

REFUGE NARRATIVE REPORT

January 1962 - April 1962

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

and

IZEMBEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGE

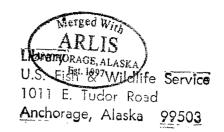
Cold Bay, Alaska

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Anchorage, Alaska
Est. 1997

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Cold Bay

Alaska

Staff:

Robert D. Jones, Jr.

Vernon D. Berns

Refuge Manager

Assistant Refuge Manager

US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE--ALASKA

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

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ALEUTIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE and IZEMBER NATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGE

Marrative Report

January 1962 - April 1962

I. GENERAL

A. Weather conditions. In view of what might have happened at this period of the year, we must consider ourselves fortunate, for we were in the field and vulnerable. Snow accumulated enough to require snowshoes on only one occasion in Jamary. Northerly circulation prevailed, as usual, in Jamary with southerly (and stronger) winds later.

In this day and age one hesitates to ascribe celestial flashes and rumblings to anything so ordinary as thunder and lightning, expecially in an area where these phenomena are conspicuously absent. However, the Refuge Manager on the nights of the lith and the 18th of February observed at Adak flashes and rumblings that in the Great Flains would unhesitatingly be classed as lightning followed by thunder.

Climatological Data for Cold Bay Area from the Weather Bureau:

Temperature	Max. Min.	Jan. 13	Feb.	March 山山 19	April LL 19
Precipitation (:	Avg. inches)	22.7 2.53	33.2 1.53	31.2 2.10	31.9 .76
Snow & Sleet	Total	3.1	3.6	4.6	2.9
Winds (MPH)	Max.	60	58	Li Li	38
Ave. for month	(MPH)	18.6	19.9	16.0	17.8
Peak Gusts	(MPH)	72	75	62	46

B. Habitat Conditions.

1. Water. Streams and lakes remained frozen for the greater part of the reporting period. The substantial wintering waterfowl populations move onto salt water when this occurs.

At Cold Bay ice on the lakes was 16 to 18 inches thick during part of the period. Izembek Bay was frozen from time to time, intermittently breaking up with the advent of warm, strong winds.

2. Food and Gover. In Izembek Bay the eelgrass was observed to be growing by April h, imparting a green color to the tidal flats.

At Adak the snow cover on the Caribou Peninsula, while appearing to be complete, was in reality light and did not influence the availability of food for the caribou. It seems quite unlikely that this should ever occur on Adak.

II. WILDLIFE

A. Migratory Birds.

1. Geese. Emperor geese winter along the Alaska Peninsula and in the Aleutian Islands. On the Peninsula where ice often forms along the protected shores they are obliged to leave the inner bays for the more exposed Pacific beaches. Thus at Cold Bay these birds were absent from the ice-locked shoreline until February 12 when a flock of 15 returned to the tide flats northwest of Delta Point.

At Adak a flock of about 50 emperor geese provided a considerable distraction to the Naval Station. These birds made use of grass and clover sown by the Naval Station on the disturbed ground in the heart of the Station. The handsome geese contentedly grazed and rested beside the heavily travelled roads of the Base, moving off only when a vehicle stopped.

At Amchitka in January about 400 emperor geese grazed and rested on the Kirilof Peninsula, flying out to the Constantine Islands in the Harbor at dusk. The pattern was so characteristic of Canada geese that it evoked images of Izembek Bay in the mind of the Refuge Manager.

Our first record of northbound brant is dated March 11 when four flocks of h, 11, 1h, and 13 birds were observed in Izembek Bay. These may have been the vanguard of migrants from the south or some of those that winter along the Alaska Peninsula, principally in the Sanak Reefs.

2. <u>Ducks</u>. At Amchitka, where the lakes do not remain frozen any appreciable part of the winter the dabbling ducks were, none the less, wintering in the salt water. Only two exceptions to this were noted, and in these two cases substantial numbers of mallards and common teal were observed on lakes adjacent to the ocean. It is thought that these birds were merely resting on the lakes and feeding in the salt water.

At Igitkin Island the following observations were recorded the 9th and 10th of February:

75 old squaw ducks 20 - 30 buffleheads 150 greater scaup No emperor geese Few harlequins

The 11th of February while approaching Atka Island from the west, king eiders were identified in Atka Pass. This undoubtedly represents the western limits of the wintering range of the species.

