 1824, tells of a terrapin hunt he engaged in on Indefatigable Island, where 300 terrapin were taken.

There is a brief reference to Galapagos tortoises in William Mariner's "Tonga," published in Edinburg in 1827, which appears to have been overlooked by writers on this subject. Mariner accompanied the ship *Port au Prince*, whaler and privateer, on a voyage to the Pacific in 1805. The record is as follows:

"On Wednesday the 16th (October) made Chatham Island, one of the Galapagos. Whilst at this place, some turpin (land-tortoise) was procured from on shore."

There are some references to the tortoises of the Galapagos Islands in the journal of David G. Farragut,¹⁴ a young officer attached to the U.S.S. *Essex* in 1813: "At Charles Island we let some of the men go on shore daily to take a run. They amused themselves by appointing one as a cook while the rest went in search of tortoises and water."

Among the captures made by the *Essex* were the British whale-ships *Atlantic* and *Greenwich*: "From these two vessels we secured water and tortoises enough to supply us for some time. On the

¹⁴ Life of Farragut, by his son Loyall Farragut, New York, 1879.

6th of June we saw a beautiful sight, a volcano in a state of eruption on the Island of Narboro."

Writing of the capture of the British whaleships *Georgiana* and *Policy*, he says (p. 23): "In clearing their decks for action, they had thrown overboard several hundred Galapagos terrapins. The appearance of these turtles in the water was very singular: they floated as light as corks, stretching their long necks as high as possible . . . many were picked up, which afforded us an abundant supply of fresh provisions for officers and crew. The meat, cooked in almost any manner, is delicious."

THE PRESERVATION OF THE GALAPAGOS TORTOISES

The Executive Committee of the New York Zoological Society has signified its intention to procure if possible living specimens of Galapagos tortoises in the hope of averting the impending extinction of these animals. The edible value of the tortoises is sufficient reason for an attempt to locate a number in some southern locality where suitable climatic and food conditions would favor their increase. Their survival in the Galapagos where natives and wild dogs are equally destructive, seems to be quite hopeless.

The last important collection of Galapagos tortoises was that made in 1905 under the direction of Mr. R. H. Beck for the California Academy of Sciences, when about 250 individuals were secured and preserved as museum specimens. More than one hundred of these were found in the high interior of Albemarle Island, where it is possible that survivors persist. This expedition spent nearly a year at the islands.

The taking of such a number for scientific purposes appears to be justified in view of the heavy slaughter by Ecuadorian oil makers that had long been in progress on Albemarle, and was likely to be continued as long as there were profitable returns.

While Galapagos tortoises have lived for many years in the New York Zoological Park, in the National Zoological Park at Washington, in England and elsewhere, they do not breed in northern climates. A fact to be noted in connection with their failure to reproduce is that the tortoises now living in captivity are nearly all males.

Being hardy animals and easily cared for, a number of them

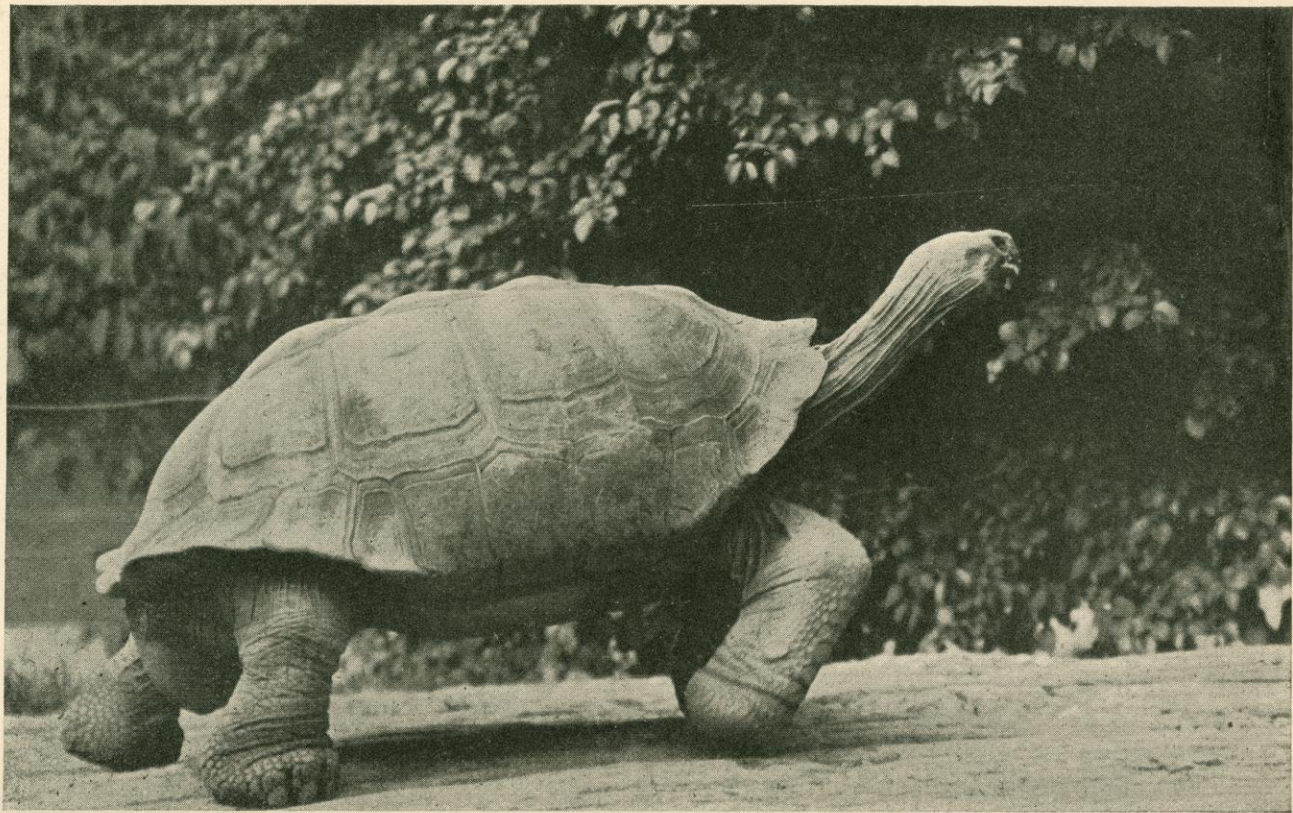


Fig. 31. A Galapagos tortoise (*Testudo vicina*), in a walking attitude. This animal can easily carry a man weighing at least 150 pounds. It is very gentle and tractable, and follows the keepers like any domestic animal. From the New York Zoological Park.

should be transported to a carefully selected breeding base, where their protection would be assured.

The present writer visited the Galapagos Islands in 1888 in the U. S. Fisheries Steamer *Albatross*, when eighteen tortoises were obtained from Duncan and Chatham islands; those from the latter having been taken there from Indefatigable Island. He revisited the Galapagos in the *Albatross* in 1891, when a single tortoise was obtained at Duncan Island, no search for tortoises being made on other islands.

All of these reached Washington alive and in good condition but as a result of improper care did not survive the following winter.

On board the *Albatross* they had the freedom of the deck and fed freely on such fruits and vegetables as were available. It is now known that they grow faster than was formerly supposed. According to Messrs. Daggett and Heller a twenty-nine pound specimen taken to California in 1899 doubled its weight annually and in sixteen years attained a weight of 450 pounds. They are also long lived. There are authentic records of individuals that lived more than a century in captivity. It is known that the females lay numerous eggs.

The species of giant tortoise (*Testudo elephantina*) formerly abundant on Aldabra and other islands in the Indian Ocean, but later brought to the verge of extermination, is now increasing under Government protection. In 1906 Mr. M. J. Nicoll visited the Seychelles¹⁵ in the Indian Ocean, and described the giant tortoises now living there:

"In the grounds of Government House we saw a large number of Aldabra tortoises. Some of them were of large size and a great many were newly hatched. We were informed that they bred freely in confinement and that the young grew very quickly.

These tortoises are used for food by the natives and on visiting the market we saw several tethered by the leg and exposed for sale. On all the islands and inhabited islets of this group, there were tortoise farms. In nearly all these farms the tortoises bear a number which is painted in white on the shell. Many farm-owners keep a record of all their stock, while at Government House a complete register is made with the dates of hatching and so forth. At the latter place we rode upon the largest tortoise.

¹⁵ Three Voyages of a Naturalist. Scribners, New York, 1908.



Fig. 32. A Galapagos tortoise (*Testudo vicina*) in action. This is the same specimen as shown on page 97. From the New York Zoological Park.

All these tortoises have been imported from Aldabra and there are now probably considerably more individuals on the Seychelles than on the former island."

Aldabra and the Seychelles lie north of Madagascar. There can be no doubt that the giant tortoises of the Galapagos are as well adapted to semi-domestication as the great tortoise of Aldabra. Having developed great size and high edible qualities on desert islands, the Galapagos tortoises might prove of great value among our food resources, especially in arid regions. With a steadily increasing population, the world's food production must soon be increased. Three centuries of navigators feasted abundantly on the tortoises of the Galapagos. No other large land reptile ever figured so importantly in the food supply of mankind. The tortoise islands of the Indian Ocean, also visited by food seeking ships, could not apparently, have borne such numbers as the much larger islands of the Galapagos.

According to the late Doctor Van Denburg¹⁶ who reported upon the numerous tortoises collected for the California Academy of Sciences in 1905-1906, the state of our knowledge respecting the numbers of tortoises remaining on the Galapagos Islands is as follows:

| <i>Island</i> | <i>Species</i> | <i>Status-1906</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Abingdon | <i>Testudo abingdoni</i> | Rare |
| 2. James | " <i>darwini</i> | Rare |
| 3. Jervis | " <i>wallacei</i> | Very rare |
| 4. Duncan | " <i>ephippium</i> | Fairly abundant |
| 5. Indefatigable | " <i>porteri</i> | Not rare |
| 6. Barrington | " ? | Extinct |
| 7. Chatham | " <i>chathamensis</i> | Nearly extinct |
| 8. Hood | " <i>hoodensis</i> | Very rare |
| 9. Charles | " <i>elephantopus</i> | Extinct |
| 10. Narborough | " <i>phantastica</i> | Very rare |
| 11. Vilamil-Albemarle | " <i>guntheri</i> | Abundant |
| 12. Iguana Cove— " | " <i>vicina</i> | Numerous |
| 13. Tagus Cove— " | " <i>microphyes</i> | Fairly numerous |
| 14. Banks Bay— " | " <i>becki</i> | Fairly numerous . . |
| 15. Cowley Mt.— " | " ? | Rare |

It is altogether improbable that the conditions of nearly twenty years ago obtain at the present time. The tortoises of the smaller

¹⁶ The Gigantic Land Tortoises of the Galapagos Archipelago. By John Van Denburg, Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci., 1914.

islands have doubtless suffered further depletion in numbers. Survivors if sought for are most likely to be found in the large islands of Albemarle and Indefatigable, the interior regions of which are exceptionally difficult to penetrate.

A remarkable fact in connection with the giant tortoises is their amazing abundance at the time of the discovery of the islands. This continued for more than two centuries or until the first settlement in 1832, despite the inroads made upon them by food-seeking ships. All of the early navigators make mention of their abundance. Dampier who visited the Galapagos in 1684 says "It is incredible to report how numerous they are." What a contribution could be made to the world's food supply if the otherwise unimportant islands where, unknown to primitive man, the tortoises reached such an amazing development, could be cleared of the pests introduced by civilized man and the original conditions restored! This is now unfortunately impossible on the Galapagos. The only remaining hope for the race is the establishment of survivors elsewhere.

