ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1993-1994 8672
8024 HOUSE RESOURCES
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House Bill 172
draft H Finance CS for CSHB 172(Res)
Hearing in House Finance 3-24-93

Staff delivered sponsor statement.

Questions asked of ADF&G's Geron Bruce:

Rep. MacLean: No person could enter MacNeil River area without a tag? That restricts individual's freedom to go into any part of Alaska.

Geron - MacNeil managed primarily as bear-viewing area, already subject to restricted access, small number of people go there, etc.

Rep. Martin: Rep. Martin worried about a play on words: the word "voluntary" is used, however "the department MAY" {make it mandatory in certain areas} (see Sec. 11, p. 7) and it WILL be implemented this year. Once 2 small areas do this, many others will. Ought to let the tourist industry there will be a charge involved.

Rep. MacLean: Commissioner may authorize other areas at a later date...

Geron Bruce: Sucess of program depends on cooperation of visitor industry and department...if there are areas where improvements are desired, where services are to be provided at behest of public, those would be the areas that it would become mandatory. The two mandatory areas included in the bill are high value areas.

Rep. Larson asked members to hold further questions for the department so that public testimony could be taken.

Kate Tesar, representing Assn. of Independent Tour Operators (from southcentral, Kenai, Southeast, etc): The group supports the bill. Initially they had concerns like Rep. MacLean and Rep. Martin, but they have been assured by Dept. that the Dept. will not arbitrarily designate these areas; the visitor industry will be included in this [process]. Thinks that $52K fiscal note is unrealistic. Last year 980,000 tourists traveled to Alaska. If

10% buy an attractive pin, and Dept. gets $4 from the sale of each pin retailing at $9.99, F&G could make $392,000. Would involve marketing idea, offering pin through retailers, not just fisning/hunting license vendors as that is too limited -- only one in downtown Juneau.

Irene Morse (?), representing Alaska Environmental Lobby: Testified in favor of the bill. Testimony available.

Rep. Foster: Concerned disabled veterans would be subject to tag fee. They already get free license...More concerned about language in Sec. 4, (d)(1)(B)(ii), [page 4, line 29-30 of draft H Fin CS]: his whole district is bordered by one state park, game refuge and critical habitat area after another. He thinks that given this language some Commissioner could add all of western Alaska into this plan. Thinks that [language on p. 5, line13, Sec. 4,(f), "A wildlife conservation tag may not be required for" listing exemptions] should be changed to read that the tag <u>will</u> not be required. Otherwise Commissioner might make little old lady out in Savoonga, picking berries, buy a permit. Have serious considerations about bill, and Geron's response has answered his questions, but not satisfied him.

Rep. Hanley: Feels language does say that {a permit} may not be required of those people. (Rep. Martin looks skeptical, and of course the "may not" versus "will not" argument is an old one.)

Geron Bruce: Indicated Dept. didn't have any problem with changing that language.

Rep. Hanley: Would like to limit law to those two {mandatory} areas, and make the rest voluntary. Have the Dept. come back if they want to add other mandatory areas.

Rep. Larson: Returns the bill to subcommittee made up of Rep. Foster (Chair), Rep. Hanley, and Rep. Grussendorf to address those concerns.

My unsolicited comment: If you clearly limit the mandatory fee to the two areas, half your battle is over. A good, cheap marketing program (poster at retail outlets, ferry terminals,

state parks, etc) could certainly sell enough to compensate for any "additional mandatory areas".

Rep. Hoffman: Inquired of Geron Bruce if state charges for handling the permit to get into the [two] reserves.

Geron Bruce: There is an application fee but processing cost doesn't come out of it. Fees set by regulation. Actually there are two fees: an application fee, and [for the successful applicants] an entry fee.

Rena Buckovich of Rep. MacLean's staff asked me after the meeting about whether the tag fee would be charged on top of the permit fee for the two areas. I referred her to Geron Bruce for a response.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
POSITION PAPER

Bill No: House Bill 172

Sponsor: Representative Bill Williams

Division: Division of Wildlife Conservation

Bill Title: "An Act relating to the wildlife conservation tag and to entry onto state game and wildlife sanctuaries, state game refuges, state range areas, and fish and game critical habitat areas; and providing for an effective date."

Department Position: Support

The department supports House Bill 172. This legislation is a response to the growing public interest in wildlife viewing, wildlife conservation, and wildlife education. A national survey performed a few years ago showed that wildlife watching was the fastest growing segment of wildlife oriented recreation. The department estimates that in Alaska over 288,000 people participated in wildlife viewing in 1985.

Alaska's wildlife is, along with our scenery, the major attraction bringing tourists to Alaska. Tourism is one of the major industries in Alaska. Alaska is facing stiff competition from other states, Canada, and other countries for these tourism customers. This legislation would provide a funding source to develop improvements and programs for an important component of the visitor industry.