In Cold Bay large rafts of common and white-winged scoters were noted the 4th of April, and to the westward between Thin Point and Amagat Island very large numbers of king eiders and Steller's eiders.

The northbound migration including brant, old squaw ducks, Steller's eiders, king elders and others was in full swing by mid-April. At night large flocks of these birds were heard flying over Cold Bay on a course that would take them to Izembek Bay. On one night, one or more flocks of king eiders flew into the beacon tower and seven were recovered at its base. One had struck in such a manner and with such force as to shear its wing from the body.

April 12, about 350 pintails were observed at Grant's Point in Tzembek Bay.

3. Swans. Seventeen whooper swans in three groups of 2, 8, and 7 were observed near Crescent Bay, Atka Island on February 11.

Eleven swans were reported near Christenson's Lagoon Unimak I. January 17. Fifteen swans were first sighted on a small lake north of Cold Bay town April 5. These were presumably whistling swans and remained for several days.

B. Upland Game Birds. Around Cold Bay willow ptarmigen were scarce, but large flocks were reported near King Cove and Canoe Bay. This seems to be a pattern in this area during the low point of the cycle.

At Amchitka abundant evidence of increasing numbers of rock ptarmigan was recorded. These are now numerous there and the birds in winter plumage against a background of no snow are very obvious.

C. Big Came Animals.

- 1. Alaska Brown Bear. April 7, a sow with one cub was observed in the area south of Aussell Creek. An airplane hunting party reported one bear on the Bering Sea beach between Nelson's Lagoon and False Pass, April 10.
- 2. Caribou. Jamary 8, the Refuge Manager visited the introduced caribou band on Adak Island. After two reproductive seasons the original 23 have increased to 36. A great deal of unrest was evident in the band, probably due to the different temperaments of the hand-reared and wild-reared animals, hence it was not possible to determine sex ratios and numbers of calves in the time available. Three of the adults were still tame enough to approach the Refuge Wanager; and one of these, the big bull, was agressive. The entire band approached to within 20 yards where they stood in a semicircle, altogether an impressive spectacle.
- 3. Reindeer. In Crescent Bay near the west end of Atka, a band of about 100 feral reindeer was observed. Three cows were killed and found to be in good flesh. Both subcutaneous and visceral fat was present in all three animals. The range in the area showed heavy utilization, and no lichens were evident.

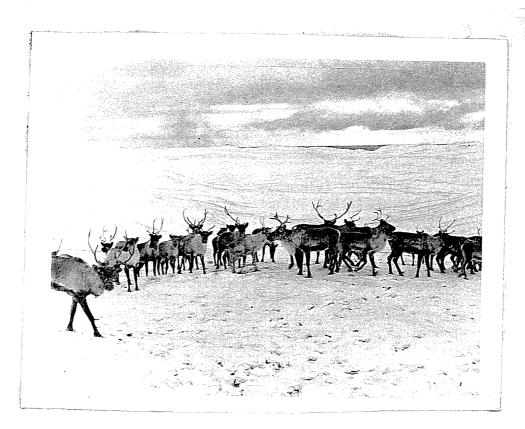


Fig. 1 Adak Caribou



Fig. 2 Caribou 117, Adak Herd Bull

D. Fur animals, Fredators, Rodents, and Other Mammals.

1. The Refuge Manager helped with the experimental sea otter harvest at Amchitka by assisting Kenyon with the logistics and retrieving killed sea otters by swimming. The animals were in excellent condition, exhibiting extensive fat depositions. These collections were coincidental to the waning of reproductive activity in the green sea urchins. Subsequent to this period Kenyon reported the usual losses of emaciated animals. Significance of this is the considerable dependence of the sea otter population at Amchitka on the green sea urchins, and the heavy strain that occurs when the nutritional value of the echinoid drops almost to zero following completion of reproductive activity.

