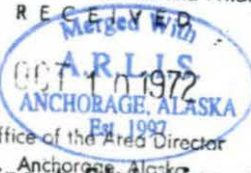


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Trip Report - Buldir Island Expedition, 1972

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Introduction:

Since 1963, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has actively pursued a captive breeding program with the Aleutian Canada Goose (Branta canadensis leucopareia). This small, distinctly marked race of Canada goose was, at one time, distributed throughout most of the Aleutian Islands. Blue foxes (Alopex lagopus) introduced onto many of these islands, quickly eliminated this ground nesting species. Fortunately, because of hazardous and uncertain landing beaches, no foxes were introduced onto Buldir and the only remaining nesting population of geese known is found there.

During July, 1963, 18 goslings were captured by a team headed by Bureau personnel. These goslings were returned to the Bureau facilities at Monte Vista, Colorado, and maintained until early 1966. At that time, the Endangered Wildlife Research Program established its headquarters at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center near Laurel, Maryland, and all captive stock was transferred.

Since the geese first bred in 1966, there has been general dissatisfaction with the production of young birds. It has not improved despite the use of a variety of remedial measures, therefore, it was decided that we should make an effort to obtain additional birds from the wild population on Buldir to bolster the genetic pool represented by the captives.

The Bureau assisted in releasing 75 captive-reared geese on Amchitka Island in the spring of 1971. These geese were seen on Amchitka for approximately two months after their release. Then, they disappeared and were not observed again. The 1972 trip would permit Bureau personnel to search for any geese that might remain on the island.

Finally, no estimate of the size of the population of geese remaining on Buldir had been made since 1963. It was expected that all three objectives could be accomplished in a single expedition timed to take place after goslings had hatched but before they were capable of flight.

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Itinerary:

972

June 14	Leave Dulles Airport, Virginia Arrive Anchorage, Alaska	1330 hours 1755 "
June 15	Anchorage -- assembling gear and presented illustrated talk to Area Office personnel.	
June 16	Leave Anchorage Arrive Amchitka via Adak	1000 " 1500 "

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June 17-30	On Amchitka Island searching for geese and preparing gear for Buldir trip.		
June 30	Leave Amchitka aboard BSF&W boat, "Aleutian Tern"	0815	hours
	Arrive Kiska Harbor	2100	"
June 30 - July 4	On Kiska Island censusing wildlife and surveying WWII memorabilia.		
July 4	Leave Kiska enroute to Buldir	0950	"
	Arrive Buldir	2200	"
July 5-8	On Buldir Island searching for geese.		
July 8	Leave Buldir Island	1000	"
July 9	Arrive Amchitka	0230	"
July 10	Leave Amchitka Island	1515	"
	Arrive Anchorage, Alaska	2330	"
July 11	Leave Anchorage, Alaska	1900	"
	Arrive Seattle, Washington	2400	"
July 12	Leave Seattle, Washington	0900	"
	Arrive Baltimore, Maryland	1530	"
	Goslings secured at Patuxent	1700	"

Expedition Members:

- George Putney, Master engineer and boat Captain.
- Laszlo Hanko, cook and deckhand.
- *Palmer Sekora, Wilderness Biologist.
- *Dr. Clayton White, Department of Zoology, Brigham Young University.
- *Dr. Allen McCartney, Department of Archaeology, University of Arkansas.
- *Daniel Gibson, Curator of Birds, University of Alaska Museum.
- *Vernon Byrd, Assistant Refuge Manager, Aleutian Islands National Wildlife Refuge.
- *Glen Smart, Endangered Wildlife Research Program, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

Acknowledgment of Cooperation:

- Throughout the expedition I met many enthusiastic people who offered encouragement and assistance. I would like to extend special thanks to the following:

*Went ashore on Buldir.

U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

Site Manager, Charles M. Bromley proved to be an inspiration to me during the two weeks that I spent on Amchitka. He gave willingly of his time and knowledge to assist in making my efforts meaningful. The AEC provided living quarters, delicious meals, and equipment throughout my stay.

