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Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, August 31, 1962
Washington 25, D.C.

Acting Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife,
Juneau

Aleutian Canada Geese - Buldir Island

We are attaching a copy of Refuge Manager Jones' memorandum of August 15. You may also wish to refer to Mr. Nelson's memorandum of March 14, 1962 which stated the objective of first visit to the Island.

We know now that geese are present in larger numbers than anticipated and the decision of a future course of action is in order. We concur that no attempt should be made to propagate the young geese on the Aleutians.

RAY WOOLFORD

Attachment

Library
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



cc Spencer
Jones

RWoolford:ab

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ARLIS
Alaska Resources
Library & Information Services
Anchorage, Alaska

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Director, BSF&W, Washington, D. C.

July 30, 1962

Regional Director, BSF&W, Juneau, Alaska

Aleutian Canada Geese - Buldir Island
re: Mr. Leedy's memo 7-24-62

We have forwarded a copy of Mr. Leedy's memo to Mr. Jones at Amchitka asking for his most recent thinking about how to handle Canada geese from such a remote area.

There is a good possibility that Jones did not keep the goslings he caught at Buldir if he did not have adequate transportation and rearing facilities at Amchitka. We have no current knowledge of this situation and mail service out to Amchitka from Adak has been an erratic and chancy thing this summer. So we may not have word on this until Jones returns to Cold Bay in late August or early September.

You will be appraised of the situation as soon as we hear from Mr. Jones.

URBAN C. NELSON

H&H Jones, Adak
H&Hansen, U.S.

ARLIS

Alaska Resources
Library & Information Services
Anchorage, Alaska

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Regional Director, BSW, Juneau, Alaska

DATE: Aug. 15, 1962

FROM : Refuge Manager, BSW, Amchitka, Alaska

SUBJECT: Aleutian Canada geese, Buldir Island

WILDLIFE		
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We did not keep the seven goslings caught on Buldir. They were just tiny downy chicks that would have required an incubator.

We certainly can capture goslings on the Island although this may prove more difficult when they are larger. The cover on the Island is very heavy and if the older goslings remain silent (we were guided by the "cheeping" of the chicks) it will be quite a game of hide and seek. As to numbers, it would hardly seem worth while to attempt the project for less than five pairs. Perhaps it would be wise to be content with a number such as this for the first year while feeling our way along.

We do not favor an attempt to raise the birds in the Aleutian Islands, at least initially. Facilities are not available, and we think the creation of these plus the time of personnel would be unduly expensive. If an aviculturist, already in business, can rear the birds it should be less expensive and perhaps, in view of his experience, better for the birds. We would, of course like to reintroduce them to Amchitka (or whichever Island is ultimately selected) as soon as possible and in the largest possible numbers. It would seem, however, that this decision will have to await events.

We do not favor placing the birds in the hands of the military except as may be necessary for transport. We think the essential ingredients of the Aleutian habitat could be furnished under the guidance of an aviculturist in a less expensive and remote area than this, say in Minnesota.

The logistics of getting geese at Buldir I. do not now seem as formidable as earlier, however we have not sweated out a storm there. The beach (underline the, for all save one are backed by high sea cliffs) is a storm beach and even in fine weather a light surf breaks there. This beach will be the determining factor in every attempt to land or launch a boat. The approaches to it are shallow, generally sandy but with enough rocks to be worrisome.

We made the passage to Buldir I. aboard the Coast Guard Cutter WINONA engaged at the time in the US fish patrol. Roy Lindsley, BCF agent aboard, and the CO Navsta Adak made this possible. We were well served by this ship and her crew, not only in a personal way, but especially by her deck force under the direction of the ship's Bos'n, a veritable sea dog whose life is the ship. Of particular value to us was the care this Chief gave to our equipment, especially the all important dory in the several times she was launched and reembarked.

If this patrol is maintained next year it would seem the best approach to the transport problem. We think some time in July is best suited to the purpose, with up to two weeks available. A flexible schedule, because of the limitations of the beach and our success in capturing birds, would be desirable. We habitually carry radio gear wherever we go so contact can be kept. Three persons will be required plus equipment (of which the biggest item is the dory). We would expect to assemble crates beforehand and take them, ready for use, with us.

