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REFUGE NARRATIVE REPORT
 OF
 ALEUTIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
 AND
 IZEMBOK BAY AREA
 IZEMBOK NATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGE
 SEPT-DECEMBER 1960

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 Sep-Dec
 1960

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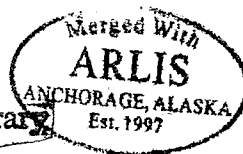
Will you please sign the two copies for Juneau and Washington and forward directly to the Regional Office, Juneau. The remaining two copies are those requested by you, however, these are incomplete since they do not have the pictures nor NR forms. One complete copy has been retained in the Kenai Office.

US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE--ALASKA



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Sep-Dec
1960



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Anchorage, Alaska

REFUGE NARRATIVE REPORT

September - December, 1960

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Cold Bay, and Alaska
Izembek Bay Area

U.S. Dept. of the Interior
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
Fish and Wildlife Service
Cold Bay, Alaska

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
I. GENERAL	
A. Weather Conditions	1
B. Water Conditions	1
C. Fires	1
II. WILDLIFE	
A. Waterfowl	2
1. Geese	2-3
2. Ducks	3
3. Swans	3
B. Upland Game Birds	3
C. Big-Game Animals	3
1. Brown Bear	3 & 4
2. Caribou	4
D. Other Mammals	4 & 5
E. Fish	5
III. REFUGE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE	
A. Physical Development	5
IV. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	5
V. FIELD INVESTIGATION OR APPLIED RESEARCH	5
VI. PUBLIC RELATIONS	
A. Recreational Uses	5 & 6
B. Refuge Visitors	6

Photographs and NR Reports at back of report.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Cold Bay, Alaska

NARRATIVE REPORT

September 19, - December 31, 1960

I. GENERAL

A. Weather Conditions.

The weather in and around Cold Bay has been windy with snow, sleet and rain. There were occasional nice days during this period.

The first hard freeze on the larger lakes and on parts of Izembek Bay occurred on November 17th. Below is a chart of the average monthly weather data.

CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA FOR COLD BAY AREA FROM U.S. WEATHER BUREAU

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Temp. Max.	70	57	48	43
Min.	37	24	11	14
Ave.	47.2	40.7	32.8	33.3
Precipit. (in.)	2.92	4.11	8.94	4.75
Snow & Sleet Total	0.	2.9	16.3	20.5
Winds (MPH) Max.	39	46	58	65
Ave. for month	15.0	18.6	22.4	19.4

B. Water Conditions.

The lakes and streams fluctuated from normal to flood levels in accordance with the weather.

C. Fires.

No fires were observed or reported.

II. WILDLIFE

A. Waterfowl.

1. Geese. Because I did not arrive in the Cold Bay area until September, the exact time that the waterfowl migration began is not known to me. However, large flocks of brant, lesser Canada, emperor geese, and various ducks were here when I arrived. In fact, this was my first experience

observing such a high concentration of waterfowl in one area. To see the water covered with black brant and to hear thousands of them cackling at one time was an experience I'll never forget.

To my knowledge, there were no great changes in the population of these birds from the time of my arrival until their migration to the south. At almost any time, it was possible to drive out to Grant's Point and count ten to twelve thousand brant in the Bay while looking toward Glen and Operl Islands.

On October 8th, an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 brant were observed during a boat trip from Grant's Point to Moffet Bay. Only a few hundred of these birds were seen in Moffet Bay proper. The land area there is quite level and swampy and seemed to be preferred by cackling, lesser Canada, emperor geese, and various species of ducks. It was in this particular area that the greatest concentration of cackling geese was observed this fall.

A few days later another boat trip was made to Applegate Cove with Mr. Mike Uttecht and an estimated 35,000 to 40,000 brant were observed en-route. Ten thousand (10,000) to 12,000 lesser Canada geese were sighted flying from the inland nearby after feeding on berries in the low rolling hills.

Since the birds were constantly moving while we covered the length of Izembek and Moffet Bay, in a zigzag manner, only an estimate of the total population can be made. It is believed that about 100-125,000 brant, 38-42,000 lesser Canada and cackling geese, and 10-12,000 emperors used the area for resting and feeding.

Snow geese were observed on two different occasions. A single snow goose was sighted flying with a flock of lesser Canada geese; at a later date a flock of fourteen was encountered in the Moffet Bay area.

The only white-fronted goose the author saw this fall was in a hunter's bag.

No bird bands were reported at the station this fall.