Twenty-five green sea urchins were gathered from under the Kirilòf Wharf in Constantine Harbor, Amchitka January 26, in from 15 to 30 feet of water. The water was absolutely clear, temperature 38°F. These were weighed, measured, and the volume of the gonads measured. This information is recorded, together with similar data from 25 sea urchins gathered February 15 off the Adak Jetty in from 10 to 60 feet of water that was also absolutely clear and 38°F.

diameter of shell in mm.	Amchitka wet weight in grams	volume of gonads in cc.	diameter of shell in mm.	Adak wet weight in grams	volume of gonads in cc.
23 - 21.3 24 - 22.3 25 - 21.6	3.17 3.59 3.05	Trace T <i>r</i> ace Trace	47.8 43.6 40.4	34.91 30.30 22.99	Trace Trace •3

- 2. Red foxes became common about Cold Bay, where food was more readily available than in the wilderness. This evoked the usual comments about the possibility of rabid animals and requests to kill them if they ventured into town. With the appearance of ground squirrels in April the foxes moved out again and the problem once more resolved itself.
- 3. That the Arctic hare population continues at a high level is apparent from the frequent hunter success.
- 4. In the Morzhovoi Bay area sign of a heavy population of microtine rodents was apparent. These were probably lemmings and shrews.
- E. Falcons, eagles, owls, ravens, and magpies.
 - 1. Peregrine falcons were observed as usual at Amchitka. One gyrfalcon was also observed there.
 - 2. At Cold Bay the <u>bald eagles</u> occupied perches on the headlands overlooking the Bay. Cold Bay in winter is inhabited by numerous large rafts of diving ducks such as king eiders, and old squaw ducks, and the more widely scattered harlequins and Steller's eiders. The behaviour of the eagles suggested that they are preying on these divers.
 - 3. We have two records of <u>snowy</u> <u>owls</u> from Amchitka, and <u>several</u> from the Izembek Range. The <u>owls</u> are resident on Amchitka but on the Izembek R_3 nge they are apparently only winter migrants.
 - 4. Ravens and Magpies. At Cold Bay both of these species tend to concentrate at the dump along with a large number of glaucous-winged gulls in winter. The ravens soar on updrafts along the headlands, displaying a marked tendency to cavort, performing slow rolls, half rolls, and snap rolls.

Ravens were elsewhere observed at Amchitka, Adak, Igitkin, and Atka.

F. Fish. Ice fishing is practiced at Cold Bay in Blinn Lake. There the successful effort is almost wholly limited to the shallow water around the perimeter of the lake or about the islands. Presumably the fish feed in the rubble areas, and as these are limited to the shallow water, this would account for the preponderence of fish there.

III. REFUGE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A. Physical Development. Using as we are, a number of WWII "theatre of operations" buildings that are in the final stages of disintegration.

a rather substantial effort is required to maintain any degree of serviceability. The weaknesses become particularly apparent in winter.

E. Fires. None to report.

IV. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

A. Grazing. The grazing fees for Caton Island were paid and the lease was in good standing for another year.

V. FIELD INVESTIGATIONS OR APPLIED RESEARCH

See sea otter discussion under WINDLIFE.

VI. PUBLIC RELATIONS

A. Recreational Uses. The previously mentioned ice-fishing at Cold Bay and harbor seal hunting at Adak constitutes the principal recreational uses for this period.

B. Refuge Visitors.

	·		
Name	<u>Title</u>	Organization	Purpose of Visit
Karl W. Kenyon	Biologist	BSFW	Research
Loren Croxton		ADF&G	Procure sea otter skins
Edwin Bendixen	Fisherman	Private	Personal Call
Walter Bendixen	Fisherman	Private	Personal Call
Harold Bendixen	Fisherman	Private	Personal Call
Herman Bendixen	Fisherman	Private	Personal Call
Capt. Howard		USAF, Cold Bay	Business
Capt. Sweeney		USAF, Cold Bay	Business
Bob Burkholder	Supvr. animal	,	
	control biologist	BSFW	Business
Cal Reeve	Station Mgr.	Reeve Aleutian	Personal Call
	,	Airways	and Business
Ray Caudle	Station Mgr.	FAA	Business
Tom Wardleigh	Pilot	PAA	Personal Call
Fred Barnett	Master, JOHN R.		
	MANNING	ECF	Personal Call
Dave Hanna	Fire Supervisor	FAA	Inspection
David L. Spencer	Refuge Supervisor	BSFW	Business
Theron Smith	Aircraft Supvr.	BSFW	Business
John Kobza	Pilot	HSFW	Business
John Burns		ADF&G	Business
Ken Gilpin	Enforcement Agent	ADF&G	Business
John Klingbeil	Enforcement Agent	BCF	Business
John Engas	Master, R. G.		
	Fallas	Standard Oil	Personal Call

- C. Refuge Participation. Refuge Managers Berns and Jones participated in the volunteer fire fighting training program at the Cold Bay Fire and Crash Station. Berns completed the first 30-hour course and was awarded a certificate of completion.
- D. See under WILDLIFE.
- E. <u>Violations</u>. Assistant Refuge Manager Berns filed charges against one man for trapping without a license and taking a fur bearing animal out of season. He was fined \$125 and given a ninety day jail sentence, the latter suspended for five years. The Deputy Magistrate in Cold Bay officiated.
- F. Safety.
 - 1. One safety meeting to discuss hazardous practices in handling hand and power tools, and in working around machinery.
 - 2. No accidents.
 - 3. We corrective measures were taken.
 - h. Record to date: 151 days.