Two or three other solutions to the transport problem suggest themselves if the above is not possible. (1) The Coast Guard Cutter CLOVER, (2) the Fleet Tug stationed at Navsta Adak, and (3) the BCF (North Pacific Salmon Investigations) vessel fishing in the Aleutians. In the first two cases it might be difficult to arrange a schedule as specific as this one must be. In the third case the BERTHA ANN, a 175 foot 550 ton ship chartered by the BCF was fishing the Buldir I. area while we were there. We maintain contact with the BCF and FRI people wandering, like us, in the Chain and they are aware of our aims, and go out of their way to help us.

As you suggest this "may catch fire." We hope it does. It did here the day we held the goslings in our hands. There were several things of interest about those geese on Buldir. First, the white ring at the base of the stocking was not apparent on all of them. They were small birds, almost as small as the cackling geese, but not as noisy nor with as short a neck. I have never seen geese fly so high except in migration, but neither have I seen waterfowl in such a habitat before. Most of these birds were launching from higher elevations than the geese normally reach in Izembek Bay until migration. And we had a good guide for the Island is over two thousand feet high and in one occasion the geese overtopped that.

May we suggest that this needs talking over and that during the waterfowl migration at Geld Bay would be a good time. Meanwhile, if you and Dave Spencer agree we might look into the matter of transportation and of the aviculturist. The Central Office, surely,

is in the best position to approach the Coast Guard and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and will have some recommendations for an aviculturist. We note in the recent sheaf of correspondence regarding shipments of Steller's eiders a recommendation of Dr. Frank McKinney of the Delta Waterfowl Research Station. Frank makes a completely unqualified recommendation of the excellence of the Round Lake Waterfowl Station in Minnesota. We hold Frank's opinion in such high regard, as it relates to waterfowl, that we think this station should be considered for the goose project.

cc Spencer


ROBERT D. JONES, JR.

Director, BSW, Washington 25, D. C.

March 14, 1962

Regional Director, BSW, Juneau, Alaska

Buldir Island Canada Goose Project - Aleutians

Reference is made to Mr. Buell's memo of February 9, 1962 relating to the above project.

Our present thinking is that Mr. Jones' June trip to Buldir with the U. S. Coast Guard will be in the nature of reconnaissance only. Our decision is based on the following factors:

1. The difficulty of effecting landings on Buldir, particularly with equipment which would be necessary to hold geese. No Service people have been on the Island in over twenty years.
2. The number of Aleutian geese observed in recent years, in spite of our continued work in the Aleutians, leads us to deduce that if breeding geese are found on Buldir, they will be few in number--perhaps only a few pair.
3. Goslings will need to be held for breeding purposes at (a) Amchitka or elsewhere in the Aleutians or (b) transported to a suitable location in the southern States. (a) Will require extensive arrangements which we are not prepared to provide at this time. (b) Previous shipment of birds "outside" from this location has involved considerable loss, a risk that we do not wish to take in this instance.

We therefore feel that capture of goslings at this time would be premature and might well jeopardize the existence of a remnant population which according to our information cannot number more than a few individuals. The trip this June will establish the presence or absence of breeding geese on Buldir and uncover the logistics problems which may be involved. We can then work out necessary procedures in rearing the required stock.

U. C. Nelson

cc: Regional Refuge Supervisor, Kenai
Refuge Manager, Cold Bay

75-5.01

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Juneau, Alaska

DATE FEB 9 1962

FROM : Chief, Division of Wildlife, Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT: Buldir Island Canada goose project

We were pleased to learn from your memorandum of December 21, 1961, that Refuge Manager Jones will be equipped to capture young geese when he goes ashore on Buldir in late June or early July. It is our understanding, gained from Mr. Banko's conversations with Messrs. Jones and Spencer last summer, that Mr. Jones believes keeping a captive flock of geese at Cold Bay for breeding purposes would be impractical.

If Mr. Jones is planning to send the geese outside Alaska for breeding purposes, to build up a potential stock for reintroduction in the Aleutians, we would appreciate being advised so that the necessary arrangements may be made and proper facilities constructed at one of the refuges where qualified personnel are equipped to do the job.

Noble E. Buell
Noble E. Buell

cc sent Spencer asking for reply after he has talked to Jones

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	Pred. & Control Sup.	
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*Pending
File*

Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and
Wildlife, Washington, D. C.

