

There were also a few wild pigeons and some wild swans, but not any longer. Wild ducks still exist, however. Nor are there any more eagles, but one may come across the hawks trying to steal chickens and hens. We can still hear the wood-owls in the evening, but seldom see them during the day.

There used to be more seals along the seaside and some may still be seen. thus the name Kobbeskjar (Sealrock), Ertenstein (comes from Erken, which is an old name for a big seal). There were also otters, minks and stoates, but not so many now. Small reptiles and snakes may still be seen in the woods. Horse was used in many names. Hesthagen (Horsegarden), Hesthaugen (Horsehill) etc. There is a steep hill north of Hordbø. When seen from the farm, it looks like the neck of a horse, thus the name Hestevarden. (Horsebeacon). Names of other animals were also used, such as cows, pigs, sheep etc. as well as names of people. I.e. Karihaugen, Guribakket, etc.

There was not much grazing land on the island, but the farmers had lots of sheep. In the summer they used to collect all sheep from the farms without grazing land & transport them to Inner Ryfylke. Here the farmerson Rennesoy - owned pastures up in the mountains, where there were better grazing facilities. Today this is not so. Grazing has been equally divided

among the farmers and the sheep are kept on the island all year around.

There have been quite a lot of fish in the sea around the island and this fish was important in the household. Cod, pollack, haddock and coalfish. Baby coalfish called "mort" was usually caught along the seaside during the autumn, before they grew big. This mort was salted in barrels and very much used. The fat from it was used as oil in oil lamps. The islanders brought these barrels into Stavanger to sell and we have an extremely good and well-known restaurant in Stavanger today called "Mortapumpå".

During the winter most men went out fishing for herring. They had fishing-boats (trawlers) with about 6-7 men on each boat. They were away several weeks at a time and might go all the way up to Nordmøre (area south of Trondheim) During the summer some went fishing for sardines. These were men who had no farms or small farms who could be away during the summer season. These fisherman went from around the Ryfylke fjords to the Oslo or Bergen area, depending on where the sardines would come in from the ocean. These fishingboats were, later in the year, used to transport firewood from inner Ryfylke to the islands, or to transport potatoes to Haugesund and Bergen.

In the dialect on the island, potatoes are called earth-apples, cultivated apples are sweet-apples and wild apples are sour-apples. The farmers have been very clever about growing potatoes. They used to dig big holes on the farms, making a room like a cellar for storing the potatoes during the winter, to protect them from frost. One can still see these potatoe-cellar (eple hauger) around, but they are not in use any longer. It was soon a habit every autumn to go into potatoe transportation to Bergen, especially from Vikevåg. Already by 1870 there was a great demand for Rennesoy-potatoes in Bergen. Some had bigger boats with good capacity, and transport salted herring to Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Poland.