VII. OTHER ITEMS

In Jammary long quiescent Kiska Volcano renewed activity with a flow of lava at Sirius Point. Before long, vents were opened from the Point all the way to the summit. A change in coastal outline occurred as the lava flowed into the sea, forming a prominent extension of the Point.

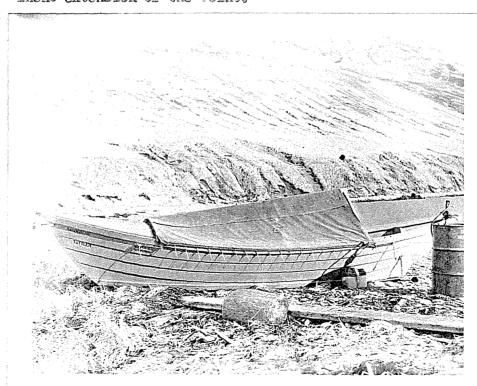


Fig. 3 On the Beech at Igitkin I.

WATERFOWL

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Canada faces	6		- 1		- 1				- 1									
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Brant	7,500										1		1		1			
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Snow			- 1		1				- 1		1		- 1		1		- [
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Gadwall	500		1										- 1		1			
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Green-winged teal	500		- 1						- 1				1		1			
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Cinnamon teal	100,000		- 1				ĺ				- 1		I					
Shoveler	300		- 1										- 1		[1	
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Cont. NR-1 (Rev. March 1953)

WATERFOWL (Continuation Sheet)

REFUGE INCHESK WAFT	MAI. WILDI	JFR BAND	ž .			MON	THS OF	Januar	y —	то	, 182
	:	Week	s of	(2 repor						(3) Estimated	: (4) : Production
(1)	:	:	:			:		1		waterfowl	:Broods:Estimate
Species	: 11	: 12	: 13 :	14:	15	: 16	: 17	i	18	_	: seen : total
Swans:		1]		1	1	1	 -		l ady b abo	1 1 1
Whistling	0					ł		1			
Trumpeter	0		.]					1			
Geese:		ļ		·		1	ł	}	!		
Canadalasser											
Cackling						İ	1	Ì			
Brant	50,000		1				- [1			
White-fronted	1	1					1	1			
Snow		1	1		1		1	1			1
Blue	1		}			ł	. \$	l			
OtherEmperor	50,000				•	}	1	l			
Ducks:		1				į					
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Black		}				·	}	j			
Gadwall	1,600	1				}	1	1			
Baldpate		1	1			1	1	1			
Pintail	50,000				1	l	1	Ì	:		
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Blue-winged teal		ļ				}	1	1			
Cinnamon teal											
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Redhead		ļ									
Ring-necked	į	1	-]				1	1			
Canvasback			1			1				·	
Scapperater	2,000	1						İ			
Goldeneye	1,000	1				-		1			
Bufflehead	1,000				}						
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teckinged gooter	18:868	1	1	(ov	er)	1	1	1	ı	l	1 1

	(5) Total Days Use :	(6) (7) Peak Number: Total Production	SUMMARY
Swar	is :		Principal feeding areas
Gees	: :		
Duck	:		Principal nesting areas
Coot	:		
	,		Reported by
	INST	TRUCTIONS (See Secs. 7531 through	7534, Wildlife Refuges Field Manual)
(1)	Species:		on form, other species occurring on refuge during the d in appropriate spaces. Special attention should be given ational significance.
(2)	Weeks of Reporting Period:	Estimated average refuge popula	tions.
(3)	Estimated Waterfowl Days Use:	Average weekly populations x nu	mber of days present for each species.
(4)	Production:	breeding areas. Brood counts s	ced based on observations and actual counts on representative hould be made on two or more areas aggregating 10% of the ving no basis in fact should be omitted.
(5)	Total Days Use:	A summary of data recorded unde	r (3).
(6)	Peak Number:	Maximum number of waterfowl pre	sent on refuge during any census of reporting period.
(7)	Total Production:	A summary of data recorded unde	r (4).