December 21, 1961

Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and
Wildlife, Juneau, Alaska

Buldir Island Canada goose survey

Reference Mr. Buell's memo of November 9.

As per the attached November 27 memo from Jones arrangements have already been made with the local Coast Guard command for the Buldir trip. Since receipt of this memo we have talked with Jones and he does not think it will be necessary for your office to secure any further clearance from higher echelons of the Coast Guard command.

Jones will be going to Buldir with the idea of capturing young geese, if available, for restocking. A copy of your November 21 memo has been routed to him.

Urban C. Nelson

Attachment

cc: Spencer w/thermo Buell memo 11/21

R. Woolford:mh:12-21-61

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Regional Director, Bureau of Sport
Fisheries and Wildlife, Juneau, Alaska

DATE: NOV 21 1961

FROM : Chief, Division of Wildlife, Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT: Buldir Island Canada goose survey

Reference is made to your memorandum of November 9 regarding the above subject.

We concur that a land reconnaissance of Buldir will be necessary to establish whether or not Canada geese are present if none are found on the proposed aerial survey. In fact, considering the difficulties of landing on Buldir and the importance of obtaining a potential breeding nucleus of B. c. leucoparia for use in eventual restocking in the Aleutians, we believe Jones should go prepared to capture a dozen or two live goslings and care for them until they can be transported to a Bureau activity where they may be raised and bred to supply stock for reintroduction.

If you agree that this additional objective would be desirable, we would like to know the most likely period when young geese of preflight age would be obtainable, if present. Also, if it is planned to capture young geese, it may be desirable to consider extending the period of time the survey members will be ashore. We should also be advised of any other basic considerations, such as the number of men to be accommodated, quantity of equipment, communications, whether or not the dory can be towed or will have to be carried aboard, etc. This information will enable us to outline our total expedition requirements to the Navy or Coast Guard in the initial request.


Noble E. Buell

cc: Spencer 11/24/61

WILDLIFE	
ACT. INF.	T O
REG. DIR.	702
ASST. REG. DIR.	
DIV. W. L.	
Pred. & Control Sup.	
WATERFOWL SUP.	
ENGINEER	
DIV. RESTOR.	
D. J. SUP.	
ADM. OFF.	
BCF	
FILE	

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Regional Director, BSWF, Juneau, Alaska DATE: Nov. 27

FROM : Refuge Manager, BSWF, Cold Bay, Alaska

SUBJECT: Proposed sea otter surveys and Buldir Island Canada reconnaissance

ACT.	INF.	T.O.	INIT.
		REG. DIR.	106
		ASS'L REG. DIR.	
		DIV. W. L.	
		Pre-I. & Control Sup.	
		WATER, FOWL SUP.	
		ENGINEER	
		DIV. RESTOR.	
		D. J. SUP.	
		ADM. OFF.	
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We note your memo of Nov. 9 this subject.

I discussed this matter with Karl Kenyon recently and as the sea otter survey is set for April we concluded there was little of value to be expected in this direction.

However, before leaving Adak in August I went aboard the CLOVER and discussed with her Captain our need to go ashore at Buldir. He was most agreeable and we will carry out the project in late June or early July while the ship is making her passage from Adak to Attu and return. She will call at Amchitka with the usual supply deliveries and pick us up there or wherever we may be working at the time;

We hope that the weather gods will be favorable and permit a landing.

cc Spencer

Director, BSWF

Raj
ROBERT D. JONES, JR.

cc: Director
att: Aldrich

Dr. D. L. Leedy, Chief, Branch of
Wildlife Research, BSWF, FWS,
Washington 25, D. C.

Biologist, Bird and Mammal Laboratories, BSWF, FWS,
Sand Point Naval Air Station, Seattle 15, Washington

Buldir Island Study

WILDLIFE			
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		WATERFOWL SUP.	
		ENGINEER	
		DIV. RESTOR.	
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27 November 1961

In a telephone conversation with Dr. Leedy in October, we discussed briefly the matter of surveying Buldir Island in the outer Aleutians to search for possible remnants of an Aleutian Canada Goose population. Mr. Achernecht has asked to be informed concerning our plans.

Buldir will be surveyed for sea otters only if ideal weather conditions exist and if sufficient flight time is available to reach this "out-of-the-way" island. The aerial survey will take place in late April. At this date the geese would not be expected to have reached Buldir Island. If, however, we do reach the island, we will look for geese.