An interesting sidelight was noted while checking hunters in the field. One team of Air Force hunters was carrying a spinning rod and spoon with large treble hooks as part of their hunting equipment. They asserted that they had saved with it three geese that had dropped too far out in deep water to be retrieved any other way.

By the end of the first week in November there was quite a noticeable drop in the number of brant. On November 9, brant were observed flying very high and erratically rather than in their usual roller-coaster manner, low over the water. That evening several Cold Bay residents heard flock after flock of geese pass over town. It was the brant!

One week later, the forenoon of the 16th, with a crisp 10-mile-per-hour wind blowing from the north-northwest, several large flocks of lesser Canada geese followed a similar pattern.

Izembek Bay looked like a barren birch tree that had lost its autumn splendor, except for the emperor geese and increasing number of incoming diving ducks.

2. Ducks. The largest concentration of game ducks seen this fall were pintails. This concentration near the head of Moffet Bay, estimated at 18,000-20,000 birds, was the largest group seen to take wing at anytime. Similarly, a few days later, a flock of about one-third this size was seen to take wing from a lake adjacent to Applegate Cove. Just when these birds came into and moved out of Izembek Bay is not known. It has been established that some pintails and mallards stay in the Cold Bay area and surrounding islands all winter. Although they appeared the most abundant of the puddle ducks they did not make up the bulk of the hunters' bag success.

On the basis of 132 Air Force duck hunters, mallards made up 32% of the take, pintails 29%, gadwall 21%, with green-winged teal, widgeon, scaup, harlequin, and shovelers the remaining portion. In goose hunting, emperor geese made up 73% of the take.

One male canvasback duck was taken by a local hunter from a flock of seven or eight. It was the only observation made of this species for the season.

Starting the middle of November, there was a great influx of Steller's, Pacific, and king eiders as well as oldsquaw and harlequin ducks in the bays. During the next few weeks their breeding plumages became conspicuous.

3. Swans. Swans were noted in family groups throughout the fall. A lake near Trout Creek, just outside town, apparently had food to their liking. It was a rare occasion when one could not see three to five adults and cygnets gliding gracefully through the water or feeding at the far end of the lake. Nineteen swans were counted on one occasion. The last observation of swans was made on October 19, shortly before the small lakes froze.

B. Upland Game Birds.

Hunters were afforded good ptarmigan hunting during most of September, after which flocks began to form and become warier as they obtained their winter plumage. Two flocks, about 40 and 65 each, were observed near the base of Frosty Peak and Bear Creek on October 16. A distant fleeting glance of a large flock was seen in the rolling hills near Applegate Cove on November 10.

C. Big Game Animals.

1. Brown Bear. Eleven brown bears were known to have been taken by hunters in the area this season. They ranged from cubs of the year to

seven and one-half footers. In the early part of the season, most of them were seen along the streams where spawned-out salmon were plentiful. Later they moved to the beaches and sloughs looking for food.

Eight bears, a sow with two cubs, a sow with three cubs and two singles, were counted from Outpost Number Three, a point on the narrow strip of land running between Izembek and Cold Bay, on October 19.

The "granddaddy-of-bears" was spotted feeding on a dead whale between Moffet Point and Cape Leontovitch. An old time guide, present at the time, said it was well over an eleven-foot bear. Some tracks in the sand measured twelve inches wide and eighteen inches long--thats a lot of bear foot!

Only one bear damage problem was reported during this period. A young bear did minor damage to a turbo-jet boat that was left beached over night near the mouth of Russell Creek. Twelve bear permits were issued for Unimak Island. Two bear hunters reported they had spent eighteen days on the Island and saw only one bear.

2. Caribou. Caribou were very scarce around Cold Bay this year. Two were sighted on the slopes above Moffet Bay. Three were reported as being seen near the Outer Marker and two singles between Frosty Peak and Baldy. One, near Frosty, was the only one taken by a hunter.

D. Other Mammals.

An aerial sea otter survey was conducted in the Shumagin Islands around Simeonof and Little Koniuji on November 15. The weather was quite good that day. A light overcast allowed us to see some depth into the sea, thus enabling us to count the animals that dove ahead of us. Two other observers and I counted 28 sea otters around Simeonof and 110 around Little Koniuji. Several years ago the population was higher. Research is required to determine the reason for the smaller population. Whether this is due to an inadequate food supply or a general migration is not now known.

A single sea otter was observed approximately one-half mile from Grant's Point in Izembek Bay on October 13.