Interior Duplicating Section, Washington, D. C. 37944 1953 **3–**1751

Form NR-1A (Nov. 1945)

MIGRATORY BIRDS

(other than waterfowl)

			•		A SHARON STORY		rapi*			
(1)	(:	2)	(:	3)	1	4)		(5)		(6)
Species	First		Peak N			Seen		Production	n	Total
							Number	Total #	Total	Estimated
Common Name	Number	Date	Number	Date	Number	Date	Colonies		Young	Number
The second section of the section of the sect			Number	- Da ve	Number	Date	COTOUTES	Nests	10ung	Number
I. Water and Marsh Birds:	1	1	1	1						
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TT Chamakinda Galla									1	
II. Shorebirds, Gulls and]	1	
<u>Terns</u> :]									
American golden plover	1								irds we ha	
Morthern phalarops									eve no bas	
Least Sandpiper				ĺ		fo	the ess	greent of	mebers.	
Buddy turnstone				İ					,	
Wandering tattler	1	į			İ	İ	1	ł		
Lesser yellow-les						Ì	l			
Bar-tailed godwit										
Flack-tailed godeit		İ		!						
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			•	(over)						

(1)	(\$)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
II. <u>Doves and Pigeons</u> : Mourning dove White-winged dove					
IV. Predaceous Birds: Golden eagle Duck hawk Horned owl Magpie Raven Crow					
			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 appro-

priate spaces. Special attention should be given to those species of local and national significance. Groups: I. Water and Marsh Birds (Gaviiformes to Ciconiiformes and Gruiiformes)

II. Shorebirds. Gulls and Terns (Charadriiformes)

III. Doves and Pigeons (Columbiformes)

IV. <u>Predaceous Birds</u> (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 r ber of the species using the rege during the period concerned.

INT .- DUP. SEC., WASH., D.C.

79858

Refuge to to to 1945

(1) Species	(2) Density		(3 You Produ	ng	(4) Sex Ratio	R	(5) emova	ls	(6) Total	(7) Remarks
Common Name	Cover types, total acreage of habitat	Acres per Bird	Number broods obs'v'd.	Estimated Total	Percentage	Hunting	For Restocking	Fo r Research	Estimated number using Refuge	Pertinent information not specifically requested. List introductions here.
Rock Ptoraigen	1,800,000	₩nk now			,	Vale		·		Except on Amchitka where the population has risen following removal of foxes present trend in numbers is downward.
Villor Ptarmigan		1								There is an unknown mucher of these birds that move back and forth between Unimak I. and the Alaska Peninsula.
·			Andreas de la companya de la company							
										·

INSTRUCTIONS

Form NR-2 - UPLAND GAME BIRDS.*

(2)

DENSITY:

(1)	SPECIES:	Vse	correct	common	name.	
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- 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.

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 headingslisted.

(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.

32115

3-1754 Form NR-4 (June 1945)

SMALL MAMMALS

Year ending April 30,

(1) Species	(2) Density			(3) Removals				(4) Disposition of Furs						(5)
Common Name		Acres Per Animal		fur Fur Harvest	Predator Control *	For Re- stocking	For Re- search	Share Trapping			Refuge Shipped	ted		Total Popula-
	Cover Types & Total Acreage of Habitat		Hunting					Permit Number	Trappers Share	Refuge share	Total Ref Furs Ship	Furs Donated	Furs Destroyed	tion
Minir Wessel Volverine Land otter Dea ettar Ground equirrel Morway rat Arctic fox Red fox Arctic welf Shrew Lemming	Present on United I. Present on Princk I. Present on United I. Present on United an Present on Atla, ade Present on United an Present on United an Present on United In Present on United In Present on United In	only only only only is refug is knobl is refug is knobl is land is and land and	ike,	lerd Att Cept bebl	and a. il asc	probe enya itku, itku,	bly t and S build	be Eremi et Islan ir, Davi eroso.	trin s	roup.				

REMARKS:

Submitted by

Robert D. Jones, Jr. Refuge Manager

Approved:

David L. Spencer Regional Refuge Supervisor