Holmes and Narver

Resident Manager, G. Lynn LeBaron was equally cooperative and with Mr. Bromley, helped to make my stay on Amchitka fruitful. Special thanks must go to him for his assistance in securing permission for me to accompany the special charter plane on its return from Amchitka to Anchorage.

Northern Air Cargo, Inc.

The crew, Captain Crow and crewmembers Carter and Zipay, permitted me to accompany them from Amchitka to Anchorage on their DC-6. This enabled me to deliver the goslings to Patuxent approximately 48 hours earlier than originally expected and certainly contributed to their safe arrival. They further permitted me to house and care for the goslings in their aircraft maintenance shop at the airport in Anchorage.

Western and United Airlines:

Personnel of these airlines permitted me to observe and supervise the loading and unloading of the two crates of goslings at Anchorage, Seattle, and Baltimore. Special thanks should go to U.A. employees Hitchcock and Rippenthrop in Seattle for special courtesies extended to me and the goslings.

Carl Abegglen, Research Coordinator:

Mr. Abegglen's planning and coordination of efforts on Amchitka were of great assistance and eliminated many potential problems.

Explorations on Amchitka; June 16-30:

A number of techniques were employed in efforts to locate Aleutian Canada geese on Amchitka. Assistant Refuge Manager, Vernon Byrd, assisted throughout the two weeks and together we spent approximately 300 man hours in the field. On two occasions, we went to the mountainous western end of the island searching for geese. Two additional trips to this area were thwarted by heavy fog. In addition to these field efforts, interviews with many workers were conducted and color slides were shown in an effort to better acquaint people with the geese and to make their observations more accurate. Several people reported seeing geese earlier in the spring but upon further questioning, it became evident that these had been Emperor geese.

Dr. Clayton White and Mr. Steve Sherrod have been conducting research with peregrine falcons and bald eagles on Amchitka during the summers of 1971 and 1972. They have visited most of the active nesting sites of these species and among other things, identified prey items. They have seen no evidence that Aleutian Canada geese have been utilized by these raptors during the two year period.

On June 22, Dr. Clifford Amundsson, a botanist with the University of Tennessee, reported that he had seen a pair of Canada geese at Galion Pit at 1600 hours. When queried, Dr. Amundsson described the birds and there is little doubt that his identification was correct. He had been checking some vegetative plots when he saw the two birds in an irregular, grassy pond about 300 yards away. He watched the birds with binoculars for approximately 5 minutes before going to his truck to attempt to reach us by radio. When he turned toward the truck, the birds flew northward toward Silver Salmon Lake and the Bering Sea. He estimated that they never exceeded 25-50 feet above the tundra before they went out of sight over a low hill. He described them as smaller than the birds he was familiar with in Tennessee and Idaho. Carl Abegglen, Vernon Byrd, and I went to the area immediately but fog was so dense that we had to terminate our efforts. Byrd and I returned at 2130 hours and walked from the lake where the birds were sighted to Silver Salmon Lake and the Bering Sea without seeing them. On June 25, I flew the eastern half of the island in a helicopter piloted by Scotty Matthews. We flew transects at quarter mile intervals at an altitude of 100-150 feet without seeing the geese.

Two additional sight records of geese were reported this spring. During early June (date not recorded), one of the workmen reported to Dr. White that he had seen a flying bird that he believed to be a Canada goose. The bird was partially obscured by fog but gave calls similar to other Canada geese. Then on July 4, Steve Sherrod was flying in the helicopter just off Fox Runway when a bird flew by in the opposite direction. Although he got only a momentary look at the bird, he was confident that it was a Canada goose.

Based upon the information obtained during this period, it is probably safe to conclude that few, if any, of the captive-reared birds released in 1971 are still present on Amchitka.

While searching for the geese, we visited the site where the captive geese had been held in 1971 prior to release. The exact locations of the three pens was very evident. The tundra vegetation within the pen areas had been compacted 3-4 inches and replaced by grasses. This quickly illustrated the delicate nature of tundra vegetation. It would be interesting to follow these plots to determine how long it takes for the vegetation to return to its original density and species composition.