APPENDIX

Logbook Records of Tortoises Taken from the Galapagos Islands by Certain Whaleships from 1831 to 1868¹⁷

1831. Ship *Isabella* of New Bedford, JOSEPH TABER, JR., *Master*. Hood Island 335 tortoises.

Dec. 4—Harbor of Hood Island, anchored.

Dec. 5—"At 3 P. M. 2 boats went on shore after Terapin at 7 P. M. returned brought of about 30 at 4 A. M. 3 Boats went on Shore after Terapin at 7 P M Boats returned on Board Brought of about 100 Terapin

Dec. 6—at 4 A M 3 Boats went on Shore after Terapin at 5 P M the Boats came on board brought of about 90 Terapin

Dec. 7—At 5 A M 3 Boats went on Shore after Terapin at 4 P M Boats returned on Board Brought on Board 65 Terapin

Dec. 8—at 5 P. M. Boats Came on Board Brought of about 50 Terapin."

1831. Ship *Magnolia* of New Bedford, GEO. B. WORTH, *Master*. Charles Island. 155 tortoises.

Dec. 11—"At 4 P M Came to Anchor at Charles Island. . . . Sent four Boats and Crews after Turpin and took about 110"

Dec. 13—" . . . Sent three Boats after turpin and Returned with about 45"

¹⁷ Extracts from the logs are quoted verbatim.

1831. Ship *Hesper* of New Bedford, F. T. BROWN, *Master*. Hoods Island 250 tortoises.

Dec. 19—"came to anchor at Hoods Island sent 2 Boats ashore after turpin"

Dec. 20—"Employed in getting turpin"

Dec. 23-24—"These 2 days employed in getting turpin got about 250 altogether which cost us much trouble."

1831. Ship *Frances* of New Bedford, OBED ALLEY, *Master*. Charles Island 179 tortoises.

Nov. 12—"at dark lay our head yards aback to the Eastward of Charles Isle at daylight kepet off for the harbour at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 or thereabouts come too in 7 fathoms of water"

Nov. 13—"two boats went a shore after terpin"

Nov. 14—"at night the boats come on board with 28 turpin"

Nov. 15—"the boats come on board with 44"

Nov. 16—"the boats come on board with 63"

Nov. 17—"we got 44 more terpin"

1832. SHIP *Abigail* of New Bedford. BENJAMIN CLARK, *Master*. Hood Island 50 tortoises. Abingdon Island 8 tortoises.

April 1—"5 A M Hoods Island distant about 10 miles sent 2 Boats Ashore for to get some Turpin"

April 2—"the Boats got 50 turpin . . . all Hands employed Eating turpin"

At sea. *June 2*—"all Hands employed about trying their strength by lifting an large turpin and looking for what we cant see that is sperm whales"

June 6—"tacking off and on Abington 7 A M Captn Clark and second mate went on shore with two Boats to get some turpin"

June 7—"6 P M Boats came on board with 8 turpin"

- 1832-33. Ship *Hector* of New Bedford. JOHN O. MORSE, *Master*. Charles Island 226 tortoises.

Dec. 27—"kept her off for Charleses Island . . . at 10 A. M. the starboard boat went on shore"

Dec. 28—"at 5 P. M. the boat came on board brought some turpin"

Dec. 29—"at 11 P. M. came to anchor [Post Office Bay, Charles I.] at 3 A. M. called all hands to go after tarpin . . . the governer came on board"

Dec. 30—"at 7 P M the boats came on board & brought 80 tarpin"

Dec. 31—"the boats went after Tarpin 14 miles from the ship"

Jan. 1—"at 6 P. M. the boats came on board & brought 90 tarpain . . . at 2 A. M. the boats weant after turpin"

Jan. 2—"a sundown down the boats came alongside with 6 turpin Later the waist boat went on shore at the landing for 50 turpin that govner cent down the beech"

1833. Ship *Hector* of New Bedford. JOHN O. MORSE, *Master*. Albemarle Island 9 tortoises.

1833. Ship *Hector* (cont.)

March 14—"standing off & onn from Albermar the Larboard & waist boats went on shore after Turpin wee found eight vary large ones"

March 15—"the boats went on shore after turpin could not find but one"

1833. Ship *Pacific* of New Bedford; PAUL CHASE, *Master*. Indefatigable Island 44 tortoises.

Oct. 27—"came to an anchor at Indefatigable Island sent 3 boats 21 men on shore after tirpen at dark retirned on board and never saw one"

Oct. 28—"the boats retirned on board with 8 tirpen . . . at daylight got under way and beet up to the weather harbour"

Oct. 29—"sent 3 boats after tirpin"

Oct. 30—"the boats retirned with 27 tirpin"

Oct. 31—"the boats retirned with 9 tirpin"

1834. Ship *Abigail* of New Bedford. BENJAMIN CLARK, *Master*. Porter's Island 140 tortoises.

May 15—"steering for Porters Island [Indefatigable] 4 P M Came to Anchor in Downes Bay in 7 fathoms"

May 16—"Boats came on Board with 21 large turpin."

May 17—"Boats came on Board with 31 turpin"

May 19—"Boats Came on Board with 40 live turpin"

May 22—"the Boats Returned with 40 live terpin . . . we got here 140 Terepin and 10 Boats Load of wood"

1834. Ship *Bengal* of Salem, RUSSELL, *Master*. Charles Island 100 tortoises.

Mar. 22—[Visited the settlement and] "had through the hospitality of one of the residents a good dinner of terrapin at sunset arrived on board the other boates got 50 terrapin larg an small."

Mar. 24—"at 4 A. M. all the Boates whent a boute 12 miles to Swains landing on the N. W. point of the Island after anchoring the Boates we landed on the rocks and by the help of a rope we succeeded in getting up the precipice we found a plain with some large terrapin on of which & Bucket to the Boate." . . . "we got 50 terrapin 5 of the large ones died on the rocks at 8 P. M. on board tired out"

1834. Ship *Moss* of New Bedford. SHUBAEL CLARK, *Master*. Chatham Island 8 tortoises. Charles Island 350 tortoises.

Feb. 15—"at 9 A. M. came to anchor at Charles's island . . . sent all hands A shore after terrapin"

Feb. 16—"the boats came on board with 8 terrapin"

Feb. 17—"the boats came on board with 6 terrapin . . . took the anchor and stood off and onn sent A boat on shore we found the island to be, chatham island by obs"

Feb. 18—"A boat on shore at sunset the boat came of with 8 terrapin"

Feb. 21—"at 4 P M came to anchor in post-office bay at Charleses island . . . all hands A shore after terrapin"

1834. Ship *Moss* (cont.)

Feb. 24—"150 terrapin on board." [All hands getting terrapin from Feb. 21 to March 1]

March 1—"finished giting terrapin—got on board the No of 350" [from Mar. 2 to Mar. 13, the men went wooding]

1834. Ship *Loper* of Nantucket. JOHN COTTON, *Master*. Woods [Hoods] Island 237 tortoises.

Sept. 13—"At 6 P. M. the Boats Returned With But 21 Tortoises."

Sept. 14—"One Boat Came on Board With 60 Tortoises & the other 2 Boats Stopped all Night at Day Light the Boat Went on Shore Again"

Sept. 15—"At 5 P. M. the 3 Boats Came on Board With 30 Tortoises"

Sept. 16—"At 6 P. M. the Boats Came on Board with 50 Tortoises"

Sept. 17—"At 6 P. M. the Boats Returned With 35"

Sept. 18—"At 6 P. M. the Boats Returned for the Last Time With 41 Tortoises"

1834. Ship *Hector* of New Bedford. JOHN O. MORSE, *Master*. James Island 23 + tortoises.

April 12—"standing of & onn from James Isle came to anchor at 8 A. M. two boats went after turpin"

April 13—"the boats came on board turpin was vary scarce we got 3"

April 14—"loard three boats & wint after turpin"

April 15—"the boats came on board caught twenty turpin Latter part the boats went after turpin"

April 16—"the boats came again on board did not do vary well"

1834. Bark *Benezet* of New Bedford. CHAS. PITMAN, JR., *Master*. CHARLES Island 120 tortoises. Indefatigable Island 12 tortoises.

Feb. 26—"concluded to go in at Charles Island . . . at 9 A M came to anchor in 12 fathoms water"

Feb. 27—"one Boat after terpin Capt gone to town"

Feb. 28—"at 8 P M Boats all on board with 50 terpin"

March 1—"at 8 P M Boats aboard with 30 tirpin"

March 2—"at 5 P M came aboard with 40 tirpin"

April 13—"at 5 killed some tirpin"

June 4—"at 2 A M came too Anchor at Portors Isle in 8 fathoms water at daylite 2 Boats went a tirpin at sunrise the 3rd Boat"

June 5—"got 8 tirpin"

June 6—"came aboard with 4 large tirpin"

1835. Ship *Barclay* of New Bedford, HENRY COTTLE, *Master*. CHARLES Island 50 tortoises.

July 14—"anchored Charles Island Harbor"

July 15—"at daylight sent 2 Boats for Turpin"

July 16—"at 6 the Boats returned with 20 Turpin"

1835. Ship *Barclay* (cont.)

July 17—"2 boats a turpinning, one Boat to Town for potatoes three of the men Deserted Caleb Halsted Alfred Overtwin Ronald Blanchard the boat returned without them at 7 oclock the Boats Returned with 30 turpin"

July 18—"employed in Wooding Caught the three runaways put the Ring-leader Caleb Halstead In Irons and Kept him Below the Gideon Basto [Barstow] Left and the Ships Washington and Baleaner of New Bedford Arrived"

NOTE.—This vessel made her first voyage in 1795.

1835. Ship *Hector* of New Bedford. THOMAS A. NORTON, *Master*. James Island. 124 tortoises Albermarle Island 2 tortoises.

June 3—"steering in for Breakfast Isle at 2 P M let go the anchor in 18 fathoms of water in Compny with stanton of Fairhaven. . . . At 4 A M lowered 3 Boats and landed at James Isle to procure turrapin"

June 4—"At Breakfast Isle . . . at 6 P M Boats Come off with 34 Turapin . . . at Daylight 3 Boats went on shore for Turapin"

June 5—"at 6 P M Boats came off having procured 26 Turapin"

June 6—"at 6 P M Boat Come off with 40 Turupin"

June 7—"at 6 P M the Boats Come off with 24 Turupin"

Nov. 25—"at Daylight kept off for South head [Albemarle] at 7 A M 2 Boats went on shore for turapin at south head lying off and on"

Nov. 26—"at 2 P M the Boats Came off having procured 2 turapin and some fresh fish"

1835. Ship *George and Susan*. D. E. WIGHT, *Master*. James Island 68 tortoises.

Oct. 24—"at six the boats returned with ten terapen. Could not find them anywhere handy had a long ways to go for to get them but we got 68 all told grate and small"

1835. Bark *Benezet* of New Bedford. CHARLES PITMAN, JR., *Master*. Abingdon Island 12 tortoises.

Jan. 1—"at daylite kept of for Abingtons Island at 7 started 2 Boats for tirpen"

Jan. 2—"at 6 P M all of with 10 live and 2 dead ones"

1835. Bark *Benezet* of New Bedford. CHARLES PITMAN, JR., *Master*. Charles Island 40 + tortoises.

April 13—"at 5 a boat went in for Charles Island for tirpen"

April 15—"at anchor . . . the Boat got 40 tirpen"

April 18—"at 6 P M all aboard with a few tirpen"

1835. Ship *Lima* of Nantucket. WILLIAM WYER, *Master*. James Island 35 + tortoises. Albemarle Island 67 tortoises.

June 27—"at noon came to anchor at James lland in 12 fathoms water"

June 28—"went on shore 2 boats returned at 5 with some terrapin"

1835. Ship *Lima* (cont.)

June 29—"returned with some terrappin"

June 30—"returned with 20 terrappin"

July 1—"returned with about 15 Terrappin"

* * * * *

Nov. 21—"at 8 A M two boats went on shore at south head" [Albemarle]

Nov. 22—"at 3 P M the boats returned with one dozen good Terrappin"

Nov. 25—"at 6 P M came to anchor In Elizabeths Bay . . . at 9 A M 2 boats went on shore after terrappin but saw none"

Dec. 1—"at 4 A M 2 boats went after terrappin at South head"

Dec. 2—"at 5 P M came of with 25 terrappin"

Dec. 3—"at 4 P M went on shore to be there early in the morning"

Dec. 4—"at 3 P M the boats came off with 30 terrappin"

Dec. 7—"killed a terrappin weighing 250 lbs."