Damage was done to the FAA relay cable, coated with plastic, near the Outer Marker by either cub bears or wolverines. Nearly one mile of cable had to be replaced and other small sections spliced. The cable was then buried, as recommended by the Denver Research Laboratory, to prevent further damage.

A female fur seal took the limelight in Cold Bay on November 20. She was found by two FAA Personnel while crossing overland from Izembek Bay to Cold Bay, a land distance of approximately three miles. After being kept as houseguest for three days--watching her flamboyant ways--her weight and measurements were taken, and then released in Cold Bay.

Because of the low fur prices only two part-time trappers made a few mink sets. They reported trapping as being very poor because of the freezing conditions and water fluctuations.

E. Fish.

Silver salmon fishing using spinning gear was very good until the first part of October in Frosty, Russell, and Trout Creeks. As late as November 3rd, a few silvers were observed in Bear Creek.

Dolly Varden fishing remained good until the weather chilled the fishermen to the point where more enjoyment could be had by talking about the favorite spots around the fireside.

III. REFUGE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A. Physical Development.

General maintenance and tuneup work was conducted on both jeeps, using the limited knowledge of the Refuge Manager with engines. (Note: my past experience with vehicles has been to take it to the nearest garage --out here there are none.)

Pipe racks in the rear of our present warehouse were dismantled giving us about one-fourth more room for storage space.

A new floor was laid in the Headquarters kitchen. Dry-rot had worked its way through the flooring and subfloor, giving it an air conditioning effect not desirable in winter months. Floors in the kitchen and bathroom were painted.

IV. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

A sheep grazing permit on Adak was requested. This request was denied as it was felt sheep would not be compatible with native species and the newly started caribou herd.

V. FIELD INVESTIGATION OR APPLIED RESEARCH

No field investigations were undertaken other than the sea otter survey mentioned earlier in the report.

VI. PUBLIC RELATIONS

A. Recreational Uses.

Public relations between the Service and the U.S. Air Force duck camp was very good. They had two weekly flights, weather permitting, between

Elmendorf AFB and Cold Bay with 132 hunters using the facilities. The sergeant-in-charge kept a record throughout the season of the number and species taken by each hunter. Others to take advantage of the waterfowl hunting here were Navy and Coast Guard personnel from Kodiak. A few of the V.I.P.S using the privilege were: General Armstrong, General Necrasson, General Zistreth, General Dent, Admiral Caldwell, Colonel West and Colonel Gibbs.

B. Refuge Visitors.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>		<u>Purpose</u>
Elmer Whittaker	Fire Chief	Cold Bay	Fire Inspection
Leo Pelletier	Fire Inspector	"	" "
Ken Gilpin	ADF&G	Sand Pt.	Visit
F. S. Wood	Lt. Col.	EAFB	Business
C. M. Peterson	Major	"	"
Francis Kelly	Major	714 Site	Visit
C. E. Hussey	State Police	Kodiak	"
Cliff Barstow	NWA Food Ser.	Seattle	Social Call
Eldon Saur	NWA Pilot	"	" "
Ford Wilke	Bur. Comm. Fish	"	" "
Ruth Coffin, MD	USDHS	Anch.	Business
Mary Byrd	USDHS	Anch.	"
Fran Pagenkopf, PHN	ADH&W	Juneau	"

Submitted by:

Vernon D. Berns,
Acting Refuge Manager

October 19, 1961

Approved by:

David L. Spencer
David L. Spencer
Regional Refuge Supervisor

*Submitted by: Vernon D. Berns
Approved by: David L. Spencer
Date: 10/19/61*

(NOV. MARCH 1953)

W A T E R F O W L

REFUGE

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS REGIONAL WILDERNESS

MONTHS OF Sept. TO Dec., 19

[illegible]

Stellers Eider	Arr. in Aug.; 25,000 ; peak late Sept.; Residents all winter.
Oldsquaw	Arrive in Nov.; 2-3,000; Peak Dec.; Residents all winter.
King Eider	Arrive early Dec.;
Raster	Rare in Izembek but common in Cold Bay.
Marlequin	4-5,000 ; are a resident population.

In most cases the information concerning numbers is only census work and entered in this report because required.

Reasons:

1. Except where noted only Izembek Bay is used as the population of the refuge.
2. Travel was limited and very little of the refuge was covered.
3. Limited personnel to cover the area.
4. Census methods confined to use of dory and walking the beaches and shore lines.

