

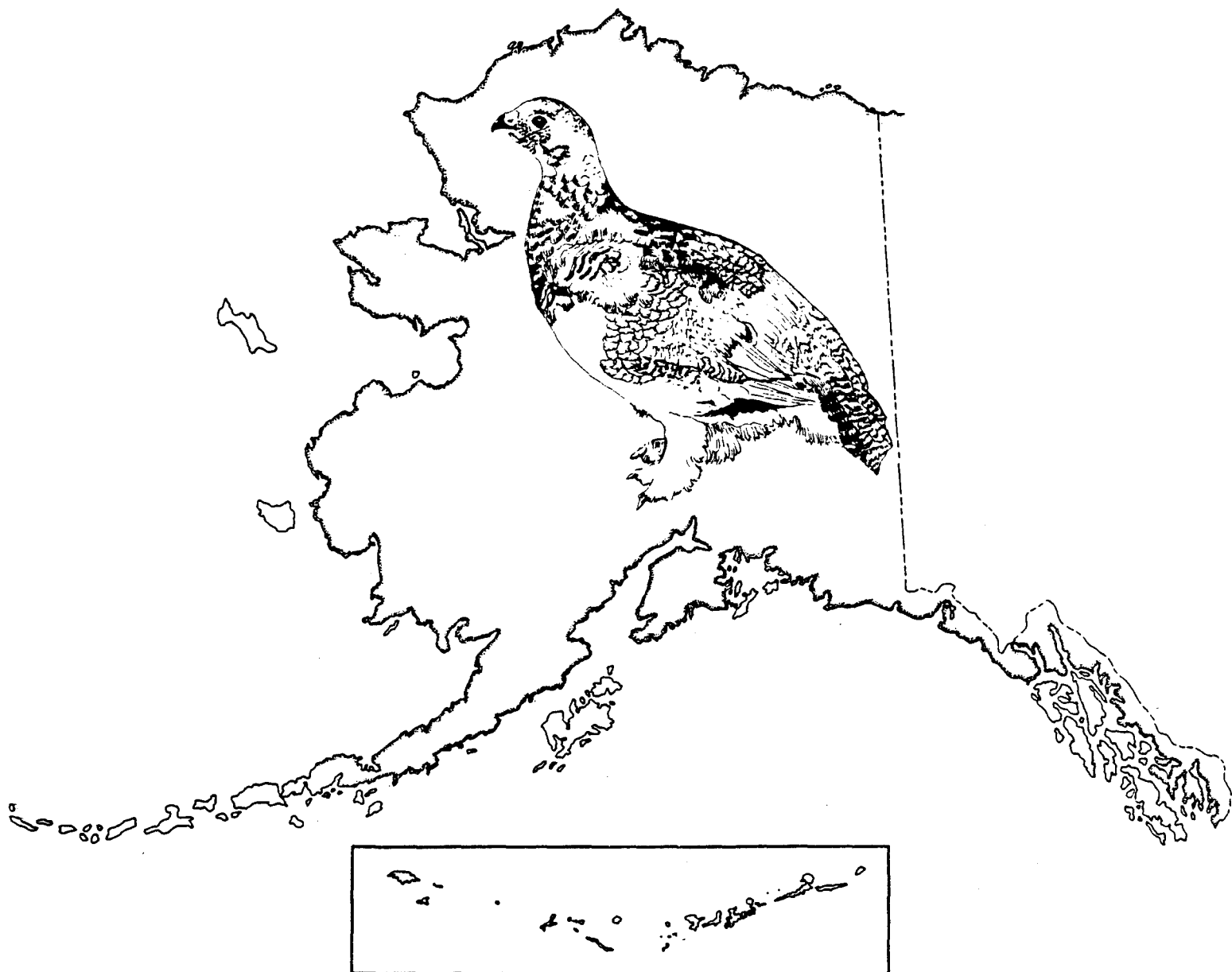
WATERFOWL USE AND HABITAT TYPES OF THE STIKINE RIVER DELTA.

P. J. Heglund* and D. H. Rosenberg**. Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife, 112 Stephens Hall, University of Missouri -- Columbia, Columbia, Missouri 65211* and Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Game Division, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99518-1599**.

In response to planned hydroelectric development on the Stikine River, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service initiated a study to document seasonal distribution and habitat use by waterbirds of the delta and estuary. Beginning in 1982, aerial surveys, ground counts, and brood counts were made during the spring, summer, and fall. Habitat types were delineated on floristic criteria and landforms. Multinomial analysis was applied to differentiate bird use within the study area for 10 habitat types and six geographic locations. Marked seasonal changes in distribution and habitat preference or avoidance at high and low tides was determined for lesser snow geese (*Chen caerulescens caerulescens*), green-winged teal (*Anas crecca*), mallard (*A. platyrhynchos*), northern pintail (*A. acuta*), American wigeon (*A. americana*), four species of diving ducks, three species of gulls, and shorebirds. Few birds of any species nested on the delta. The vast majority of bird use occurred during spring and fall migration and habitat use was confined primarily to the intertidal zone.

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