Buldir trip - June 30-July 9:

The Bureau's ship "Aleutian Tern" a converted Navy "T" boat departed Amchitka at 0815 hours on June 30. This vessel was being used by Bureau personnel to conduct pelagic bird and marine mammal surveys of the Aleutian Islands in conjunction with wilderness studies. The ship proceeded from Amchitka, past Little Sitkin, Davidof, Pyramid, Khvostof, and Segula Islands, to Kiska where we docked at 2100 hours.

Although none of the islands between Amchitka and Shemya are inhabited by human beings, there is abundant evidence of mans' past presence on Kiska, and to some extent Buldir, during the World War II period of 1941-45. As we entered Kiska Harbor, shore batteries were outlined against the sky and the remains of three Japanese ships could be seen. Two of the ships had washed ashore where their rusty hulks served as perches for the abundant glaucous-winged gulls. Ashore the following day, we explored much of the eastern portion of the island. Abandoned buildings and assorted equipment littered the entire area. Near Trout Lagoon, we found several dug out areas adjacent to the beach that must have been submarine pens. There was a 50-60 foot long submarine in one of the "pens" and 2-3 others on the beach. These submarines could not have accomodated more than 1 or 2 people. The ground around the old buildings was littered with unfired rifle and machine gun ammunition. Craters formed by exploding shells were common and in one such crater, a female common teal and her brood of six ducklings swam serenely.

Foxes and their tracks were commonly seen and their barks greeted us frequently. One extremely tolerant animal allowed some members of our party to approach within 3-4 feet. Land birds were much less common on Kiska than they were on either Amchitka or Buldir where foxes are absent.

The "Aleutian Tern" left Kiska harbor at 1000 hours on July 4 enroute to Buidir Island. One of the many highlights of the day occurred when a school of 8-10 Dall's Porpoise (Phocenoïdes dalli) played in the bow wave of the ship for several minutes. We anchored about 300 yards off the northwest shore of Buldir at 1900 hours. The island was enshrouded in fog and mist when we arrived but soon the fog lifted somewhat and we had our first good look at Buldir. The lush growth of Elymus gave the island a verdant appearance. This contrasted with other islands that we had seen which were typically tundra islands whose major vegetation was Empetrum nigrum. A flat valley floor extending inland for several hundred yards appeared to be the only level area on the north side of the island. From this, the island slopes rise abruptly from the sea into a sequence of steep hills with a maximum altitude of 2,037 feet. A pair of adult bald eagles were observed flying through the valley. These birds were seen daily from our camp.

Two large colonies of alcids could be seen from the boat. One at Northwest Point, the other on the boulder-strewn hillside one-half mile east of the landing beach. Sea lions and gulls came to inspect us and played around the boat until dark. A constant roar emanated from the sea lion rookery on the beach.

July 5, the big day had finally arrived for us to go ashore. The calm seas had held and landing was accomplished without incident. The first boatload of equipment put ashore at 0815 and was greeted by a single Aleutian Canada goose which flew overhead. Camp was established by 1400 hours and we separated into three two-man search parties. Late in the afternoon Dr. White spotted an adult goose on a 45-50 degree slope about 200 feet above the beach. We climbed into the area and captured a single gosling approximately one week old. Another adult flushed about 50 feet away. It had a brood of 8 newly hatched goslings which were also captured easily. We returned immediately to camp and prepared holding quarters for them. Burlap was stapled to the sides of one of the 24" x 36" poultry crates and the floor was covered with burlap and finely cut grasses. This was put into a small "pop-tent" where a catalytic heater maintained the temperature at 65-70⁰ F. The geese settled down almost immediately and were soon eating pelleted food.

Five of us explored the same cliffs the following day and captured 4 additional birds. Two other adults were seen and were believed to have broods with them but they could not be located in the tall Elymus. Two of the goslings were found at a nest site in the base of a vertical cliff 300 feet above the beach. The nest was located in a shallow cave-like depression and the clutch consisted of 6 eggs (two newly hatched goslings, one dead gosling, one dead embryo in a partially pipped egg, and two adled eggs). This success is very reminiscent of our own experiences at Patuxent.