(Nov. 1945)

(other than waterfowl)

Refuge ALBUQUERQUE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Months of Sept. to Dec. 1944

(1) Species	(2) First Seen		(3) Peak Numbers		(4) Last Seen		(5) Production			(6) Total
Common Name	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number Colonies	Total # Nests	Total Young	Estimated Number
I. <u>Water and Marsh Birds:</u>										
II. <u>Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns:</u>										
Glaucous-winged Gull	5000	Sept.	residents		5000	Dec.				
Pelagic Cormorant	100	Sept.	residents		50	Dec.				
Semipalmated Plover	75	Sept.	100	Oct.	75	Dec.				
Western Sandpiper	400	Sept.			55	Dec.				
Least Sandpiper	100	Sept.			30	Dec.				
Northern Phalarope	10	Sept.			10	Dec.				

(over)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
III. <u>Doves and Pigeons:</u> Mourning dove White-winged dove					
IV. <u>Predaceous Birds:</u> **** Golden eagle, Bald ***** Duck hawk **** Horned owl, Snowy Magpie Raven Crow Falcon, Peregrine Gyr Falcon	50-100 5-6 20 300 " 10-15 8-10	resident population reported as seen on Anchikta in Dec. resident population resident population " Sept. Sept.			
Reported by _____					

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Species: Use the correct names as found in the A.O.U. Checklist, 1931 Edition, and list group in A.O.U. order. Avoid general terms as "seagull", "tern", etc. In addition to the birds listed on form, other species occurring on refuge during the reporting period should be added in appropriate spaces. Special attention should be given to those species of local and National significance. Groups: I. Water and Marsh Birds (Gaviiformes to Ciconiiformes and Gruiformes)
II. Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns (Charadriiformes)
III. Doves and Pigeons (Columbiformes)
IV. Predaceous Birds (Falconiformes, Strigiformes and predaceous Passeriformes)
- (2) First Seen: The first refuge record for the species for the season concerned.
- (3) Peak Numbers: The greatest number of the species present in a limited interval of time.
- (4) Last Seen: The last refuge record for the species during the season concerned.
- (5) Production: Estimated number of young produced based on observations and actual counts.
- (6) Total: Estimated total number of the species using the refuge during the period concerned.

Refuge ~~—~~ ALUTIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Months of January to February, 19 44

[illegible]

INSTRUCTIONS

Form NR-2 - UPLAND GAME BIRDS.*

- (1) SPECIES: Use correct common name.
- (2) DENSITY: Applies particularly to those species considered in removal programs (public hunts, etc.). Detailed data may be omitted for species occurring in limited numbers. Density to be expressed in acres per animal by cover types. This information is to be prefaced by a statement from the refuge manager as to the number of acres in each cover type found on the refuge; once submitted, this information need not be repeated except as significant changes occur in the area of cover types. Cover types should be detailed enough to furnish the desired information but not so much as to obscure the general picture. Examples: spruce swamp, upland hardwoods, reverting agriculture land, bottomland hardwoods, short grass prairie, etc. Standard type symbols listed in Wildlife Management Series No. 7 should be used where possible. Figures submitted should be based on actual observations and counts on representative sample areas. Survey method used and size of sample area or areas should be indicated under Remarks.
- (3) YOUNG PRODUCED: Estimated number of young produced, based upon observations and actual counts in representative breeding habitat.
- (4) SEX RATIO: This column applies primarily to wild turkey, pheasants, etc. Include data on other species if available.
- (5) REMOVALS: Indicate total number in each category removed during the report period.
- (6) TOTAL: Estimated total number using the refuge during the report period. This may include resident birds plus those migrating into the refuge during certain seasons.
- (7) REMARKS: Indicate method used to determine population and area covered in survey. Also include other pertinent information not specifically requested.

* Only columns applicable to the period covered should be used.

(1) Species	(2) Density	(3) Young Produced	(4) Removals				(5) Losses			(6) Introductions		(7) Estimated Total Refuge Population		(8) Sex Ratio
			Hunting	For Re- stocking	Sold	For Research	Predation	Disease	Winter Loss	Number	Source	At period of Greatest use	As of Dec. 31	
Common Name	Cover types, total Acreage of Habitat	Number												
Caribou	Tundra-like 1500 sq mi on Unalak	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	300	?
Caribou	Tundra-like 14,000 acres on Adak	6+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29+	29+	458,100?
Br. Bear	Tundra-like 1500 sq mi on Unalak	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	?

Remarks: No observations were made. Report from U.S. Marines at Adak there were atleast 6 new calves.
No reports were sent to this office from bear hunters on Unalak.