1835. Ship *Phoenix* of Nantucket; ISAAC B. HUSSEY, *Master*. Abingdon 10 tortoises. Hood Island 65 tortoises. James Island 7 boat loads tortoises.

Feb. 6—"Steering for Abingtons Island. . . . Sent 2 boats on Shore and and Cat [caught] Sum turpin"

Feb. 7—"Got 10 turpin"

July 18—"At 5 Came to Anchor At hoods Island . . . Employed in giting of turpin"

July 19—"At 7 P M got to the Ship with 45 turpin"

July 20—"At 6 P M got Along side with 20 turpin it being hard to git them

July 23—"At 8 A. M. Came to Anchor At Jamess Island"

July 25—"Git on board with 2 boatload of turpin"

July 26—"Came on board with 2 boat lode of turpin"

July 28—"Came on board with 3 boat lode of turpin"

1836. Bark *Pioneer* of New Bedford. REUBEN RUSSELL, 2ND, *Master*. Porters Island. 2 plus many more tortoises.

July 22—"at 5 P M came too an anker at porters Island. . . . At 4 A M sent two boats for Terpin"

July 23—"at 4 P M The boats returned with two tirpen"

July 24—"at 6 P M one Boat returned with terpin"

July 25—"at 8 P M wone Boat returned with terpin"

July 26—"at 7 P M wone Boat returned with terpin"

July 27—"at 6 P M the Boats returned with terpin"

NOTE.—This vessel is celebrated for having made the most profitable of all whaling voyages. In 1856 the value of her cargo was \$151,060.

1836. Ship *Eliza Adams* of Fairhaven, JOHN O. MORSE, *Master*. Albemarle Island 23 tortoises.

Aug. 24—"Off S head . . . at 5 a.m. 3 boats went on shore for terpins"

Aug. 25—"got altogether 23 terpins"

1836. Bark *Hesper* of Fairhaven. OBED FOSDICK, *Master*. James Island 13 plus several boat-loads of tortoises.

Feb. 19—"lying off and on James Island at 8 A M Come to Anchor in 8 fathoms water sent 2 Boats wooding one boat Turrapin"

Feb. 20—"1 Boat Turapining"

Feb. 21—"at 6 P M got off 1 Boat load Turrapin. Last part 2 Boats Turrapining"

Feb. 22—"at 6 P M the Boats returned to the Ship loded with Turrapin Last part 2 Boats Turrapin"

Feb. 23—"at 6 P M the Boats returned to the Ship loaded with Turrapin Last part all hands employed Turrapining"

Feb. 24—"at 6 P M the Boats returned to the Ship loded with Turrpin Last part 2 Boats Turrapining"

Feb. 25—"at 6 P M the Boats returned to the Ship loded with Turrapin Last part 11 men Turrapining"

Feb. 26—"at 4 P M the Boat returned to the Ship with 13 turrapin"

1836. Ship *Lima* of Nantucket; WILLIAM WYER, *Master*. Chatham Island 20 tortoises. James Island 118 tortoises.

July 1—"at 4 P M came to anchor at Stephens Bay in 9 fathoms water, . . . went on shore 2 boats after terrappin"

July 2—"came off with about 20 terrapin"

July 3—"at 8 A M came to Anchor at James Iland and went on shore after terrapin"

July 4—"Come off with about 18 terrapin"

July 5—"employed getting terrappin 30"

July 6—"came on bord with 40"

July 7—"brought on board about 30"

1837. Ship *Abigail*. WM. RAYNARD, *Master*. Abingdon Island 142 tortoises.

Jan. 21—"Went ashore and got two terpen"

Jan. 25—"All hands employed in making belts to go after terpen at Abington island got ashore one oclock sixteen men got 30 terpen"

NOTE.—Another log of this voyage continues the record as follows:

Jan. 26—"laying off and on 2 Boats on shore after Teripin at 7 P M returned with 53 Turipin"

Jan. 27—"at 9 P M the Boats returned from the shore with 40 Turpin"

Jan. 28—"the Boats on shore for Turipin at 9 P M they returned with 17 Turpin"

1837. Ship *Eliza Adams* of Fairhaven, JOHN O. MORSE, *Master*. James Island several tortoises. Charles Island 24 tortoises.

Oct. 22—"at 2 came to an anchor under JAMES Island and went on shore for turpin at night came of with a few turpin and wood . . . at noon the Omega anchored here." (See Omega, 1837, Chatham Id.)

Oct. 23—"a turpining and wooding"

1837. Ship *Eliza Adams* (cont.)

Oct. 24—"employed in wooding and backing turpin at night came of with a number of turpin"

Oct. 27—"at 2 A M tuck our anchor for the harbor"

Oct. 28—"two boats on Shore at noon came of with 3 Spanyolds and 24 turpin the inhabitants of the Island"

[The "harbor" mentioned is doubtless at Charles Island because of the reference to "inhabitants".]

1837. Ship *Lima* of Nantucket; WILLIAM WYER, *Master*. James Island 224 tortoises.

May 28—"at 6 P M James Iland bore West 20 miles dist. . . . at 11 A M came to anchor in 10 fathoms"

May 29—"Employed getting terrappin got 17"

May 30—"got 26"

May 31—"got 17"

June 1—"got 46"

June 2—"got 53"

June 4—"got 65"

1837. Ship *Omega* of Nantucket; ALBERT C. GARDNER, *Master*. James Island ? tortoises. Chatham Island 240 tortoises.

Oct. 23—"came to Ancor on the N E side of James Island"

Oct. 24—"imployed turpinning"

Oct. 25—"tuck the Ancor and but to sea"

Oct. 28—"Came to Ancor in Chatham Island"

Oct. 29—"All hands on shore for turpin."

Nov. 5—"Boats returned from turpin and maid up the number of 240"

1838. Ship *Corinthian* of New Bedford. LEONARD CROWELL, *Master*. Hood Island 136 tortoises.

June 21—"At 7 A M came to Anchor at hood Island in 19½ fathoms. 3 Boats A shoar after Teripen"

June 22—"at 6 P M the Boats came off got 36 Small Teripen"

June 23—"at 7 P M the Boats came off with 22 Teripen"

June 24—"at 7 P M the Boats came off with 33"

June 25—"at 6 P M the Boats came off With 45"

1838. Ship *Charles* of New Bedford. ——— MORSELANDER, *Master*. Albemarle Island 8 tortoises.

May 16—"at 4 A M went in at the South Head of Alber Marl Island with 2 boats after Terapin"

May 17—"at 9 P M Came on board with 8 large Terapin"

1838. Ship *George and Susan* of New Bedford, H. C. CUSHMAN, *Master*. Chatham Island 67 tortoises.

1838. Ship *George and Susan* (cont.)

Sept. 2—"P. M. boats came on board with 27 larg tarapin"

Sept. 3—"fitting the boats to go after turapin at 3 P M Called all hands at 4 P M lowred 3 boats Capt. Second and 3d Mates went after tarapin"

Sept. 5—"at 8 oclock P M 2 Boats came on board at 10 P M the other arived brought 40 turapin"

1838. Ship *Phoenix* of Nantucket; ISAAC B. HUSSEY, *Master*. James Island
12 tortoises.

May 4—"At 7 A M one Boat went on Shore to James Isle For turpin"

May 5—"At 5 P M the Boat Return with 12 turpin"

Sept. 25—"At 3 P M A Boat went on Shore [at James I.] For turpen and stopt on Shore all night. . . . Sent another Boat on Shore for turpen"

Sept. 26—"At 3 P M the boats Returned with a few Turpen"

1839. Ship *George and Susan* of New Bedford. H. C. CUSHMAN, *Master*.
Barrington Island 22 tortoises.

Dec. 21—"3 boats on shore at barington island at 7 P M came on board with 12 turpin"

Dec. 22—"of the E. end of Barington Island . . . 3 boats on shore at 6 P M came on board with 10 tarpin"

1839. Ship *Charles* of New Bedford. ——— MORSELANDER, *Master*.
Albemarle Island 20 tortoises.

Feb. 14—"Steering in for the South Head of Alber Marl at 3 P M went on Shore with one boat at 7 P M the boat came on board with some wood and 2 Terapin"

Feb. 15—"lying of and on at Albermarle at 6 P M the boats Come on board with 18 Terapin"

1839. Ship *Robert Edwards* of New Bedford. ——— HOWLAND, *Master*.
Hood Island 10-12 tortoises.

March 24—"at 7 too boats went on shoar for Terrapins on the South side of Hoods Island"

March 25—"at 4 the boats come off found it to ruged to land with safety 4 of us howeve got on shoar and got 10 or 12"

1839. Ship *Robert Edwards* of New Bedford. ——— HOWLAND, *Master*.
Albemarle Island 6-7 tortoises.

March 26—"at 7 the cap^t went on shoar for Terapin. . . . South head of Albemarl N 12^m"

March 27—"one boat on shoar at 4 she come of with 6 or 7 terapin"

1840. Ship *Robert Edwards* of New Bedford. ——— HOWLAND, *Master*.
Chatham Island 59 tortoises.

March 31—"sent a boat for terapin at 4 came of with 4 or 5 wee anchored

1840. Ship *Robert Edwards* (cont.)

under the W point of Chatham Island in 9 fathoms water . . . two boats on shoar Turpining"

April 1—"the boats came of with 14 Terapin . . . at 4 A M two boats went after Terapin"

April 2—"at 6 one boat came of with 29 terapin lost one boat on the rocks Left 5 men on the shoar and 12 terapin on the bech . . . at 4 A M went on shoar took of the boat and the terapin"

1840. Ship *Rousseau* of New Bedford, LUCE, Master. Hoods Island 45 tortoises.

Feb. 2—"saw Hoods Island . . . at 4 o'clock P M came to anchor in 15 fathoms of water"

Feb. 3—"two Boats went after turpin"

Feb. 4—"got 45 turpin"

1840. Ship *Mariner* of Nantucket. GEORGE PALMER, Master. Chatham Island 115 + tortoises.

May 18—"at 9 [A. M.] came too [at Chatham I.] with the larboard anchor in 15 fathoms water and sent the boat on shore with 2 gangs for terrapin . . . at night the boats came off without much success"

May 21—"At 5 A M 2 boats went to the east end of the island at 6 P M the came back with 45 terrapin"

May 22—"came back with 30 terrapin"

May 24—"came back with 40 terrapin"

1841. Ship *Elizabeth* of New Bedford, H. F. EASTHAM, Master. Chatham Island. 102 tortoises.

July 23—"got 51 Terrapin at night all boats on board"

July 24—"All Boats away, at night returned with 44 Terrapin . . . the Boats went and got 7 Large Terrapin"

1841. Ship *Chili* of New Bedford. D. B. DELANO, Master. Crossman Island 16 tortoises. James Island 93 tortoises. Albemarle Island 10 tortoises.