Dr. White and I hiked to the inland lake where Jones, Kenyon, et al. found 120 adult geese in 1963. We walked around the fog enshrouded lake and found no geese and only two fresh droppings. The shoreline was littered with molted feathers of gulls and/or kittiwakes and a flock of several hundred kittiwakes was seen. An Arctic tern was heard flying above the lake. This species was not recorded on Buldir during the 1963 expedition.

On July 7, I stayed in camp while the remaining members of the party encircled the island in a dory. They found 9 more goslings in two broods and saw an estimated 40 adult geese. Most of these were in a single flock and were probably non-breeders. Two other adults believed to be accompanying young were seen but not pursued.

Weather reports indicated that a low pressure area was approaching from the west and we decided to return to Amchitka with the 22 goslings rather than risk being caught in the storm. We departed at 1000 hours on July 8 and travelled directly to Amchitka in relatively calm seas, arriving at 0230 on July 9. Later that day the goslings were moved to the Bureau laboratory and maintained until my departure on July 10.

I was scheduled to leave Amchitka on July 12, however, a special charter plane arrived on July 10 from Anchorage. It was to return directly to Anchorage that same day and with assistance from Messrs. Bromley and LeBaron, the goslings and I were permitted to accompany them on their return. The

crew of the Northern Air Cargo, Inc. airplane was most cooperative and assisted me in loading and securing the birds. Upon our arrival in Anchorage, I was permitted to store the birds in their machine shop until my departure the following evening. Northwestern Airlines was on strike and it was necessary for me to alter my reservations and return to Baltimore via Seattle rather than direct to Washington as originally planned. The return was uneventful and all birds arrived at Patuxent in good condition.

Boeker (Kenyon, 1963) estimated the Buldir population of Aleutian Canada geese between 200 and 300 birds at the time they visited the island. This was based on the assumption that 50 percent of the flock were non-breeders. Since they had seen 120 birds on the inland lake, the total population must therefore, be approximately twice that number. We saw no birds on this lake and must base our estimates upon the comparison of numbers of broods and adults seen on the cliffs east of the campsite in 1963 and 1972. We confined most of our efforts to the coastal slopes rather than going inland as the group did in 1963. The number of birds seen in this area during the two trips was very similar. The 1963 expedition saw 3 broods on the cliffs while we saw 4 broods. They observed a total of 8 broods on the island during their 13 day stay while we saw 6 in 4 days plus 4 additional adults believed to be accompanying young. Based on these observations and the flocks of birds seen (40 at East Cape on July 7 and 30 at campsite on July 8), I doubt that there has been a substantial change in the total number of geese now occupying Buldir.

Annotated List of Species Observed, June 16-July 11, 1972

Only my own personal notes were used on the Amchitka portion of this list. I am much indebted to Vernon Byrd for permission to include his extensive notes on the birds seen during the remainder of the trip.

Common Loon. Gavia immer. This species was seen on two occasions on Amchitka near Fox Runway and on July 1 and 3 on Salmon Lagoon, Kiska.

Red-throated Loon. Gavia stellata. Pairs were seen daily on the larger tundra ponds of Amchitka and one bird was seen on Salmon Lagoon, Kiska on July 3.

Black-footed Albatross. Diomedea nigripes. One bird flew near the ship 8 miles west of Kiska on July 4, and at least three others were observed at sea during the return trip from Buldir to Kiska.

Laysan Albatross. Diomedea immutabilis. On June 30, single birds were seen one mile north of Crown Reefer Point, Amchitka; 7 miles northwest of Bird Cape, Amchitka; and 3 miles west of Segula. Three widely separated birds were seen between Kiska and Buldir on July 4, and at least 15 were recorded in the same pass on July 8.

Fulmar. Fulmarus glacialis. Fulmars were observed in all passes and offshore near every island. The only nesting colony seen contained 50-100 pairs on East Cape, Buldir.