Reported by _____

INSTRUCTIONS

Form NR-3 - BIG GAME

- (1) SPECIES: Use correct common name; i.e., Mule deer, black-tailed deer, white-tailed deer. It is unnecessary to indicate sub-species such as northern or Louisiana white-tailed deer.
- (2) DENSITY: Detailed data may be omitted for species occurring in limited numbers. Density to be expressed in acres per animal by cover types. This information is to be prefaced by a statement from the refuge manager as to the number of acres in each cover type found on the refuge; once submitted, this information need not be repeated except as significant changes occur in the area of cover types. Cover types should be detailed enough to furnish the desired information but not so much as to obscure the general picture. Examples: spruce swamp, upland hardwoods, reverting agriculture land, bottomland hardwoods, short grass prairie, etc. Standard type symbols listed in Wildlife Management Series No. 7 should be used where possible. Figures submitted should be based on actual observations and counts on representative sample areas. Survey method used and size of sample area or areas should be indicated under Remarks.
- (3) YOUNG PRODUCED: Estimated total number of young produced on refuge.
- (4) REMOVALS: Indicate total number in each category removed during the year.
- (5) LOSSES: On the basis of known records or reliable estimates indicate total losses in each category during the year.
- (6) INTRODUCTIONS: Indicate the number and refuge or agency from which stock was secured.
- (7) TOTAL REFUGE POPULATION: Give the estimated population of each species on the refuge at period of its greatest abundance and also as of Dec. 31.
- (8) SEX RATIO: Indicate the percentage of males and females of each species as determined from field observations or through removals.

3-1754

Form NR-4

(June 1945)

SMALL MAMMALS

Refuge _____ Year ending April 30, 1946

(1) Species	(2) Density		(3) Removals					(4) Disposition of Furs					(5) Total Popula- tion	
Common Name	Cover Types & Total Acreage of Habitat	Acres Per Animal	Hunting	Fur Harvest	Predator Control *	For Re- stocking	For Re- search	Share Trapping			Total Refuge Furs Shipped	Furs Donated	Furs Destroyed	
								Permit Number	Trappers Share	Refuge share				
Mink	1500 sq. mi.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Red Fox	1500 sq. mi.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Land Otter	1500 sq. mi.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wolverine	1500 sq. mi.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ground Squirrel	1500 sq. mi.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Arctic Hare	1500 sq. mi.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Blue Fox	2,720,000 acres	1	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

List removals by Predator Animal Hunter

* List removals by Predator Animal Hunter

REMARKS: Blue foxes were taken from Rat Island and Neleapochnoi. Poison was used on Anchitka for fox control but no dead animals were recovered. Izembek Refuge not included in this report.

Reported by _____

INSTRUCTIONS

Form NR-4 - SMALL MAMMALS (Include data on all species of importance in the management program; i. e., muskrats, beaver, coon, mink, coyote. Data on small rodents may be omitted except for estimated total population of each species considered in control operations.)

- (1) SPECIES: Use correct common name. Example: Striped skunk, spotted skunk, short-tailed weasel, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, white-tailed jackrabbit, etc. (Accepted common names in current use are found in the "Field Book of North American Mammals" by H. E. Anthony and the "Manual of the Vertebrate Animals of the Northeastern United States" by David Starr Jordan.)
- (2) DENSITY: Applies particularly to those species considered in removal programs. Detailed data may be omitted for species occurring in limited numbers. Density to be expressed in acres per animal by cover types. This information is to be prefaced by a statement from the refuge manager as to the number of acres in each cover type found on the refuge; once submitted, this information need not be repeated except as significant changes occur in the area of cover types. Cover types should be detailed enough to furnish the desired information but not so much as to obscure the general picture. Examples: spruce swamp, upland hardwoods, reverting agriculture land, bottom land hardwoods, short grass prairie, etc. Standard type symbols listed in Wildlife Management Series No. 7 should be used where possible. Figures submitted should be based on actual observations and counts on representative sample areas. Survey method used and size of sample area or areas should be indicated under Remarks.
- (3) REMOVALS: Indicate the total number under each category removed since April 30 of the previous year, including any taken on the refuge by Service Predatory Animal Hunter. Also show any removals not falling under headings listed.
- (4) DISPOSITION OF FUR: On share-trapped furs list the permit number, trapper's share, and refuge share. Indicate the number of pelts shipped to market, including furs taken by Service personnel. Total number of pelts of each species destroyed because of unprimeness or damaged condition, and furs donated to institutions or other agencies should be shown in the column provided.
- (5) TOTAL POPULATION: Estimated total population of each species reported on as of April 30.
- REMARKS: Indicate inventory method(s) used, size of sample area(s), introductions, and any other pertinent information not specifically requested.