Sept. 19—"laying off and on at Crossmans Isle [Albemarle] 4 P M the boats came off bringing 16 t rrapin"

Sept 20—"heady N W for James Isle 2 P M sent in two boats for terrapin 4 came too in 10 fathoms 8 P M boats came off with two terrapin . . . 2½ A M sent off two boats to Albemarle and one here for terrapin"

Sept. 21—"3 P M boat came off with 7 . . . sent in one boat for terrapin"

Sept. 22—"4 P M boat came off with 8 . . . daylight sent in the boat 11 A M 2 boats came from Albemarle with 10"

Sept. 23—"came off with 8"

Sept. 24—"two boats came off with 26"

Sept. 25—"4 P M boat off with 20 6 P M two boats came with 22 have lost a man . . . daylight sent all hands ashore to look for the lost man"

1841. Ship *Chili* (cont.)

Sept. 27—"could not find him left bread and water and directions in a bottle if any one should ever find him"

1841. Ship *Rousseau* of New Bedford. JOHN E. BRAYTON, *Master*. Albemarle Island 12 tortoises.

Oct. 23—"South head bareing S E 3 Ships in sight at 7 A M the Capt Went on shore with 2 boats to look for Terrapin"

Oct. 24—"at 9 A M the boats returned with 12 Terrapin"

NOTE.—The oldest whaler. Built 1801 for Stephen Girard of Philadelphia. Broken up at New Bedford 1893.

1841. Ship *Pocahontas* of Holmes' Hole, SMITH, *Master*. Albemarle Island 47 tortoises.

May 14—"saw the island of Albemarl and run for it sent 2 boats on shore for tarpens"

May 15—"the boats came off from shoar with 7 tarpens . . . sent 3 boats on shore for tarpens caught a seal"

May 16—"the boats came off with 23 tarpens"

May 17—"sent 3 boats on shore to the south of head of albemarl for turpen"

May 18—"the boats on shore for turpen came off and left them on shore with 5 men . . . sent 2 boats on shore for the turpen and men and got them off 17 in number"

1841. Ship *Hector* of New Bedford. JAMES GRAY, *Master*. Albemarle Island 24 tortoises

June 8—off South Head, Cape Christopher, [Albemarle] "At dark the boats returned with some half dozen Terrapins"

Nov. 1—"landed two boats on South Head" [Albemarle] "spoke the Rodman"

Nov. 2—"at 9 P M the boats returned with 10 Terrapin. Rodman about the same. Stood off and on all night: at daylight 7 ships in sight"

1841. Ship *James Munroe* of Fairhaven. BENJAMIN CUSHMAN, *Master*. Albemarle Island 64 + tortoises.

Sept. 15—"Ship laying off and on . . . sent 3 Boats on shore for Turpin South hade [Albemarle] Bairing E N E 10 miles"

Sept. 17—"at 9 P M the Boats came on Board with Turpin"

Sept. 18—"at 9 P M the Boats Came on Board with 9 Turpin"

Sept. 19—"at 6 P M the Boats Came on Board with 8 Turpin"

Sept. 29—"at 7 A M sent 3 Boats on Shore for Turpin at South Hade"

Sept. 30—"at 4 P M the Boats Came on Board with 17 Turpin"

Oct. 1—"at 5 P M the Boat Came on Board with 30 Turpin"

1842. Ship *Eagle* of Fairhaven. SAMUEL PERRY, *Master*. Albemarle Island 36 tortoises.

March 14—"at 3 A M made the Island of Arlbemarl south Head at 9 lowered all the boats and went on shore and at night came on board with 36 Terpine"

1842. Ship *Rousseau* of New Bedford. JOHN E. BRAYTON, *Master*. Albe-marle Island. 10 tortoises.

April 12—"at 5 A M went On shore at South head with 2 boats after Ter-repin"

April 13—"at 5 P M returned with 10 large Terrapin"

1842. Ship *Chili* of New Bedford. D. B. DELANO, *Master*. Chatham Island 118 tortoises.

Aug. 15—"1 P M spoke Ship Robt Edwards . . . Chathams Isle bearing N. dist 10 leagues . . . latter . . . running for the Anchorage . . . prepared to anchor but seeing a reef ahead on which we had like to run kept off again the R. E. anchored"

Aug. 16—"at 2 P M came too in 17 fathoms found here Ships N Bedford. . . . Aurora. . . boats terrapining. the ships laying at the lee anchorage sunset the boat came off with three terrapin"

Aug. 17—"sunset came off bringing 9 . . . all hands ashore terrapining brot off $34 + 2 = 36$ "

Aug. 18—"brot off 35"

Aug. 19—"sunset came off bringing 8 . . . latter came off bringing 27"

1842. Ship *Lion* of Providence, R. I. CHAS. F. HOWLAND, *Master*. Albe-marle Island 5 tortoises.

Mar. 19—"Albemarl in sight"

Mar. 21—"the Nantucket and Awashonks in company . . . at 6 went on shore after terapin"

Mar. 22—"in company with Awashonks a teraping. At 6 came off with two and three dead ones"

1842. Ship *Robert Edwards* of New Bedford. ——— BURGESS, *Master*. Chatham Island 107 tortoises.

Aug. 15—"steering in for Chathams Island at Meridian came to anchor $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the shore in 10 fathoms"

Aug. 16—"the boats went in and got 7 Terapin . . . all hand Terapining"

Aug. 17—"got off 9 Terapin . . . got off 21 Terapin"

Aug. 18—"got off 49 Terapin"

Aug. 19—"took off 21 Terapin"

1842. Ship *Hector* of New Bedford. JAMES GRAY, *Master*. Hoods Island 173 tortoises. Abingdon Island 8 tortoises.

Aug. 25—[Abingdon Island] "at dark the boats returned with some wood and eight Terrapin"

Sept. 24—[Hood Island] "Sent three boats in for Terrapins. They returned at 7 p: m. having taken 25 rather small" (2 lost men)

Sept. 25—"went on shore, found the two lost men and 42 Terrapins"

Sept. 26—"obtained with hard labor 55 terrapins"

Sept. 27—"got 45 terrapins alive and 6 dressed"

1842. Ship *Navigator* of Nantucket; ELIHU FISHER, *Master*. Chatham Island 30 tortoises. Hood Island 5 tortoises.
 May 14—"at 2 P M went a shore to Chatham Island the Island barring N N W at 5 come of with 5 tirapen . . . laying of and on"
 May 15—"2 boats a tirapening at 5 Com of with 25"
 Oct. 20—"at 10 Saw hoods Island at 11 went on Shore a turipening"
 Oct. 21—"come of with 5 turpin"
1843. Bark *Garland* of New Bedford. ALBERT SCRANTON, *Master*. Hood Island 100 + tortoises.
 Sept. 30—"At 4 P M Came to Anchor at Hoods Island in 9 fathoms water . . . sent 2 boats to git Tarrapin"
 Oct. 1—"the boats Came on Board with a few Tarrapin they were scarce"
 Oct. 2—"Sent the Boats to git Tarrapin"
 Oct. 3—"the Boats Came on Board with 34 Tarrapin . . . busey gitting Tarrapin"
 Oct. 4—"the Boats Came on Board with 26 Tarrapin . . . busey gitting Tarrapin"
 Oct. 5—"the Boats Came on Board with 40 Tarrapin"
1843. Ship *Robert Edwards* of New Bedford. ——— BURGESS, *Master*. Chatham Island 262 tortoises
 Dec. 19—"At 4 Ship came to anchor in 17 fathoms of watter $\frac{3}{4}$ of miles from the shore. Kicker Rock N. W. by N. $2\frac{1}{2}$ Miles Chathams Island"
 Dec. 20—"Bought 72 Terapin" ("Terapining" until the 24th)
 Dec. 24—"At 9 P. M. Boats all came off and brought the remainder of their Terapin, makeing 190 in all, and 72 that the Capt. Bought"
1843. Ship *Hector* of New Bedford. GEORGE MANTER, *Master*. Abington Island 67 tortoises.
 Mar. 1—"10 live terrapins" "some more terrapins—32"
 Mar. 2—"obtained about 25 terrapins"
1844. Ship *Callao* of New Bedford. JAMES A. NORTON, *Master*. Hood Island 20 + tortoises. Albemarle Island 4 tortoises. Also "a load" of tortoises.
 July 9—"at 4 P M came to anchor in the Roads of Hoods island in 15 fathoms of watt . . . all hands went on shoare in persute of turpin Gut about 20"
 NOTE.—During the next four days, all hands went ashore "aturping" each day, but the number of tortoises caught is not recorded.
 Nov. 27—"Loard 2 Boats to Goe on shore for Turpin at sonset came of with 4 So ends this day of South Head [Albemarle]"
 Nov. 31—"Laying off & on South Head . . . 2 [Dec. 1] boats on shore at 5 P M came off with load" [of terrapin]
1844. Bark *Equator* of New Bedford. THOS. H. MATHEWS, *Master*. Chatham Island 24 tortoises. Albemarle Island 9 tortoises.

1844. *Bark Equator* (cont.)

April 24—"Came to anchor at Chatham island in 7 fathoms of water Ship frances hear also too boats from each ship went after terpen thear is a Mr gerney lives hear geting out terpen oil his wife & 8 spanyards"

April 25—"at 7 P M the boats retur with 8 terpen to each ship"

April 26—"went again with 8 men & got 8 terpen"

May 14—"cloas in to Charlees islan at 6 P M loard the boats & towed in to 14 fathoms of water one mile N W of black beach"

May 16—"this day we got of 17 barrels of potatoss 30 pumpkins 15 bunches of benaners 50 pound of choacklet paid in trade & som money they com aboard as to a groacery stoar for small stoars at 6 P M got through & set them a shoar"

May 19—"ship being of South head went a shoar with 2 boats fro terpen landed at a crick to weather of goana cove [Iguana Cove, Albemarle] but found no terpen went to leward and landed our boats"

May 21—"got of clear through a verey hevey serf with 7 terpen the ship Daniel webster had two boats ashoar got 2 terpen"

1844. *Ship Levi Starbuck* of Nantucket; JOS. P. NYE, *Master*. Hood Island 14 tortoises. Chatham Island 130 tortoises.

Jan. 31—"at 2 P M we came to anchor in Woods [Hood] Island in 20 fathoms of watter, went on shore to look for tarraping at sun set return to the Ship with one tarraping"

Feb. 1—"the Boats on shore tarraping at night they return to the ship with 13 tarraping"

Feb. 2—"at daylight we got under way from Woods [Hood] Islands and went to Chatham Island, and at sun set we came to anchor in 22 fathoms of watter"

Feb. 10—"at 5 P. M. the bots came for the last time, we have got 130 tar-raping large & smal"

1844. *Ship Charles* of New Bedford. ——— GARDNER, *Master*. Chatham Island 100 tortoises.