Sooty Shearwater. Puffinus griseus. On June 30, one bird was seen off Midden Point, Amchitka, 11 were seen 4 miles east of Little Sitkin, and 10 flew by the ship 3 miles east of Kiska. Nine were observed 2-4 miles west of Kiska on July 4, and a single bird was identified on July 8 between Buldir and Kiska.

Slender-billed Shearwater. Puffinus tenuirostris. On June 30, 5 were seen just east of Little Sitkin and 3 more approximately 3 miles east of Kiska.

Fork-tailed Petrel. Oceanodroma furcata. This species was first seen at sea near Segula and became increasingly common as we proceeded westward. Several were found aboard ship as she lay at anchor off Buldir and their high-pitched twitter was a dominant night sound on Buldir.

Leach's Petrel. Oceanodroma leucorhoa. This petrel was found in the same areas as furcata, though less frequently. Judging from the numbers that came aboard the anchored ship near Buldir, this species outnumbered furcata on that island. Burrows thought to be this species or furcata were located about the 700 foot level near the inland lake on Buldir.

Pelagic Cormorant. Phalacrocorax pelagicus, and Red-faced Cormorant, P. urile. Both cormorants were commonly seen on all islands visited. P. urile outnumbered pelagicus on Davidof and Buldir.

Aleutian Canada Goose. Branta canadensis leucopareia. This species was identified only on Buldir by expedition members. Because of the difficulty of foot travel on the island, the northwestern portion of Buldir received most of the attention. We found birds daily on the steep slopes east of camp but none was seen on the inland lake. Expedition members made a dory trip around the island on July 7 and found a concentration of birds on the eastern half of the island including a flock of 40 apparently non-breeders. Two additional reports of Aleutian Canada geese were made by non-expedition members on Amchitka. None of the 1971 released birds was identified.

Mallard. Anas platyrhynchos. Scattered pairs were observed on Amchitka daily. It was not seen on any of the western islands.

Pintail. Anas acuta. This species was also seen only on Amchitka and less frequently than mallards.

European Widgeon. Mareca penelope. Up to four pairs were seen daily until June 23 on a single pond on Amchitka. At that time, they disappeared and were not seen again. Additional pairs were seen at Galion Pit, Clevenger Lake, and Fox Runway.

Aleutian Green-winged Teal. Anas crecca nimia. Mountainous terrain on the western portion of Amchitka restricted the distribution of this species to the eastern half of the island where it was abundant. On June 27, Vernon Byrd and I saw a female with a brood of newly hatched young. On July 1, two teal were seen in a small stream near Salmon Lagoon, Kiska, and later that day a female with a brood of six 2A ducklings was seen. A pair was seen on Trout Lagoon, Kiska, on July 3. A single male was flushed from a stream on Buldir on July 5 and the remains of a male were found west of camp the following day.

Common Pochard. Aythya ferina. A single female was present on Jones Lake, June 29.

Greater Scaup. Aythya marila. This species was common on the larger ponds of Amchitka throughout our stay but was not seen on the western islands.

Tufted Duck. Aythya fuligula. As many as 7 individuals were identified on

Jones Lake at the same time. Other birds were seen on Clevenger Lake during our stay on Amchitka.

Common Goldeneye. Bucephala clangula. This species was identified daily on Jones Lake, Amchitka. White saw a bird that he believed was a female of this species on July 1 at Kiska.

Bufflehead. Bucephala albeola. A single female-like bird was present on Jones Lake throughout our stay there.

Harlequin Duck. Histrionicus histrionicus. This species was common along the rocky coast of Amchitka. Flocks up to 80 birds were observed. These appeared to be non-breeders as only 2-3 high plumaged males would be present along with larger numbers of males in partial nuptial plumage. Female-like birds comprised 40-50 percent of each flock. Three harlequins were seen near Little Sitkin on June 30, and two swam near shore in Kiska Harbor on July 2.

