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Two New Breeding Colonies of Red-legged Kittiwakes (Rissa brevirostris);
Buldir and Bogoslof Islands, Aleutian Islands, Alaska.

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During field investigations conducted by personnel of the Aleutian Islands National Wildlife Refuge 1972 - 1976, nesting colonies of Red-legged Kittiwake were discovered and censused in two locations, Buldir Island (52° 21' N, 175° 56' E) and Bogoslof Island (53° 55' N, 168° 05' W). These are the first confirmed recent breeding records of the species in the Aleutians.

Turner (1886) reported Red-legged Kittiwakes breeding in the Aleutian Islands, and he believed they were more common than Black-legged Kittiwakes, Rissa tridactyla, in the western Aleutian Islands. Clark (1910) saw Red-legged Kittiwakes near Unalaska Island, eastern Aleutians, and he said they became more common in the western Aleutians, apparently based on Turner's statement. Since Clark's work, several investigators (Eyerdam 1936, Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, and Kenyon pers. comm.) have recorded the species in the Aleutians in summer, but nesting has not been confirmed. Gabrielson and Lincoln (op. cit.) felt that Red-legged Kittiwakes did not nest in the Aleutian Islands. They apparently based their opinion on the lack of breeding specimens from the area and the fact that no recent investigators, including themselves, had found the species nesting in the area. Murie (1959) did not see a Red-legged Kittiwake in the Aleutians during three summers of intensive field work.

In July 1972 investigators found breeding Red-legged Kittiwakes mixed with Black-legged Kittiwakes near East Cape, Buldir Island. During other investigations there 1974 - 1976 incidental observations were made on kittiwakes. Red-legged

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Kittiwake nested in mixed colonies with its congener in at least three areas on mainland Buldir and on two islets off Northwest Point. An estimated 2,000 pairs were active in 1976.

In July 1973 Red-legged Kittiwakes were found nesting at Bogoslof Island and a small offshore islet, Fire Island. Ira Gabrielson (in litt.) saw this species near Bogoslof in June 1976, when he saw birds flying toward "a small isolated rock" (Fire Island) which he could not reach. He did not find any pairs of Red-legged Kittiwakes on Bogoslof although he looked for them among the numerous Black-legged Kittiwakes. Perhaps the species colonized Bogoslof in the interim since 81 nests (about 10% of all kittiwake nests) of Red-legged Kittiwakes were seen in 1973. Only 20 nests of Red-leggeds were found on Fire Island among over 1,000 Black-leggeds.

Only two other breeding stations are known for Red-legged Kittiwake; the Pribilof Islands, Alaska and the Commander Islands, USSR (Vaurie 1965).

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