Feb. 9—"at 4 P M made the Land the East End of Chatham Island bearing W by S Dist 30 miles . . . when within 8 or 10 miles of the Land dispatch'd 2 boats in quest of tarapin"

Feb. 10—"at 7 P M the boats return'd with tarapin"

Feb. 11—"at 5 P M the boats return'd with tarapin"

Feb. 12—"at 5 P M the boat return'd Onboard with Tarapin . . . beat up to the anchorage at daylight anchored in 10 fathoms water"

[On Feb. 13, 14, 15, the men were "employ'd at getting Tarapin"]

Feb. 16—"got under way . . . after Obtaining 100 tarapin"

1845. *Bark Equator* of New Bedford. THOS. H. MATHEWS, *Master*. Albemarle Island 69 tortoises.

May 1—" . . . ship heading to the E . . . south head [Albemarle] bearing N W distant 10 milds at 6 P M tacked ship & hauled up the courses"

1845. Bark *Equator* (cont)

May 2—"at 8 A M went in with labor & waist boats for terpen & got 11 large ones"

May 3—"went in with two boats to goana cove [Iguana Cove, Albemarle] in company with ship James Allen & got terpen to both ships"

May 17—"at 8 A M being close in to cape Roas [Cape Rose, Albemarle] about 3 miles to the W we went in with two boats for terpen & found nise boat cove & got 27 terpen"

Aug. 20—"sent a boat in for terpen on the third hill from south head [Albemarle] but got non"

Aug. 21—"being up in the head of weather bay sent two boats in for wod at 4 P M got of 8 boat load"

Sept. 17—"at 7 A M went in with two boats fror terpen at Albemar abreast of brattle island at 7 P M got aboard with 23 terpen"

1845. Bark *Alfred Tyler* of Edgartown, LUCE, *Master*. Indefatigable Island 45 tortoises. Abingdon Island 7 tortoises. James Island 20 tortoises.

May 5—"running down for Porters Ileand" [Indefatigable]

May 6—"at 2 P.M. came to under the lee of the Ileand"

May 7—"sent one boats crew after terphin"

May 8—"the boat returned with 12 terphin"

May 9—"the boat returned with 20 terphin"

May 10—"at 7 P. M. the boat returned with 13 terphin"

Sept. 7—"laying of and on at Jameses Ileand at 4 P M the Boat Returned with 8 terphin"

Oct. 2—"run in to Abbingdon and sent 2 boats for terphin"

Oct. 3—"at 5 P M the boats returned with 7 dead terphin"

Oct. 11—"sent two boats with 13 men to Jameses Ileand for terphin and suckceded in getting 12"

1846. Bark *Equator* of New Bedford. THOS. H. MATHEWS, *Master*. Albemarle Island 150 tortoises. Chatham Island 14 tortoises.

Feb. 4—"at 8 A M went in with two boat & got 12 large terpen goana cove bearing N" [the vessel was "off South head, Albemarle"]

Feb. 5—"captain & went in with two boats & sent off 11 verey large terpen captain & 4 men stayed ashoar goana cove bearing N E"

April 14—"off point Essex" [Albemarle]

April 16—"all this day employed beating up weather bay in company with 3 other sail for terpen"

April 17—"went in & got one live terpen & two dedons" [dead ones]

April 18—"cam to anchor in weather bay tagers cove [Tagus Cove, Albemarle] bearing W N W distant 8 milds in 25 fathoms of water one mild from shoar"

April 20—"got off 14 terpen"

April 21—"got off 80 terpen"

April 22—"took the anchor & towed out in companey with Roussau & Aurora got 26 good terpen"

1846. *Bark Equator (cont)*

Oct. 10—"at 7 A M went into fresh water bay [Chatham Island] & got 6 cask of water & 5 terpen"

Nov. 20—"being off freshwater bay took a raft of 9 cask ashore & filled them & got 9 terpen"

Dec. 7—"being of Essex point [Albemarle] at 11 A. M. went in with two boats for terpen & got 4"

1846. *Whaleship*—No name found. Chatham Island 190 tortoises.

July 20—"anchored at Chatham Island in 10 fathoms water and all hands after Turpin"

July 27—"went to sea 190 turpin on Board"

1846. *Ship Aurora* of Nantucket; FREDERICK W. COFFIN, *Master*. Albemarle Island (at least 2 tortoises). Hood Island 7 tortoises.

April 16—"standing in to the Bay [Elizabeth Bay, Albemarle] . . . Lat. 00°45 S"

April 17—"trying to get up into the Bay going in pursuit of Turrapi in company with bark's Equator, Franklin & ship Rousseau"

April 19—"came to an anchor in 30 fathoms of water"

April 20—"all hands ashore after Turpin"

April 21—"all hands ashore after Turrapi"

Sept. 1—"off South Head . . . went ashore with one boat & got off the meat of 2 large Turrapi"

Oct. 21—"came to an anchor at Hoods Isld in 12 fathoms of water"

Oct. 22—"One watch ashore got 7 Turrapi"

1846. *Ship Minerva* of New Bedford. J. S. MACOMBER, *Master*. Chatham Island. 120 tortoises.

Nov. 2—"At 10 A M Come to anchor in fifteen fathoms water of Chatham Island"

Nov. 7—"finish Turepning got One hundred and twenty"

1847. *Ship Coral* of New Bedford. HUMPHREY W. SEABURY, *Master*. Albemarle Island 1 tortoise. Abington Island 1 tortoise.

May 28—"steering for the S W part of Albamarle at 6 P M Cape Rose bore W by N dist 10 miles . . . Ship off & on"

May 29—"at 10 all on board met with poor success got one Turpin Teripin"

Nov. 24—"At daylight off the S W part of Abington. Went on shore with 2 boats & 20 men for terrapins"

Nov. 25—"At 4 P M boats returned from the shore. Landed at 3 different places on the S side of the island & only found 1 terrapin—By all appearances they had retreated into the mountains as everything appeared to be dried up with the sun. Caught plenty of fish with which the shores abound & killed 1 fur seal"

1847. Ship *Susan* of Nantucket; CHARLES B. RAY, *Master*. Crossman Island
30 tortoises.
June 10—"lying off and on the Island of Abington, boats on shore after terrapin"
June 11—"at 5 P. M. boats came off with terrapin and fish"
June 17—"came to anchor att Portors Island in $7\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms water"
June 18—"Went with 3 boats to Crossmans Island [off Albemarle] after terrapin"
June 19—"At Crossmans Island"
June 20—"Came on board with 30 terrapin . . . took our anchor and run over to James Island and 3 boats went on shore for terrapin"
June 21—"at 4 P. M. came on board with the boats"
1847. Bark *Alfred Tyler* of Edgartown, LUCE, *Master*. Abingdon Island
3 tortoises.
May 24—"Saw Abbington bearing W . . . at 5 A M loured two boats and went on shore for terphin and fish"
May 25—"at 4 P M the boats returned with 3 terphin and plenty of fish"
1847. Ship *Charles Frederick* of New Bedford. H. P. BARNES, *Master*. Hood Island 67 tortoises.
July 30—"came to anchor at hoods island at daylight sent two boats on shore for turpin"
July 31—"at dark the boats came off with 27 turpin at daylight sent on shore again"
Aug. 1—"at dark the boats came off with 40 turpin"
1847. Ship *Aurora* of Nantucket; FREDERICK W. COFFIN, *Master*. Chatham Island 100 tortoises.
Mar. 27—"came to an anchor at Chatham Isd."
Mar. 28—"a part of the crew ashore after Turrapiu got 30"
Mar. 29—"got off 36"
Mar. 31—"got under way & went to sea 100 Turrapiu on board"
Oct. 26—"the Capt ashore on Charles Isld got a few Turrapiu"
1847. Ship *Congaree* of New Bedford. AARON C. CUSHMAN, *Master*. Chatham Island 4 + tortoises.
July 1—"ship lying off and on at Wreck bay [Chatham] at 2 P M the Capt came off with a few Terapin"
July 6—"at 3 A M hove too off Kickor rock [Chatham] at 8. 3 boats started for Terrapin. Saw 3 ships at anchor at Terrapin Road"
July 7—"at 8 P M the boats came on board with 44 Terrapin"
1847. Ship *Elizabeth* of New Bedford. M. BAKER, *Master*. Chatham Island 100 tortoises.
Aug. 24—"at anchor off Chatham Id.] "3 boats went in a tearpaning"
Aug. 29—"still at Chatham] "took on board 100 Terrapin"

1848. Ship *Susan* of Nantucket; CHARLES B. RAY, *Master*. Abingdon Island 23 tortoises. Albemarle Island 186 tortoises.

June 6—"lying off and on the Island of Abingdon, boats after terrapin"

June 7—"at 4 P. M. boats came on board clean"

June 8—"lying off and on Abingdon at 4 P. M. boats came on board one terrapin"

July 5—"off Abingdon's Island . . . boats shore after terrapin"

July 6—"lying off and on Abingdon at sunset boats came off with 8 large terrapin"

July 9—"boats came off with 14 large terrapin"

Sept. 12—"off south head 2 boats on shore after terrapin at sunset returned with 25"

Sept. 14—"lying off and [on] South head boats on shore at sunset returned with 150 terrapin"

Oct. 19—"Off Albemarle 2 boats on shore after terrapin"

Oct. 20—"came off with 11 terrapin"

1848. Ship *Corinthian* of New Bedford. ——— ARMINGTON, *Master*. Chatham Island 54 tortoises.

June 5—"at 8 A. M. three boats went on shore on the S. E. part of Chatham Island for turapin. . . ."

June 6—"at 9 P M the boats returned from the shore with 14 turapen"

Oct. 12—"at 10 A. M. took on board 40 large turapin lying at Anchor at Chatham Island Stephens bay"

1848. Ship *Roman* of New Bedford. SANFORD WILBUR, *Master*. Duncan Island 50 tortoises. Indefatigable Island 36 tortoises.

June 6—"At 7 A M Came to anchor the E side of Albemarle in a bay duncans island bearing E by S went off with 6 boats for terpen but found non terpen gon back in the mountain"

June 8—"At 4 A M 3 boat from the Margrate Scot with three of ours went over to duncans island"

June 9—"at 9 P M returned with about 50 terpen"

June 10—"stood across to Porters island [Indefatigable] & came to anchor in conway bay in 7 fathom of water"

June 11—"the captain returned from the settlement reports the potatoes full of worms got 30 terpen"

June 15—"At 6 A M got under way & stood down the Jameses island channel got 36 terpen 14 bunches of bananas"

1848. Ship *Congaree* of New Bedford. AARON C. CUSHMAN, *Master*. Abingdon Island 10 tortoises. Chatham Island 70 tortoises.

July 6—"at 11 A M lowered 3 boats and went on shore at Abingdon"

July 7—"at 7 P M the boats came off with 7 Terapin 3 live ones and 4 dead ones . . . at 9 A M Went on shore with 3 Boats"

July 8—"at sunset the Boats came off with 3 Terapin one alive"

1848. Ship *Congaree* (cont.)

Sept. 24—"at 8 A M went on shore at wreck bay [Chatham] and took off 70 Terrapin"

1848. Ship *Coral* of New Bedford. HUMPHREY W. SEABURY, *Master*. Chatham Island 200 tortoises.

Feb. 27—"At 11 came to anchor on the S side of Chatham island at fresh water bay in 28 fathoms water— $\frac{1}{3}$ mile from the shore. At 12 the Hope came to anchor near by. We have the cascade, a stream of water which can be seen running from the bank at the dist. of 4 miles bearing N. N. E."