Pacific Common Eider. Somateria mollissima v. nigra. Flocks comprised of 70-80 percent males were commonly seen along the coastline of Amchitka and several nests were located among the Elymus clumps on the beach. On July 2, a female was seen in Kiska Harbor. Two males were seen on July 7 near East Cape, Buldir and several females with broods were seen daily.

White-winged Scoter. Melanitta deglandi. A flock of 40+ birds was seen daily in Constantine Harbor, Amchitka and three were seen near Davidof on June 30.

Common Scoter. Oidemia nigra. A single immature male was seen by Gibson and Sekora at Kiska on July 3.

Red-breasted Merganser. Mergus serrator. Pairs of this species were seen daily on the larger ponds of Amchitka. Single pairs were seen on Kiska on July 1 and 3.

Bald Eagle. Haliaeetus leucocephalus. There is an estimated population of 200-250 eagles on Amchitka and they are particularly evident around the camp area and the garbage dump. Nesting sites seem to be confined to the coastline. Seven adult eagles and two nests were seen on Little Sitkin, an adult was on a nest at Davidof, and an adult and an immature spotted on Segula. On July 1, two adults and a nest with one large young were found at Kiska. At least two pairs were present on Buldir.

Peregrine Falcon. Falco peregrinus. A minimum of 30 pairs was nesting on Amchitka. Adults were seen on every island that we approached and nests observed on Little Sitkin, Kiska, and Buldir. It appears that the birds on Amchitka are feeding primarily on alcids.

Aleutian Tern. Sterna aleutica. This species was identified only on Amchitka where it was nesting in a mixed colony with S. paradisaea.

Common Murre. Uria aalge, and Thick-billed Murre. Uria lomvia. A total of 10-15 pairs of murre was nesting on Little Sitkin but specific identification could not be made. Davidof had about 200 nesting pairs. Both species were present but lomvia was more common. Thousands of murre nested near the top of the kittiwake colonies on Buldir. Only lomvia was identified on these cliffs but a single aalge was seen on the water near Middle Rock.

Pigeon Guillemot. Cephus columba. This species was found near the shoreline of all islands. A small colony of 20-30 birds was nesting under the dock in Constantine Harbor and one nest contained a newly hatched chick on June 29.

Ancient Murrelet. Synthliboramphus antiquum. A few birds were frequently seen from shore in Constantine Harbor. They were encountered in small flocks near all of the islands during the Buldir trip. A dead bird was found in a burrow near East Cape on July 7.

Cassin's Auklet. Ptychoramphus aleutica. Single specimens were found on the deck of the "Aleutian Tern" anchored off Buldir on July 5 and 6.

Parakeet Auklet. Cyclorhynchus psittacula. A few birds were observed at Little Sitkin, Khvostof, and Segula on June 30 and along the north side of Kiska on July 4. Many thousands nested on Buldir. White reports that their remains are commonly found in peregrine nests on Amchitka. This species, along with lesser numbers of other alcids, was commonly preyed on by Glaucous-winged gulls on Buldir. The gulls pecked a hole into the bird's back and consumed the flesh leaving the inverted skins entire.

Crested Auklet. Aethia cristatella. On June 30, several were seen along the north side of Amchitka and about 50 were counted along the south side of Segula. On July 4, about 15 were seen off North Head, Kiska and their numbers increased as the ship neared Sredni Point. Thousands were seen as we approached Northeast and Sirius Points, Kiska. Many thousands nested in the rocky cliffs on Buldir.

Least Auklet. Aethia pusilla. A single bird was seen off Chitka Point, Amchitka on June 30. About 200 were seen off Khvostof and thereafter we were never out of sight of them until we reached Kiska Harbor. After leaving Kiska Harbor on July 4, these birds became common again and were constantly in view. They nested abundantly in the rocky cliffs on Buldir.