PUBLIC USE

Refuge

Calendar Year

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Total Use Visitor-Days	Hunting Use	Fishing Use	Miscellaneous Use

Where practicable, by means of occasional spot checks, or other methods, show by percent and visitor-days the breakdown of the above figures and other related information:

Hunting (on refuge lands):	Percent	Visitor-Days	Acres	Miscellaneous:	Percent	Visitor-Days
Waterfowl				Recreation *		
Upland Game		200	14,000	Official		50
Big Game		150	974,000	Economic Use		
Supervised by refuge		100	No. of blinds	Other		

Hunting (off
refuge lands): Estimated man-days of hunting on lands
adjacent to the refuge (These figures
should not be included in hunting-use totals above).

Fishing:

Acres of ponds or lakes and miles of streams

open to fishing.

Comments:

Izembek did not become a refuge until Dec.
and not included in this report.

*(including picnicking, swimming, boating,
camping, viewing wildlife, and photographing)

Refuge Abasco Year 1960

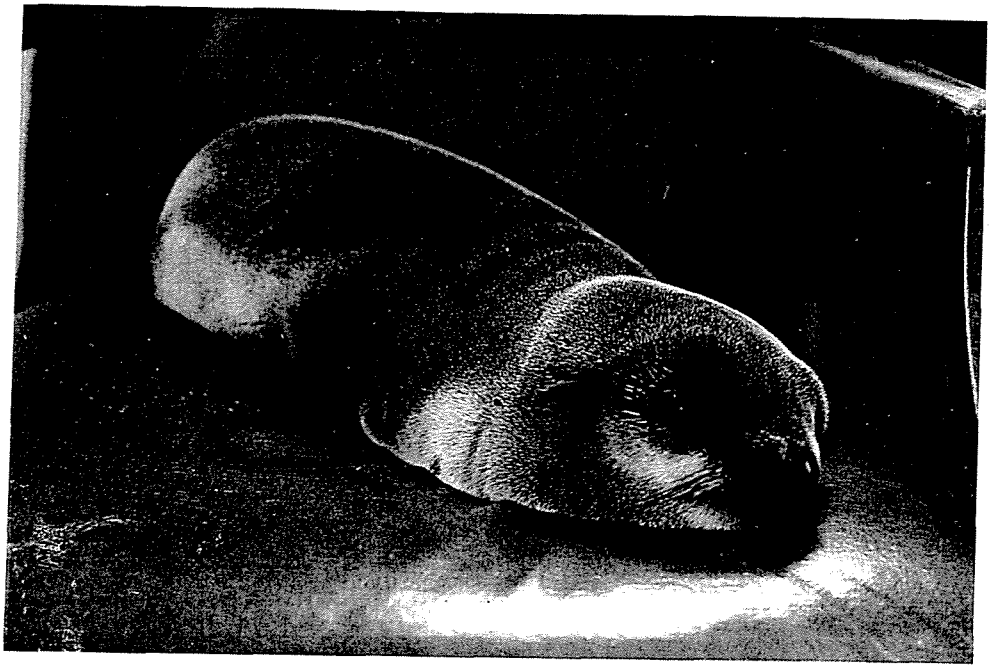
Permittee	Permit No.	Unit or Location	Actual Acreage Utilized	Animal Use Months	Tons of Hay Harvested	Period of Use From - To	Rate	Total Income	Remarks
Anderson, C.	2874	Caton Island	4000+	520+		Jan.-Dec. 1960	\$150./yr	\$150/yr	44 cattle on island

Totals:

Acreage grazed 4000+ Animal use months 520+ Total income Grazing \$150.00
 Acreage cut for hay _____ Tons of hay cut _____ Total income Haying _____



Assistant Refuge Manager, with young female fur seal found crossing
overland from Izembek to Cold Bay.
Photos by Jack Nyholm



Fur Seals favorite chair in Refuge Office.



Fur Seal walking the board walks of Cold Bay.



Cold Bay trapper with mink caught on Frosty Creek.



One of the few mink taken around Cold Bay this season.



Refuge Managers quarters and office at Cold Bay.
Photos by Vern Berns.



Quarters for Assistant Refuge Manager- One wing of the old Theater
of Operations Building made into living quarters.



Proposed Site for new F.W.S. Headquarters buildings at Cold Bay, Alaska



A limit of Emperor geese taken by hunter in late November.