[Feb. 28, to March 2 were spent getting terrapin and water]

March 3—"Weighed anchor made sail & steered out to the S in company with the ship Hope. . . . We are 12 miles from our anchorage with 200 terrapin on board most of them large which we obtained very easy as we found them near the shore & but a short dist. from the ship. We also filled up our empty casks with water & could have obtained any amount had we wished. As we found it good watering at the foot of a deep ravine that makes down from the top of the island. A stream running therein which forms a pond back of the beach which is in a fine cave at the foot of the ravine. A ship in my opinion may anchor within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from this place in about 20 fathoms water with perfect safety—from the months of December to April ships in coming to anchor should always keep well to the E. as there is a strong current setting to the W. although we found tides near the shore but the current sets but a very short time to the E."

1849. Ship *Susan* of Nantucket; CHARLES B. RAY, *Master*. Albemarle Island 2 tortoises.

Aug. 15—"off South head . . . sent one boat ashore on south head after a fresh mess of terrapin"

Aug. 16—"bot returned from shore with 2 terrapin"

1849. Whaleship—no name found. Albemarle Island 63 tortoises.

July 17—"went on shore with two boats found a plenty of terepin about two or $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the landing. We Succeeded in backing down 8 noble fellows at nine in the evg."

July 18—"Went on shore early in the morn with three boats we made out to back down a bout twenty terepin about 200 cwt (some of them) each, reached the ship about eight in the eve."

July 19—"Started early after terepin to a new place With two boats. Cooper & four others to the old place after two terepin that was left on the road & then made sail for the other place—when we had reached we found that they had all all gone to the mountain & left us to haul the boat up . . . we all returned at dark with a bout twenty terepin"

July 20—"started as usual for the shore at day light & brought down fifteen terepin two that would weigh from 200 to 250 each"

1849. Ship *Congaree* of New Bedford. AARON C. CUSHMAN, *Master*. Chatham Island. 130 tortoises.
July 25—"went into Stephens bay came to an anchor at 6 P M in 17 fathoms of water"
July 26—"took off 98 Terrapin"
July 27—"3 Boats on shore after Terrapin at 4 P M one boat came off with 8 Terrapin"
July 28—"At 10 A M the other boat came off with 7 Terrapin . . . finished getting off 130 Terrapin"
1849. Ship *Kingston* of Fairhaven, LEONARD LUSCOMB, *Master*. Abingdon Island. 6 tortoises.
Nov. 5—"At 7 A M went on Shoare with two boats after Terpin. . . . Laying off and on at Abbington"
Nov. 6—"At 6 P M returned to the Ship with six Terpin"
1849. Brig *Vesta*, OSANDER MAYHEW, *Master*, sailed from Edgartown April 10, 1849 bound to California (not a whaling voyage). Hood Island 1 tortoise. Abingdon Island 5 tortoises.
Oct. 19—"at daylight saw the Island called Hoods Island run down hove to at 10 A M sent 2 boats on shore Looked all day for turpin at night came on board . . . with only one turpin that weighed 41 lbs."
Oct. 21—"at 8 A M lowered two Boats and went on shore at Abingdon Island Cruised all day and took 5 Turpin."
1850. Ship *Susan* of Nantucket; CHARLES B. RAY, *Master*. Chatham Island 156 tortoises.
June 23—"At 4 A M made Chathams Island. . . . 12 M came to an anchor in 19 fathoms water off N. E. point"
June 24—"went on shore with 3 boats at sunset returned with 14 terrapin"
June 30—"at 4 P M boats came off with the last terrapin making all together 156 terrapin"
1850. Ship *Peruvian* of Nantucket; GEORGE B. FOLGER, *Master*. Duncan Island 131 tortoises.
Sept. 17—"at 2 P M ran in and came to an anchor in Grand Harbour Porters Isl in 6 fathoms water . . . at 4 P M 3 boats went across to an island about 10 miles dist [Duncan] for terrapin"
Sept. 19—"at 6 P M the boats returned with 48 terrapin . . . at 4 A M 3 boats started on another cruise across to the island for terrapin"
Sept. 22—"at 3 P M the boats returned from the other island with 83 terrapin"
1850. Ship *Martha* of Fairhaven; ——— SKINNER, *Master*. Chatham Island 110 tortoises

1850. Ship *Martha* (cont.)

May 7—"heading in for Chatham Is'd. . . . came to an anchor in 9 fathoms water the Catawba & Empire at anchor Turpapining"

May 16—"got under way . . . with 110 Turpin"

1851. Ship *Pocahontas* of Holmes Hole, J. DIAS, JR., *Master*. Chatham Island 90 tortoises.

Aug. 20—"sent two boats ashore (for terapin) with provisions and water for 3 days"

Aug. 24—"one boat came off to bring a few turpin"

Aug. 25—"at 1 a boat came off with more Turpin—a small sloop from San Francisco after a cargo of Turpin. I should think she would carry as many as 20 good large ones"

Aug. 26—"one boat came off with a load of Turpin. at 3 the other boats came off in each a load of Turpin making in all about 90 and I think pretty good ones"

1852. Ship *Congaree* of New Bedford. MARTIN MALLOY, *Master*. Abingdon Island 5 tortoises.

Aug. 15—"at 7 A M went on shore at Abington for Terrapin"

Aug. 16—"At 9 P M the boats came on board with 5 Terrapin"

1852. Bark *Eugenia* of New Bedford. WM. WOOD, *Master*. Albemarle Island 2 tortoises. Chatham Island 107 tortoises.

June 2—"at 9 A M went on shore with two Boats at South head [Albemarle] and got two small Terrapin.

* * * * *

Aug. 10—"At 9.30 A M steered for S Bay [Chatham] at noon Came to an Ancor"

Aug. 11—"Took on Board 107 Terrapin"

1853. Ship *George and Susan* of New Bedford, J. S. JENCKES, *Master*. Abingdon Island. 3 tortoises.

Sept. 24—"2 Boats returned from the Shore with the meet of 3 Terrapin and one nice one"

1853. Bark *Henry H. Crapo* of South Dartmouth. SPOONER JENKINS, *Master*. Barrington Island 1 tortoise.

April 12—"Afternoon went on shore to Barington island With one boat for turpin and gut one"

Note.—The log mentions the names of six other whaling vessels in sight of the Henry H. Crapo at that time.

1853. Ship *Congaree* of New Bedford. MARTIN MALLOY, *Master*. Chatham Island 315 tortoises. Hood Island 7 tortoises.

Jan. 3—"run off for the East end of Chatham"

1853. Ship *Congaree* (cont)

Jan. 4—"At 4 P M came too an anchor in 12 fathoms in Hobbs Bay . . . the hands after terrapin"

Jan. 5 to Jan. 11—"After terrapin"

Jan. 11—"took off 175 Terrapin"

* * * * *

Sept. 26—"At 3 P M Came to an anchor in Gardners Bay, Hoods Isle"

Note.—The next few days were spent coopering oil and stowing

Oct. 2—"Took on board 7 terrapin"

Dec. 13—"at 8 A M came to an anchor in 14 fathom of water in Hobbs Bay" [Chatham]

Note.—No entry in the log-book between Dec. 13th and 18th

Dec. 18—"finished getting 140 Terrapin"

1853. Bark *Peru* of Nantucket; CHARLES E. STARBUCK, *Master*. Albemarle Island 150 tortoises.

July 8—"boats off after turpin . . . the place where we are is on the east side of Albemarle abreast of Cowleys Island"

[Two other ships in company, the *Sea Queen* and the *Clifford Wayne*.]

July 9—"one off the boats has been onshore abreast of the ship got 5 terrapin have not heard from the other boats. they all stop ashore nights Latter part boats returned with 9 terrapin"

July 18—"our terrapin cruise is at an end. we obtained about 150"

1853. Ship *Martha* of Fairhaven. MEADER, *Master*. Chatham Island 13 tortoises.

July 29—"At one oclock P. M. sent two boats on Shore at Chatham island for terpin"

July 30—"at two P M Came On Board with four turpin. . . . Came to an anchor at Chatham Island in fourteen fathoms water and veared out fifty fathoms cable . . . lowered three boats and went on Shore to see if we Could not get Some turpin"

Note.—July 31 to Aug. 2, boats were after tortoises.

Aug. 4—"the Boats returned with 9 terpin"

1854. Bark *Eugenia* of New Bedford. WILLIAM CATTLE, *Master*. Abington Island 3 tortoises.

May 30—"At 3 P M sent Two Boats on shore at Abington Island, Contrary to Orders they remained on Shore all night"

May 31—"At 1 P M one Boat returned with fish, At 10 P M the other one returned with Two Terrapin that they Butchered"

July 4—"At 7.30 A M sent Two Boats on shore at Abington Island, after Terrapin"

July 5—"At 1 P M the Boats returned with one Terrapin"

1854. Bark *Superior* of New Bedford. CHARLES L. NORTON, *Master*. Albemarle Island 1 tortoise.

1854. Bark *Superior* (cont.)

Feb. 19—"Steering in for South head [Albemarle] at 1 oc P. M. Scent 2 boats on Shore for turbin got one"

1854. Ship *Potomac* of Nantucket; ENOCH ACKLEY, *Master*. Chatham Island 43 + tortoises.

June 12—"steering N along the E side of Chatam Isl. . . . at daylight steered off N. for the N. E. point of the Isl sent in two boat for turpin"

June 14—"got a few"

Aug. 25—"under the lea of Chatam Isl"

Aug. 26—"At anchor in Terrapin Rroads at 4 P. M. took off 10"

Aug. 27—"took on board 16"

Aug. 28—"got off 9"

Aug. 29—"got on board 8"

1855. Ship *George & Susan* of New Bedford. J. S. JENCKES, *Master*. Chatham Island. 152 tortoises.

June 29—"At 6 P M Boats returned Bring 6 Tarrapine"

June 30—"at 6 P. M. Boats returned Bringing 5 Turrapine"

July 1—"at 7 P M Boats returned Bringing 6 dead ones & 2 live ones"

July 2—"at 10 Boats returned Bringing 19 Tarrapin"

July 4—"At 10 A. M. Boats returned Bring 25 Tarrapine leaving one man behind who got lost one boat in search of the lost man"

July 5—"At 5 P. M. the two Boats returned Bringing 65 Tarrapin and at 7 the other Boat returned Bringing the lost man and one Tarrapin."

July 11—"at 3 Boat went on shore at Stephens Bay. Chatham Island. to finish trading for Terrapin got off 23 more"

Aug. 30—"Off Charles Island, "spoke a Brig from the Coast wanted to sell Tarrapin"

1855. Bark *Cornelia* of New Bedford, REUBEN W. CRAPO, *Master*. Chatham Island 28 tortoises. Albemarle Island 14 tortoises.

