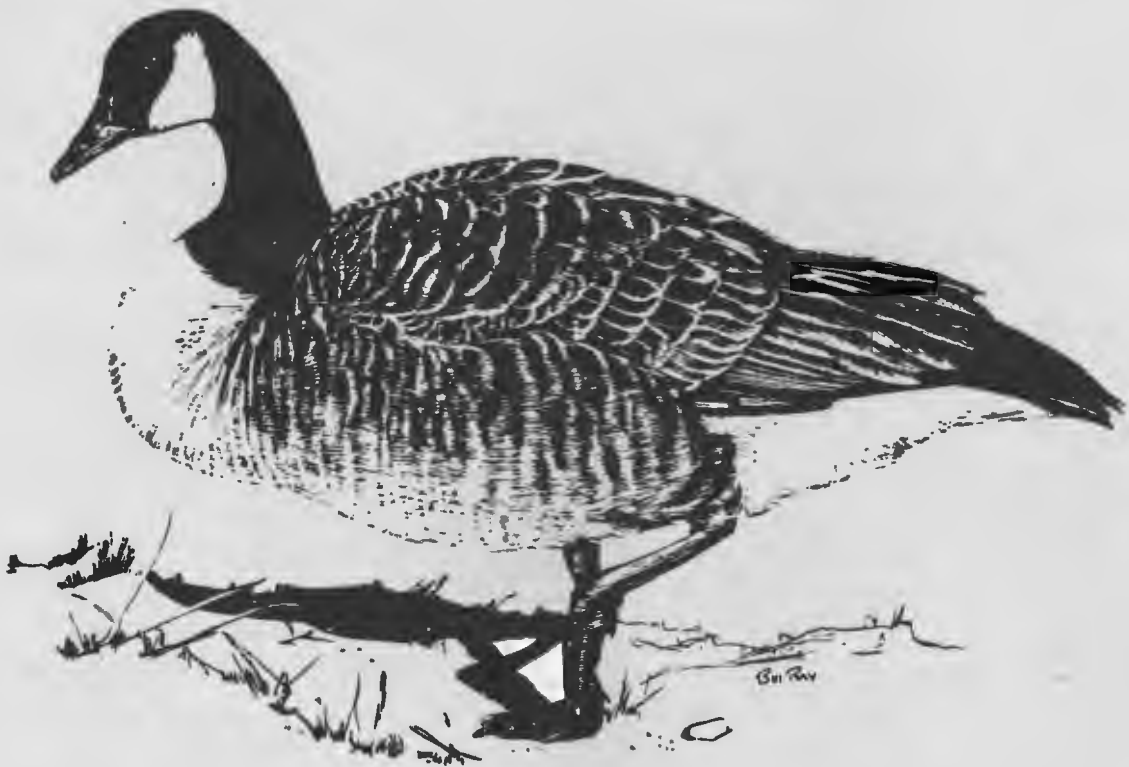


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US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE--ALASKA

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Wildlife Conservation  
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration  
Annual Performance Report of  
Survey-Inventory Activities  
1 July 1990 - 30 June 1991**

# **WATERFOWL**



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**Susan M. Abbott, Editor  
Volume XXII, Part XIII  
Project W-23-4, Study 11.0  
December 1991**

Waterfowl is included with the  
Gamebird reports for 1959 to 1963.  
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1990-91

**Project Title: Dusky Canada Goose Management**

**Project Location:** Unit 6, Copper River Delta

**Project Objectives:** Determine nest success, predation impacts, and habitat conditions affecting goose production. Obtain a production index of percentage young in late July. Band up to 1,500 dusky Canada geese and mark up to 500 with colored collars and tarsal bands to support population estimation and survival studies. Inventory Canada geese on Middleton Island to assess results from dusky goose transplants.

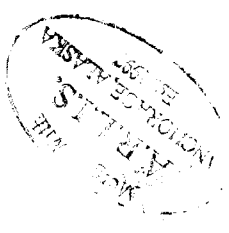
**Work Accomplished During the Project Segment Period:** Completed an initial May survey of nests on sample plots and a June follow-up survey recording nest fate. Data on spring phenology and predator presence were measured. Nest density, success, and relative losses by agent were determined.

A 3-hour intensive July survey was flown, providing the production index 23.5% young of 5,530 geese observed. A total of 699 birds were banded, of which 487 were marked with collars and colored tarsal bands. Data on recaptures and band retention were obtained. A mid-July ground survey on Middleton Island indicated 334 Canada geese, 72% young, with only one marked bird.

**Progress Toward Meeting Project Objectives:** All project objectives were met and results were forwarded to the Pacific Flyway Study Committee for their July meeting.

**Segment Period Project Costs:**

	Personnel	Operating	Total
Planned	31.5	11.3	42.8
Actual	31.5	11.3	42.8
Difference	0.0	0.0	0.0



**Project Title: Restoration of Western Alaska Geese**

**Project Location:** Units 9, 10, 17, 18, 22, 23, 26

**Project Objectives:** Achieve goals of 250,000 cackling Canada geese, 300,000 Pacific white-fronted geese, 185,000 Pacific brant, and 150,000 emperor geese. Annually update and implement the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan with agencies and all user groups.

Coordinate management activities, regulatory programs, research projects, and habitat protection efforts with Pacific Flyway states, agencies of Canada and Mexico, and private cooperators. Design and produce a wide variety of public information products to focus on current conservation program issues and inform culturally diverse user constituencies.

