

PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE SURVEYS IN NEAR  
ISLANDS, SPRING 1983

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PRELIMINARY REPORT,  
ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE SURVEYS  
IN NEAR ISLANDS (AGATTU AND  
NIZKI) -- SPRING 1983 --

by

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and Kathy Pomeroy

Key Words: Aleutian Canada Goose  
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ADAK, ALASKA



June 20, 1983

Three observers disembarked the 86' charter vessel "Western Pacific" near the east end of Nizki Island 23 May 1983. The objectives of the field camp were to observe Aleutian Canada geese and inventory all migratory bird populations on the island for the first time since introduced foxes were eliminated from the island in the late 1970's. A flock of nine birds were observed at some distance south of camp the evening of arrival. Two birds with bands 728 and 734 were observed at "Camp Cove" the following morning. A lone goose with band 731 was on the north shore of the island that afternoon. Eight birds arrived at Camp Cove after flying south through Shemya pass the evening of 24 May. Three were banded (728, 734, A92) and five were not banded. No additional banded or unbanded birds were located through the remainder of the observation period, but two noteworthy bits of information are worthy of mention: 1) 728 and A92 were observed together alone repeatedly in "Camp Cove" and the small lake ("Duck Pond") immediately inland daily from 28 May through 3 June, indicating territoriality, and 2) bird 731 was never observed to leave a 20 square meter area along the north shore of the island through 1 June. It remained alone throughout the period.

Two observers were placed in a field camp at Aga Cove, Agattu Island, 23 May, 1983 for the purpose of locating and observing returning Aleutian Canada geese through 3 June, 1983. Aleutian Canada geese with band numbers 473, 726, 735, 931, 936, 975, A-37, A-91, A-97 and C-26 were observed. Following are dates and locations:

#473	GC	5/24
#726	GC	5/24, 5/25
"	CpSbk	5/28
#735	CpSbk	5/28
#932	II	5/28
#936	GC	5/26
#975	GC	5/24, 5/25, 5/30
#983	GC	5/24, 5/25, 5/30
#A-37	GC	5/24, 5/25
"	II	5/28
#A-91	GC	5/24
#A-97	II	5/28
#C-26	GC	5/24
"	CpSbk	5/26
"	II	5/28

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There were also a minimum of five unbanded wild geese present during at least part of the period.

In total, geese were sighted 100 times. Of the sightings, 33 were of banded birds where the band numbers could be read and recorded. Seventeen sightings were of unbanded birds. Six were of birds known to have bands but conditions precluded reading of band numbers. The remainder were of birds observed flying or at distances which did not allow a determination of whether or not they were banded. One pair of legs (and other bones) was also found near Cape Sabak from goose C-30 (FWS#1127-01228). Evidence suggested the bird died shortly after being transplanted to Agattu from Buldir last summer.