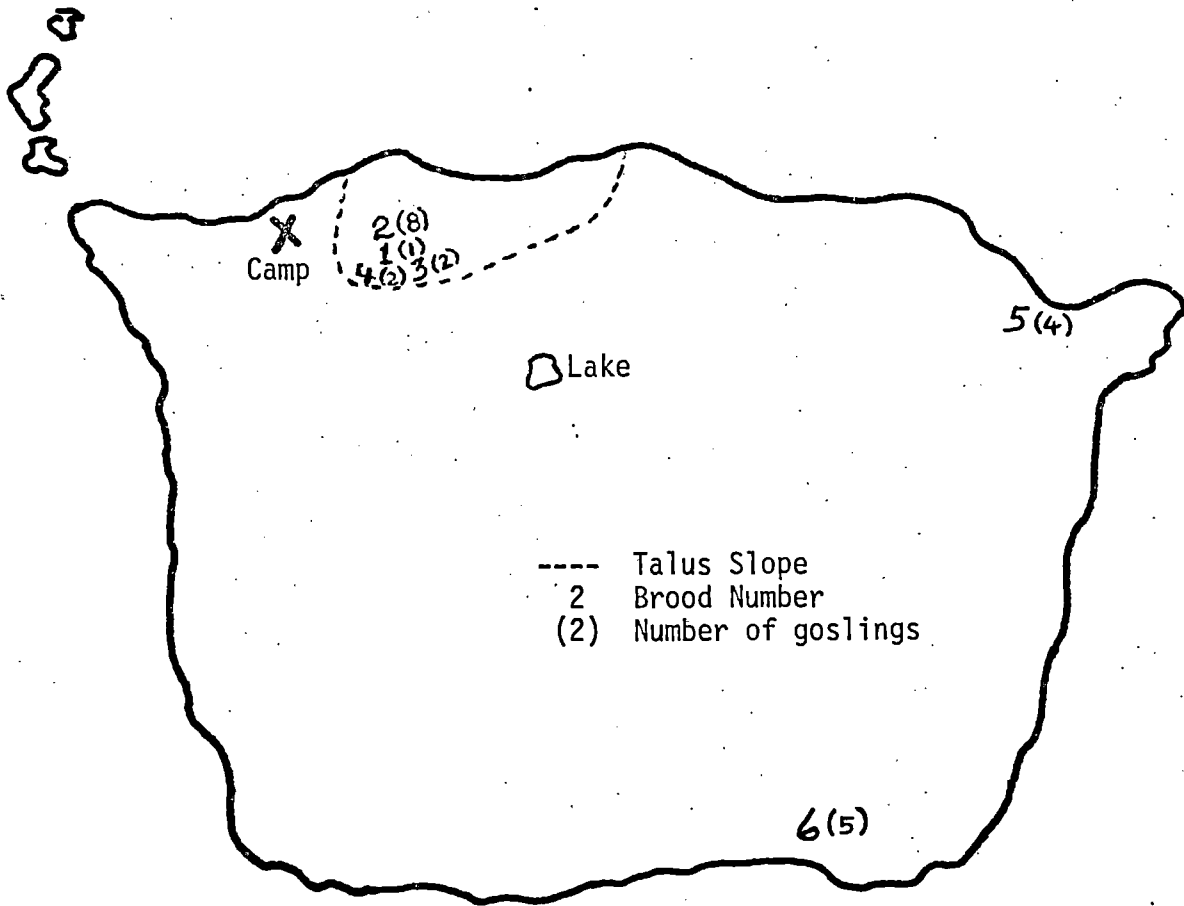
Whiskered Auklet. Aethia pygmaea. Less than 10 birds were seen off Crown Reefer Point, Amchitka on June 30. Scattered birds were seen near Little Sitkin and Davidof and about 200 were counted along the south side of Segula. Approximately 200-300 were found near Middle and Outer Rocks on Buldir.