**Work Accomplished During the Project Segment Period:** Restrictive harvest measures and favorable breeding conditions raised population indices to 110,200 cacklers and 240,800 white-fronts (fall 1990), and 70,900 emperors (spring 1991). Brant declined 13%, but Y-K Delta breeders may be increasing.

The Y-K Delta Goose Management Plan was reviewed at 2 meetings in Bethel, as well as at the March Pacific Flyway Council meetings. Minor amendments were made to wording and a 2-year effective term of the plan was adopted.

All operational surveys, priority research projects, habitat efforts, and restrictive harvest regulations were maintained through extensive coordination; Pacific Flyway population management plans are in place, except for brant plan revisions which are in progress. Law enforcement was increased.

Public information and education efforts waned during the period. An I&E Task Force has not convened recently, products lack clear focus on specific information goals, and federal funding has been reduced. This interagency effort needs increased emphasis.

**Progress Toward Meeting Project Objectives:** Population recovery and management efforts by cooperating parties have been maintained. Integration of law enforcement activities, progress on amending the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and containing subsistence harvest remain key elements of work. A more adaptable and focused information program needs to be resumed.

**Segment Period Project Costs:**

	Personnel	Operating	Total
Planned	10.0	3.5	13.5
Actual	10.0	2.5	12.5
Difference	0.0	1.0	1.0

**Project Title: Harvest Assessment**

**Project Location:** Statewide

**Project Objectives:** Conduct a statewide mail survey of state duck stamp buyers to obtain accurate data on harvest, hunter activity, and distribution of hunting effort.

Analyze results in conjunction with federal harvest and parts collection surveys to obtain annual harvest and hunter activity statistics and trend information.

Coordinate with Division of Subsistence to assess magnitude, distribution, and characteristics of migratory bird subsistence harvest.

**Work Accomplished During the Project Segment Period:** The state harvest survey sampled 40% of stamp buyers, obtaining 1,000 useable returns with a 20.9% response rate from approximately 12,000 licensed waterfowl hunters.

Federal data on federal stamp sales, duck species composition, and regional harvest were compared and integrated with state survey results in a summary report.

The waterfowl program cooperated with the Division of Subsistence on a comprehensive summary of subsistence migratory bird harvest data from community studies and other sources. The program consulted on report format and content, provided a section on comparative patterns of urban hunters, and is assisting in review of the final draft and conclusions.

**Progress Toward Meeting Project Objectives:** All objectives are being met. The stamp-linked state harvest survey is providing more intensive sampling and greater accuracy than the federal survey for many parameters, and is designed to be very cost-effective. The subsistence report will help identify specific harvest data needs for certain species, geographic areas, and resource management issues.

**Segment Period Project Costs:**

	Personnel	Operating	Total
Planned	11.7	2.0	13.7
Actual	11.7	2.0	13.7
Difference	0.0	0.0	0.0

**Project Title: Interagency Coordination**

**Project Location:** Statewide

**Project Objectives:** Maintain effective interagency cooperation and management of migratory birds through extensive coordination with federal, state, and local agencies, private and academic cooperators, public interest groups, and the general public. Sustain frequent, close coordination with USFWS.

Participate on Pacific Flyway Council and Study Committee in flyway population management plans, coordination of management activities and harvest regulation, and facilitate needed research projects. Participate on the Aleutian Canada Goose Recovery Team and other advisory bodies that are established to guide species management.

Participate in efforts to support the North American Waterfowl Management Plan objectives, relative to Alaska and the Pacific Flyway. Represent Pacific Flyway Council on the Arctic Goose Joint Venture program.

**Work Accomplished During the Project Segment Period:** The department maintained extensive coordination with USFWS on a wide variety of activities, mostly on annual surveys and inventories, refuge activities, status of regional research efforts, harvest assessment and regulation strategies, a cooperative duck banding program, implementation of non-toxic shot rules and intensive public education, and wetland protection programs. Dusky Canada goose management efforts and input to Copper River Delta Institute goals were closely coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service. Waterfowl and wetland interests were contributed to a very wide array of state, local, and private plans and projects.

The Department was very active in Pacific Flyway business, including chairing the Council and Study Committee in 1990. Management plans were finalized for snow and Ross' geese and Tule white-fronts; revisions were started for brant and dusky Canada geese. Flyway analyses were completed on harvest regulation tools and USFWS duck management programs.

Aleutian Canada Goose Recovery Team work focused on review of the down-listing and revision of the Recovery Plan. The Department contributed staff to breeding bird inventory in the Aleutian Islands. Participation began in review of a petition to list spectacled and Steller's eiders under the Endangered Species Act.

The Department represented the Pacific Flyway on the Arctic Goose Joint Venture Management Board and (as co-chair) Technical Committee. Staff participated on the Strategic Plan drafting committee and provided a leadership role in joint venture goals and direction. A biologist was part of the Canadian arctic goose survey team investigating breeding ground conditions and potential production for 1991. A role was

assumed in a working group to define Alaska's needs and support for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

**Progress Toward Meeting Project Objectives:** All objectives were met under this dynamic and diverse category of activity. The Department made substantial contributions to coordination of waterfowl management at the local, flyway, and international levels.

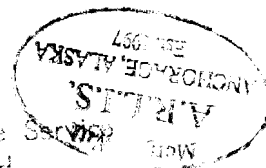
**Segment Period Project Costs:**

	Personnel	Operating	Total
Planned	19.4	2.8	22.2
Actual	19.4	9.0	28.4
Difference	0.0	6.2	6.2

Submitted by:

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# Alaska Game Management Units



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