

**FEDERAL AID  
INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
State Wildlife Grant**

**Grant Number:** T-3 **Segment Number:** 1  
**Project Number:** 3.11  
**Project Title:** Verifying status of the Eskimo curlew (*Numenius borealis*) in Alaska  
**Project Duration:** 1 July 2006 – 30 June 2010  
**Report Period:** 1 July 2006 – 30 June 2007  
**Report Due Date:** September 30, 2007  
**Partner:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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**Project Objectives**

OBJECTIVE 1: Attempt to confirm or refute the existence of the Eskimo curlew at a reported nesting site in western interior Alaska.

JOB/ACTIVITY A: For a 4-6 day period in each of the 4 years of the project, access a different alpine tundra “sky-island” in the Kuskokwim Mountains system. Access will be by helicopter. Each of the selected areas will be surveyed on foot in an attempt to find Eskimo curlews.

**Summary of Project Accomplishments**

OBJECTIVE 1:

JOB/ACTIVITY A: During the period 22-27 June 2007, I surveyed Bitshtini Mountain for presence of Eskimo curlews (*Numenius borealis*). Access to the area was facilitated by helicopter (Robinson R-44, Chena River Aviation, pilot T. Cambier). Base camp was situated at 64.4313N, 151.9641W at 750m elevation, and provided reasonable foot travel access in all directions to alpine areas. Weather was uncooperative, with frequent rain squalls, periodic high winds, and mountain obscurations due to low clouds. However, periodic breaks in the weather allowed foot travel, and approximately 68 km were traversed. I was retrieved from the field on 27 June 2007.

No curlews were seen. No attempt was made to broadcast recorded curlew calls, as winds were generally thought to interfere with sound transmission.

**Prepared By:** Jackson S. Whitman