Oct. 21—"at daylight . . . running in for Chatham Island at 8 A M 2 boats went on Shore for Turpins Ship laying off and on"

Oct. 22—"at Sundown boats Came on board with 18 Turpins and one Turtle"

Oct. 23—"at 5 P M Came to Ancor on the North Side of Chatam Island in 9 Farth of Water . . . got 5 Turpins"

Oct. 24—"at Sundown boats Came on board with 5 Turpins"

Oct. 26—"at 9 A M 2 boats went on Shore at South head [Albemarle] for Turpine Ship laying off and on"

Oct. 27—"at dark boats Came on board with 14 Turpins"

1855. Ship *Mary Ann* of Fairhaven. THOMAS DALLMAN, *Master*. Chatham Island 4 tortoises. Duncan Island 17 tortoises.

Oct. 2—"kept away North for Chatham island at 10 A M the mate & second

1855. Ship *Mary Ann* (cont.)

mate went ashore for turpin & stoped untill 8 P M, found seven but did succeed in getting off but four"

Oct. 3—"at 8 A M the first, second & third mates with their boats went ashore & stoped untill 3 P M but could not find any turpin"

Oct. 4—"at noon the first, second & third mates went ashore at Duncan's island & stoped untill 5 P M. they got 17 small terpin"

1855. Bark *Superior* of New Bedford. CHARLES L. NORTON, *Master*. Albemarle Island 11 tortoises.

May 4—"lying of & on South head [Albemarle] to Boats of on shore After turpin At Sunset returned to the ship and Brought 11 turpin"

1856. Bark *Benj. Cummings* of Dartmouth. S. JENKINS, *Master*. Chatham Island. 310 tortoises.

July 22—"Came to anchor at Hobbs Bay Chatham Island for Terrapin 23 men Terapining Got a few"

July 23—"These days Terpinning [24 to 31] 150 live Terpin"

Nov. 25 [same voyage]—"Came to Anchor at Chatham Island for Terpin all hands ashore"

Nov. 26 to Dec. 4—"all hands came on board with about 160 Turpin"

1857. Bark *Bevis* of New Bedford. DAVID G. PEIRCE, *Master*. Albemarle Island 13 tortoises.

Feb. 5—"At 7 A. M. the Capt. took a boat and pulled in to Iguanno Cove [Albemarle] after terapin"

Feb. 6—"at 4½ P. M. Capt returned with 6 terapin"

March 4—"Off and on at Iguanna Cove. at 7 A. M. sent two boats in after terapin"

March 5—"At 8 P. M. the boats returned with one large and six small terapin"

1858. Bark *Morning Star*. H. D. NORTON, *Master*. Albemarle Island 24 tortoises.

July 27 Elizabeth Bay—"three boates went ashore after Tirpin today found none"

July 28—"Three boates went ashore after tirpin found two or three"

Aug. 5—"at 5 A M all Started up [mountain] again today we got down about 22"

1859. Bark *Montgomery* of New Bedford. R. N. CRAPO, *Master*. Chatham Island 78 tortoises. Albemarle Island 7 tortoises

May 4—"at 9 A M two Boats went in to South head [Albemarle] after Turerpin"

May 5—"at 7 P M the Boats came off with Seven Turerpin"

July 14—"at 3 P M Saw Chatham Island . . . at daylight Steered in for

1859. Bark *Montgomery* (cont.)

the Anchorage at 9 A M came to Anchor in twelve fathoms in company with the Ospra three Boats from each bound off after Tererpin"

July 15—"two Boats came down to the Barks with 14 Tererpin"

July 16—"the two Boats went up to the other Boats with Water for the rest and after Tererpin"

July 17 & 18—"after Tererpin"

July 19—"at daylight the Boats started from their landing for the ships with 51 Turerpin"

July 20—"got 13 Turerpin"

1859. Ship *Lancer* of New Bedford. O. FISHER, Master. Chatham Island 70 tortoises.

May 24—"Steering S W for Terpin road Chatham Is."

May 25—"all hands on shore for Terpin at 4 P M took twenty on board."

May 26—"at 5 P M returned with 8. this day found the Terpin farther off or about 6 miles from the beach found it very hard to back them"

May 27—"at 4 P M returned with 14"

May 28—"at 5 P M returned with 17 large ones and 3 small ones, makeing in all 65 live ones and 5 that were to large we killed and brought down there meat . . . one man shipped on board he had been there 10 mts all Alone at 7 A M sent A boat for his Clothing"

1860. Bark *Ohio* of New Bedford. DAVID BAKER, Master. Albemarle Island 81 tortoises.

July 6—"ankered again at Cowlys Inlet" [Albemarle]

Note.—From July 7 to 9—"all hands on shore geting terpin"

July 10—"All hands employed geting terpin hav got 81 on board"

1860. Bark *Ospray* of New Bedford. J. E. STANTON, Master. Albemarle Island 122 tortoises.

July 2—"Bound to Perrys Ismuss [Albemarle] for wood in company with Bark Ohio and Vigilant"

Note.—From the third to the eleventh, the crew was employed getting wood and tortoises.

July 12—"all hands came on Board with 122 Terpin"

1860. Bark *Atkins Adams* of Fairhaven. WILLIAM WILSON, Master. Albemarle Island 14 tortoises

Aug. 4—"at 8 P M came to an anchor in weather bay [Albemarle] in 25 fathoms water one eighth of a mile from the shore . . . at 7 A M three boats started in pursuit of Tarrepin"

Aug. 5—"at 7 P M the boats returned without success, found only one Tarrepin in the mountains"

Aug. 7—"at 5 P M Tarrepin cruisers returned with three Tarrepin"

Aug. 8—"at 6 P M Tarrepin cruisers all down from the mountains but four,

1860. *Bark Atkins Adams (cont.)*

got ten Tarrepins, found them plenty about fifteen miles from the landing . . . at daylight went ashore and took on board two of the absentees, at 7 A M started in pursuit of Tarrepin at another landing at 10 A M went on shore and took onboard another of the absentees."

1860. *Ship Edward Carey of Nantucket; FRANCIS M. GARDNER, Master. Albemarle Island 56 + tortoises.*

Mar. 19—"came to anchor at Albemarle in 18 fathoms of water brattle lland bearing E by South Sent three boats on shore to look for terrapin"

Mar. 21—"at sunset two boats came off with eleven terrapin the other boat remained waiting for two men which lost their way"

Mar. 22—"at dark the boats came off with a load of wood and twelve terrapin . . . at 3 A. M. got under way and [went] further to the Westward say about five miles. four boats after terrapin at different beaches"

Mar. 23—"at 5 P. M. two boats came off with 26 terrapin & left some penned up on Shore found terrapin quite plentiful the other two boats got 4"

Mar. 24—"boats all on shore all hands seeking terrapin at 8 P. M. boats all got off heavy surff on shore left three terrapin on shore experienced very strong westerly current . . . fresh breeze at daylight sent two boats in after the above said terrapin."

1861. *Bark Stella of New Bedford. FREDERICK HUSSEY, Master. Albemarle Island. 6 tortoises.*

June 25—"at 7 A. M. 2 boats went ashore on S. head [Albemarle] & got 2 large Terapin"

Dec 18—"at 9 A. M. two boats went in to the S. head [Albemarle] after terrapin . . . laying off & on"

Dec. 19—"at 4 P. M. the boats came on board & brought off 4 scutteleed Terrapins"

1861. *Bark Ospray of New Bedford. J. E. STANTON, Master. Albemarle Island 41 tortoises.*

April 30—"the Bark working up to Elizabeth Bay [Albemarle] at 5 p m came to Anchor Sent a Boat to finde a place to get wood"

May 2—"Latter part Sent 2 Boats in company with 2 from the Levy Star-buck to get Tarapan"

Note.—For the next two days, it is written "much the Same"

May 5—"took the Anchor & ran to the North 12. m. & came to Anchor again all hands after terapin"

"Monday May 6th to Saturday May 11th Employed bringing terapin out of the mountains & geting them on board 41 larg ons"

1861. *Bark Morning Star. H. D. NORTON, Master. Chatham Island 188 tortoises.*

Note.—Boats were ashore daily after terrapin from June 27 until July 9.

1861. Bark *Morning Star* (cont)

July 10—"all three Boats came on Board each one brought 20 Turpin"

July 11—"Brought the rest of the Turpin which made 188 alltold"

1861. Ship *Roscoe* of New Bedford. G. H. MACOMBER, *Master*. Chatham Island 50 tortoises.

Nov. 30—"At 10 A. M. the boats came on board brought 50 turpin"

Note.—As the boats were ashore daily "after turpin" from Nov. 23 to 30, the above number may or may not have been the total.

1861. Ship *Arnolda* of New Bedford. J. A. CROWELL, *Master*. Chatham Island. 42 tortoises.

June 4—"at 10 A M came to anchor at Chatham Island"

Note.—From June 5 to 10 there were "boats on shore for terapin" daily.

June 11—"at 7 A M took the anchor and went to sea . . . we bring out 42 live terrapins"

1861. Bark *Atkins Adams* of Fairhaven. WILLIAM WILSON, *Master*. Chatham Island 105 tortoises.

July 5—"Employed in geting straps ready to fetch tearpin with"

July 18—"headed in for N E point Hobs Bay Chatham island . . . anchored in 10 fathom of water"

July 19—"Employed in tearpining"

Note.—From July 19 to 31 "all hands Employed in tearpining"

Aug. 1—"all hands Employed in receiveing tearpings on Board. we have on Board 105"

1861. Bark *Ohio* of New Bedford. DAVID BAKER, *Master*. Chatham Island 50 tortoises.

March 10—"at 2 P M ankered at Hobes Bay" [Chatham]

[Another vessel in company]

March 15—"From the last date up to the presant hav been at anker in Hobes Bay hav had three Boats crews on shore geting Terpin hav got fifty on board"

1862. Bark *Stella* of New Bedford. FREDERICK HUSSEY, *Master*. Abingdon Island. 4 tortoises.

June 14—"off & on at Abingdon two boats crews went on shore after Terapin"

June 15—"at 4 P. M. the boats came on board & brought two live terrapin & two scutled ones"

1862. Ship *Edward Carey* of Nantucket; FRANCIS M. GARDNER, *Master*. Albemarle Island 95 tortoises.

Nov. 10—"Ship heading in for the weather bay [Albemarle] . . . 11 P. M. came to anchor in Thirteen fathoms of water and close to the Clara Bell, Hector and Luisianna"

1862. Ship *Edward Carey* (cont.)

[During the next few days the crew was employed cutting wood.]

Nov. 14—"send two boats with seventeen of the hands after terrapin"

Nov. 17—"at 8 P. M. one boat returned with five Terrapin and intirely exhausted"

Nov. 19—"working up for Iguana Cove where each ship have sent one boat with nine men apeace after terrapin lowered another boat and send up to the place"

Nov. 20—"returned with eleven terrapin and reported seventy more on the beach"

Nov. 21—"at 3 P. M. got all the boats off all hands and about 90 Terrapins in all"

1862. Ship *Roscoe* of New Bedford. G. H. MACOMBER, *Master*. Albemarle Island 63 tortoises.

July 20—Eighteen men on shore after terapin and got eight.

July 22—two boats came on board with terapin.

July 23—the terapin gang came on board at 6 P.M. with fifteen terapin.

July 24—the terapin gang came on board at 6 P.M. with 17 terapin.

July 25—boats came on board at six P. M. with seven terapin.

July 26—boats came on board at 6 P. M. with six terapin.

1863. Ship *Edward Carey* of Nantucket; FRANCIS M. GARDNER, *Master*. Chatham Island 1 tortoise. Duncan Island 208 tortoises.