- Horned Puffin. Fratercula corniculata. This species was observed at every island. They appeared least common on Amchitka but were particularly abundant elsewhere.
- Tufted Puffin. Lunda cirrhata. Tufted Puffins were common to abundant everywhere. They shared nesting colonies with Horned Puffins and various other alcids.
- Oriental Cuckoo. Cuculus saturatus. A single bird was present near Kirilof Point, Amchitka each day, June 16-26, except on June 20 when two birds were located. At least three birds were seen on Kiska, July 1. A male, weighing 80 grams, was collected by Gibson.
- Short-eared Owl. Asio flammeus. Byrd and I observed and photographed a single bird on Amchitka during the early evening of June 22.
- Raven. Corvus corax. A single bird was seen at Pyramid Island, June 30.
- Winter Wren. Troglodytes troglodytes. A few birds were found along the beaches on Amchitka. Less than 10 were seen and heard on Kiska but the species was common Buldir.
- Grey-crowned Rosyfinch. Leucosticte tephrocotis. This species nested in the abandoned buildings of Amchitka and was common on all islands visited.
- Common Redpoll. Acanthis flammea. A single individual was seen near Husky Camp on June 29. Six birds were seen near camp on Buldir, July 7. Three to 5 birds were seen on several other days.
- Song Sparrow. Melospiza melodia. This species was not observed on Amchitka. Only three birds were observed on Kiska and the species was common on Buldir. They were concentrated on the beaches but were found inland at all elevations we visited.
- Lapland Longspur. Calcarius lapponicus. This was the most abundant species found on Amchitka. They were fairly common on Kiska but relatively scarce on Buldir except in the interior valleys.
- Snow Bunting. Plectrophenax nivalis. This beautiful bird was relatively common on Amchitka. No nests were located although adults were observed carrying food. Only a few were seen on Kiska and one nest was located on a vertical cliff approximately 25-30 feet above the beach. None were seen on Buldir.

Birds Observed During Aleutian Islands Trip
June 16-July 11, 1972

		Enroute from Amchitka to Kiska		Enroute from Kiska to Buldir		Buldir
	Amchitka	Kiska	Kiska	Buldir		Buldir
Red-throated Loon	X		X			
Common Loon	X		X			
Black-footed Albatross				X		
Laysan Albatross		X		X		
Fulmar		X	X	X		X
Sooty Shearwater	X	X	X	X		
Slender-billed Shearwater		X	X	X		
Fork-tailed Petrel		X		X		X
Leach's Petrel		X		X		X
Pelagic Cormorant	X	X	X	X		X
Red-faced Cormorant	X	X				
Aleutian Canada Goose						X
Mallard	X					
Pintail	X					
European Widgeon	X					
Aleutian Green-winged Teal	X		X			X
Common Pochard	X					
Greater Scaup	X					
Tufted Duck	X					
Common Goldeneye	X		?			
Bufflehead	X					
Harlequin	X	X	X			
Pacific Common Eider	X	X	X			X
White-winged Scoter	X	X				
Common Scoter			X			
Red-breasted Merganser	X		X			
Bald Eagle	X	X	X			X
Peregrine	X	X	X			X
Rock Ptarmigan	X		X			
Black Oystercatcher	X	X				
Rock Sandpiper	X		X			
Northern Phalarope	X					
Parasitic Jaeger	X	X				X
Pomarine Jaeger		X				
Red-legged Kittiwake		X		X		X
Black-legged Kittiwake		X		X		X
Glaucous-winged Gull	X	X	X	X		X
Arctic Tern	X					X
Aleutian Tern	X					
Common Murre		X	X			X
Thick-billed Murre		X				X
Pigeon Guillemot	X	X	X			X

	Enroute from Amchitka to		Enroute from Kiska to		Buldi
	Amchitka	Kiska	Kiska	Buldir	
Horned Puffin	X	X	X	X	X
Tufted Puffin	X	X	X	X	X
Crested Auklet		X		X	X
Whiskered Auklet		X		X	X
Cassin's Auklet					X
Least Auklet		X		X	X
Ancient Murrelet	X	X	X	X	X
Parakeet Auklet		X		X	X
Oriental Cuckoo	X		X		
Raven		X			
Short-eared Owl	X				
Winter Wren	X		X		X
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch	X	X	X		X
Common Redpoll	X				X
Song Sparrow			X		X
Lapland Longspur	X		X		X
Snow Bunting	X		X		X



Location of Broods of Aleutian Canada Geese
 Captured on Buldir Island, 1972

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