On 20 and 21 November, Mr. Robert D. Jones, Jr. visited this office. He informed me that he has made arrangements with the U. S. Coast Guard at Adak to transport him aboard the USCGC Clover in late June to Buldir Island. The purpose of this expedition will be to explore the island for possible existence of the Aleutian Canada Goose there and to observe other wildlife and habitat conditions.

Karl W. Kenyon

- cc: Mr. Robert D. Jones, Jr.
- Mr. Urban C. Nelson
- Mr. David L. Spencer

Karl W. Kenyon, Biologist, BSW, Sand
Point Naval Air Station, Seattle 15, Wash.

Director, Bird and Mammal Laboratories, Branch of
Wildlife Research

Buldir Island Canada goose survey

In further reference to subject mentioned in my memorandum of November 21, we hope you are planning to make the aerial survey for Canada geese over Buldir Island in connection with your sea otter studies at Amchitka. We understand that, even though your aerial survey fails to disclose any geese on Buldir Island, this will be considered as inconclusive. Arrangements are being made for cooperation from either the Navy or Coast Guard to put Refuge Manager Jones and party ashore on Buldir Island, probably by dory, for the purpose of further survey and to collect gosslings of B. c. leucoparia for reintroducing the race elsewhere in the Aleutians.

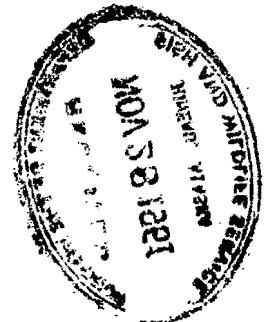
We trust that you will provide any information or advice that may be helpful to the Branch of Wildlife Refuges in this connection.

Richard H. Manville

cc:
Branch of Wildlife Refuges
Regional Director, BSW, Juneau

WILDLIFE			
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		REG. DIR.	
		November 21, 1961	
		DIV. W. L.	
		Pred. & Control Sup.	
		WATERFOWL SUP.	
		ENGINEER	
		DIV. RESTOR.	

*Maxine
Aleutian Refuge
file*



Original not forwarded
through Mail Room

NOV 24 1961

Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife,
Washington, D. C.

November 9, 1961

Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife,
Juneau, Alaska

Proposed sea otter surveys and Buldir Island Canada goose
reconnaissance

Please refer to Mr. Ackerknecht's memo of October 16 to the Branch of Wildlife Research relative to combining a reconnaissance of the interior of Buldir Island with the proposed spring sea otter survey.

In view of the importance of the goose nesting determination on Buldir and considering the topography and interior habitat of the island, we will regard an aerial survey which fails to disclose geese as inconclusive.

We request that you proceed to arrange with the Navy or Coast Guard to place Refuge Manager Jones and his crew in a position to make a dory landing on the island during the 1962 nesting or brooding season. Any such arrangement should include removal of the party from the area. Jones should be able to complete an intensive on-the-ground survey in from 5 to 7 days.

Urban C. Nelson

cc:
Spencer
Jones

75.5-01 ✓

R. Woolford:dc

OK W. J. Jones

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Regional Director, BSWF, Juneau, Alaska

DATE: March 12, 1962

FROM : Regional Refuge Supervisor, BSWF, Kenai, Alaska

SUBJECT: Buldir Island Canada Goose Project - Aleutians

Enclosed is a suggested reply to Mr. Buell's memo.

We have apparently had an almost complete breakdown in communications. Mr. Jones never received the copy of the November 21, 1961 memo and was not sent a copy of your December 21, 1961 memo. With a poor phone connection he has been unaware of the plan to capture geese on Buldir. I assumed this was a plan developed by phone.

Mr. Jones feels that we will not be ready to handle the geese next summer. Considering the nature of the trip and the logistics involved, I agree. We might wind up with the loss of a number of goslings due to difficulties which will not be foreseen until a trip has been made to the island.

David L. Spencer

cc: Jones, Cold Bay

D. L. Spencer

75.5.01

Regional Director, BSW, Juneau, Alaska

March 12, 1962

Regional Refuge Supervisor, BSW, Kenai, Alaska

Buldir Island Canada Goose Project - Aleutians

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David L. Spencer

cc: Jones, Cold Bay

