

Dick Sellers - ADF&G, Anchorage

Copper River Delta Waterfowl Update

The population goal in the Dusky Goose management plan is to maintain a minimum of 20,000 Dusky Geese in the spring. We have been well within that range, but there has been a predation problem and productivity has dropped way down since 1978. As a result the spring population projection is edging down towards the lower end of our objective.

Clutch size	5.38 per nest
Nesting density	134 per square mile
Nest destruction	28% (second week of incubation)
Nest success	7%

Primary predation is attributed to brown bear with some avian and small animal predation.

This past spring we used low altitude aerial photography for our spring transects to get air/ground visibility counts. We are planning on trying it again this spring with some modifications from the original technique.

Alaska has gone through a five year study of the lead/steel shot controversy. Over 3,000 duck gizzards have been looked at. The final report is now finished and has been endorsed by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Tule Goose project has some implications for the CRD. We did not confirm the fact that Tule Geese were nesting in Redoubt Bay until this year when quite a few birds that had been banded in California were found there. This means that there is probably going to be some movement to have the Tule Goose considered for rare or endangered status. If the Tule Goose is listed as endangered or threatened, any areas that are identified as important habitats will have very strict land use restrictions put on them. There will be either an end or a strict curtailment of hunting White-fronts within the Pacific Flyway. In Alaska that closure would probably involve all of Cook Inlet and the CRD.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST
Cordova Ranger District
P. O. Box 280
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IN REPLY REFER TO
CRD Conference

December 31, 1980

Friends of the Copper River Delta:

This year's proceedings of the Copper River Delta Conference have been edited and prepared in record time primarily through the support of Fred Arbogast, Cordova District Ranger, the persistent efforts of Ms. Janice Johnson, Biological Technician, with support from Ms. Charlene Wright, and other Cordova District staff. We hope the enclosed copy meets your expectations.

As in the past, the task of summarizing the talks is made a great deal easier when the speaker submits an abstract of his paper. This assures that the essential points of the topic are conveyed in the manner intended. In any event, we have tried to preserve the fidelity of each presentation. If any errors or major omissions are apparent please contact the Cordova Ranger District staff for revisions. We will retain the tapes for a reasonable time should anyone require review of specific information. Alternately, the speakers themselves may be contacted for details. Likewise, please inform Cordova staff if you have suggestions which will improve the meeting.

Again, thanks to the participants for your help in making this year's conference possible.

Sincerely yours,



Garvan Bucaria
Wetlands Biologist

