

Mr. Ben H. Thompson

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be by reservation. Parts of St. Thomas and Tortola will provide the most of the accommodations for visitors to the Park. Having parts of these two islands in the Park will permit more visitors to see at least some of the park area in an unspoiled condition. If the east end of St. Thomas Island becomes part of the National Park, hotel accommodations and National Park headquarters should be outside of the National Park boundaries.

Thatch Island is an important stepping stone for animals moving between St. Thomas and St. John Island, and also is picturesque.

Great Thatch Island is used by many animals that live part of the time on St. John. Because of its proximity to St. John Island, Great Thatch Island is desirable as a scenic background.

Southwest end of Tortola, if commercialized, would destroy the 'atmosphere' of remoteness and primitiveness of St. John Island. This area of Tortola supports the last remnant of Virgin timber in the Virgin Islands and is a source of plant life for natural reintroduction on to the other islands. Also, this area is visited by many persons who otherwise would see little or nothing of any part of the Park.

Peter Island is included because commercialization there would be readily visible from St. John and would destroy the naturalness of the park area as seen by visitors. Also there is useful wildlife habitat on Peter Island.

Norman Island has the best caves for bats. Approximately 400 St. Vincent fruit-eating bats (Brachyphylla cavernarum) use these caves. These bats rest and breed in these caves and it is suspected that in the night the bats fly to St. John Island to feed on the many kinds of native fruits there. Other kinds of bats also use these caves. The marine fauna and flora is exceptionally interesting and colorful in the waters that form the floor of these caves. Marine waters surrounding this and other of the islands are important feeding grounds for marine vertebrates.

Sincerely yours,

James W. Bee
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