Dec. 23—"at sunset saw Chatam Island . . . daylight kept away for the Island at 10 A M sent in 2 Boats for Terripan"

Dec. 24—"dropt ancor in 19 faths dist $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the shore at 11 P M the Boats came off bringing 1 Terripan"

Dec. 26—"stood over to Porters Island at 5 P M dropped ancor in 13 fathoms $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from shore . . . at 4 A M lowered 3 Boats with 21 men & stood over to Duncan Island for Terripan"

Dec. 28—"at 10 A M a small schooner Anchored close to us the Capt went on board bought of them 78 Terripan. . . . Also rec'd a Boat load of Terripan from the Islands"

Dec. 30—"at sunset rec'd the Boats from the Island with a cargo of Terripan"

Dec. 31—"at sunset the [boats] came again with a Cargo"

Jan. 1—"at 4 A M the Boats went back to the Islands at sunset all hands came on board having been gone a week & got 130 Terripan"

1867. Bark *Osceola*, 2nd, of New Bedford, JOHN M. SHAW, *Master*. Abingdon Island. 1 tortoise.

June 10—"at 11 A M raised Abingdon steering towards it"

June 11—"went ashore got a mess of fish and one Turpin"

1868. Ship *Roscoe* of New Bedford. GEO. H. MACOMBER, *Master*. Cowley Island [Albemarle] 5 tortoises.

1868. Ship *Roscoe* (cont.)

Nov. 20—"at 12 M anchored at Cowleys Islet in 6 fathom W"

Nov. 21—"one boats crew ashore cutting wood"

Nov. 23—"17 men ashore looking for Terrapin at sundown all came off brought 5 small Terrapin . . . employed cutting wood"

Record of Vessels Seeking or Obtaining Tortoises, but Numbers
Taken not Recorded

1833. Ship *Loper* of Nantucket, JOHN COTTON, *Master*. Abingdon Aug. 7-8
At anchor at Abington

1834. Ship, *Bengal* of Salem. RUSSELL, *Master*.

Albemarle Island. Tues. April 1 "went for terrapin to the south head"

April 3 "not a drop of water where we shall go next or what we shall do is known to god only."

1834. Ship, *L. C. Richmond* of New Bedford, JOHN TUCKER, *Master*. (Stone Fleet—see ship *Potomac* p. 134)

Charles Island. July 16—"the boat wint On Shore at the Island"

1834. Ship *Ohio* of Nantucket, CHARLES W. COFFIN, *Master*.

Feb. 25—"at 9 A.M. anchored in Jameses island harbour in 16 fathoms water three boats went after turpin"

Feb. 26 to Mar. 1—"employd giting of turpin"

1835. Bark *Pioneer* of New Bedford. REUBEN RUSSELL, 2ND, *Master*.

May 7—"At 10 P.M. came too an anker at Charles Island"

May 8—"At 4 A.M. two boats went after terpin"

May 9 to May 14—"the boats returned with terpin" every day.

1835. Ship *Lima* of Nantucket; WILLIAM WYER, *Master*.

June 23—"at 3 P M came to anchor at Chatham Iland in 8 fathoms water went on shore two boats returned at 7 a few small terrappin"

June 24—"at 5 P M the boats returned with some terrappin"

June 25—"at 4 P M the boats returned with a few terrapin"

1836. Ship *Ohio* of Nantucket, CHARLES W. COFFIN, *Master*.

April 12—"At 5 P.M. anchored in blackbeach bay [Charles I] in 13 fathoms of water . . . two boats after turpin"

April 13—"two boats after turpin"

April 14—"two boats after turpin & giting of potatoes"

April 15—"three boats after turpin"

1836. Bark *Pioneer* of New Bedford, REUBEN RUSSELL, 2ND, *Master*.

July 16—"At 9 A.M. came too an anker at Charles Island. At 10 A.M. sent one boat for terpin and two boats for wood"

1836. Bark *Pioneer* (cont.)

July 17—"At 2 P.M. the boats came off with wood. At 6 P.M. the boat returned with Turpin"

1837. Ship *Elizabeth* of Salem, ISAAC G. HEDGE, *Master*.

May 17—"A.M. Stood in toward Albemarle & boats over for fish & Terapin"

1837. Ship *Eliza Adams* of Fairhaven, JOHN O. MORSE, *Master*.

May 7—"at 3 P M came to an anchor at Porters island" [Indefatigable]

May 8—"employed in geting turpin"

May 9—"employed in geting turpin . . . went over to James island for turpin"

1838. Ship *Omega* of Nantucket; ALBERT C. GARDNER, *Master*.

June 26—"standing in for James's Island at 3 P.M. came to anchor in 12 fathoms . . . sent 3 boats in after Terrapin"

[To July 1 the crew was busy hunting for terrapin, but the numbers found are not recorded.]

July 2—"at 10 A. M. Took the Anchor and steered W. N. W. Empd. stowing the Anchors & Terrapin"

1842. Ship *Ocean* of Nantucket; ELIJAH PARKER, *Master*.

Jan. 25—"came to anchor to Poters island in 7 fathoms of water . . . three boats went on Crosmans isl for turpin"

Jan. 26—"employed turpinning"

Jan. 27—"employed turpinning . . . took the anchor and stood to sea"

July 26—"Came to anchor to chatham island in 13 fathoms of water the Henry of Nantucket lying there"

[From July 27 to August 3, the crew was employed "getting turpin," but the results are not recorded.]

1842. Ship *George Washington* of New Bedford. TAYLOR, *Master*.

Nov. 1—Hoods Il. "At 5 P.M. the boats returned found Terrapin very scars"

1842. Ship *James Munroe* of Fairhaven, BENJAMIN CUSHMAN, *Master*.

July 2—"At 6 A.M. 3 boats went on shore for Turpin at noon, Albamaral S Bore E By S dis 5 miles"

July 3—"At 4 P.M. the Boats came on board Loaded with Turpin"

1843. Ship *Phebe* of Nantucket. SAMUEL W. HARRIS, *Master*. Albemarle Island.

Jan. 12—"got a few Turrapin"

1845. Bark *Alfred Tyler* of Edgartown, LUCE, *Master*. Albemarle — ?

Nov. 11—"at 7 A M spoke the President run in to South Head" [Albemarle]
"together and the two Captains went on shore for terphin"

1845. Whaleship—(No name found).

Aug. 18—"came to anchor at James Island after turpin and wood"

Aug. 19—"got some turpin"

Aug. 20—"got some turpin"

Aug. 21—"turpinning"

Aug. 22—"turpinning and wooding"

Aug. 23—"turpinning and wooding"

1847. Bark *Persia* of New Bedford, RICHMOND MANCHESTER, *Master*.

Jan. 6—"the first of this day Ship heading in to hoods island harbour at 2.30 P.M. came to anchor in 8½ fathoms water coral bottom at 5 A.M. went on shoar for tarapin found but very few"

Jan. 7—"all hands imployed after tarapin . . . got but few tarapin"

1847. Bark *Alfred Tyler* of Edgartown, LUCE, *Master*. Albemarle

Apr. 24—"sent two boats ashore on south head for terphin" [Albemarle].

Apr. 25—"at 5 P M the boats returned with small luck"

1847. Ship *Congaree* of New Bedford, AARON C. CUSHMAN, *Master*.

July 10—"at 2 P.M. lowered 2 Boats and went on shore at Abington 6 miles off, at 9 P.M. got back with part of a Terrapin and some Earth to cure the scurvy"

Oct. 26—"At 7 A.M. went on shore with one boat at Black Beach" [Charles I]

Oct. 27—"At 5 P.M. boat came off with some hogs Terapin and fowls"

1848. Ship *Aurora* of Nantucket; FREDERICK W. COFFIN, *Master*.

Jan. 12—"off and on at Charles Island got a few Turrpin"

1849. Ship *Phoenix* of Nantucket; PERRY WINSLOW, *Master*.

June 25—"Steering for South Head"

June 26—"Steering for the land At 2 P M went on shore At dark came on board with several terepin. . . . At daylight went on Shore with 3 Boats after turpin"

June 27—"At Sunset the Boats came of to the Ship with Several turpin"

1850. Ship *Potomac* of Nantucket; CHARLES GRANT, *Master*.

Mar. 19—"at 2 P M Anchored off Wreck Bay. Chatham. . . . 3 Boats went around on the weather side after Terrapin"

Mar. 20—"1 Boat returned with Terrapin"

Mar. 22—"at 6 A M [boats] started for Stephens Bay at 11 returned with 3 Boat Loads of Terrapin"

Oct. 18—"at 10 A M 2 Boats on Shore after Terrapin . . . Off S. Head" [Albemarle]

Oct. 19—"at 6 Boats came off"

Note.—This vessel was one of the "Stone Fleet" of 40 whaleships loaded with stone and sunk in southern harbors during the Civil War to prevent blockade running.

1854. Ship *Montreal* of New Bedford, S. L. GRAY, *Master*.
Jan. 19—"ship standing in for south head at 7 A. M. loured four Boats to go shore Turpin. . . . Latter part . . . at 11 A.M. boats com on"
1856. Ship *George & Susan* of New Bedford, J. S. JENCKES, *Master*.
June 9—"off south Head of Albemarle Isl. at 5 P.M. lowered down two Boats went in shore after Tarrapin"
June 10—"At 4 P.M. Boats returned to the ship"
1858. Bark *Stella* of New Bedford, R. W. HATHAWAY, *Master*.
June 10—"Send in two boats for Turpin and so ended off & on Chatham Island"
June 11—"two Boats shore on Chatham Island looking for Turpin at 5 P.M. returned to the Ship with none"
June 12—"2 boats shore for Turpin at 8 P.M. returned with few"
1858. Ship *Fabius* of New Bedford, GEO. A. SMITH, *Master*.
March 1—"Off Charles Island "the boats a shore after turtle"
1859. Bark *Ospray* of New Bedford, J. E. STANTON, *Master*.
July 14—"At 9 A.M. Anchored in Hobbs Bay [Chatham I.] 8 fathoms watter 45 chain"
 From the 15th through the 20th "employed Turpinning" every day. The number caught is not given.
1860. Bark *Montgomery* of New Bedford, R. N. CRAPO, *Master*.
July 8—"came to an Anchor in Hobses Bay [Chatham I.] at 11 o'clock"
July 9—"one Boats crew a fishin the rest of the Ships Company a terupaning"
July 10, 11, 12 & 13, the crew went after terrapin but no numbers are given.
1861. Bark *Montgomery* of New Bedford, R. N. CRAPO, *Master*.
Feb. 9—"sent in two boats in to Guano Cove after Terapin"
Feb. 10—"the Boats returned to the ship with some Terapin"
March 15—"Latter at 9 o'clock came to an Anchor in Hobses Bay [Chatham I.] "seven fathoms watter in company with the Bark Columbas"
March 16—"sent three Boats from each ship around on the East side of the Island after Terapin about 4 O'clock the boats landed and halled up for the night Latter sent the crews after terepin found a few they ware very scarce"
March 17—"the men returned to the Boats had seen few Terapin latter returned to the Ship"
March 18—"Latter all but 4 men went on shore to look for Terapin"
March 19—"At Sundown returned to the ship"
1867. Bark *Osceola*, 2nd, of New Bedford, JOHN M. SHAW, *Master*. Albemarle
Aug. 24—"anchored at Albemarle, the crew wooding] The Cap gone after Turpin got back at 11 P M"
Aug. 25—"nearly all hands ashore fishing catching turtle pipies and guanoes"