Wildlife viewing is also popular with Alaska's residents. The department has developed areas such as Creamer's Field near Fairbanks and Potter's Marsh near Anchorage, which are visited extensively by residents.

The Department of Fish and Game constructed a board walk and parking lot to improve public access to this marsh. The board walk was also designed to protect the fragile marsh ecosystem, which would otherwise be damaged by the many visitors to the marsh. Improvements have also been made at Creamer's Field. Between these two projects, approximately one-half million dollars has been spent in capital improvements.

McNeil River State Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the most famous wildlife viewing sites in the world. It is so popular that the number of people applying to visit the area exceeds what the department can allow into the area, while preserving the quality of the area for the bears and their human visitors. As a consequence, permits to enter the area are issued on a lottery basis. The

(PREPARED AS HOUSE FLOOR SPEECH FOR REP. WILLIAMS)

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSHB 172(FIN): WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TAG PROGRAM

BY REP. BILL WILLIAMS

Wildlife viewing is a fast-growing form of recreation and tourism worldwide. Alaska has tremendous potential in the area of watchable wildlife. House Bill 172 creates a wildlife conservation tag program whereby non-consumptive users of wildlife help to generate funds to support the development of these opportunities in Alaska.

The primary thrust of CSHB 172(fin) is a VOLUNTARY program. For a small price, a person would receive a pin or patch or other memento to show that they have supported Alaska's wildlife conservation program.

The price of the tag is left to the Department of Fish and Game. However, the cost will necessarily be kept low, since the goal is to sell large numbers of the tags to those who purchase them voluntarily. It will be the responsibility of the Department to come up with an appealing pin or other memento. With successful promotion, the tag program will raise substantial amounts of new revenue for watchable wildlife programs.

In addition to the voluntary purchases of the tag, the bill makes possession of the tag mandatory for non-residents visiting McNeil River and Walrus Island State Sanctuaries. This requirement for the tag in these two sanctuaries will guarantee enough participation in the program to make it self-sustaining from the beginning. Since both of these sanctuaries are already staffed and require permits, the tag requirement will not cause an administrative burden.

House Bill 172 is a revenue-generating measure. The goal is to raise private sector revenue to help sustain, enhance and expand watchable wildlife programs in Alaska.

NOTES ON HB 172

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Division of Wildlife Conservation spent $64,522 in FY92 to run the program at McNeil River. Revenues from the visitors to the area in that year were $24,225.

Currently the Division of Wildlife Conservation is spending $371,700 in FY93 on what we call our watchable wildlife program. Most of the budget for the Division of Wildlife Conservation is provided by hunters and trappers. Virtually none of the cost of the watchable wildlife program is paid by the "users" of watchable wildlife, because there is no mechanism to recover from the users any of those costs. That is what this legislation offers as a modest beginning.

The primary revenue raising potential of this legislation is dependent on voluntary sales of wildlife conservation tags. In exchange for their voluntary contribution, people will receive a commemorative pin or other product, and the satisfaction of knowing that they have made a small contribution toward supporting an activity which they believe to be important.

The success of the voluntary program will depend on an attractive cost for the tag, a desirable commemorative product, and a successful marketing effort for the program.

In order to gear up and provide a minimum promotion of this new program, House Bill 172 provides that visitors be required to purchase a wildlife conservation tag before entering three of Alaska's most outstanding wildlife viewing opportunities. These are McNeil River State Wildlife Sanctuary, Walrus Island State Wildlife Sanctuary, and Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary. The department believes that this would provide a modest level of assured funding to develop a successful voluntary program.

Commissioner's Signature Don Somerville for **Date:** 3/2/93

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The price of the tag is left to the Department of Fish and Game. However, the cost will necessarily be kept low, since the goal is to sell large numbers of the tags to those who purchase them voluntarily. It will be the responsibility of the Department to come up with an appealing pin or other memento. With successful promotion, the tag program will raise substantial amounts of new revenue for watchable wildlife programs.

In addition to the voluntary purchases of the tag, the bill makes possession of the tag mandatory for non-residents visiting McNeil River and Walrus Island State Sanctuaries. This requirement for the tag in these two sanctuaries will guarantee enough participation in the program to make it self-sustaining from the beginning. Since both of these sanctuaries are already staffed and require permits, the tag requirement will not cause an administrative burden.

House Bill 172 is a revenue-generating measure. The goal is to raise private sector revenue to help sustain, enhance and expand watchable wildlife programs in Alaska.

NOTES ON HB 172

Changes made by Finance :

In the two mandatory tag areas, only NON-residents are required to have the tag. For resident Alaskans, the tag is not REQUIRED anywhere.

Took out the ability of the Commissioner of Fish and Game to designate other areas by regulation in the future where the tag would be required. The addition of any areas as mandatory tag areas in the future will have to be added by passage of a bill amending the law.

Amendment to be proposed by Jerry Mackie:

If it just adds "preserves" it shouldn't create any problems. Doesn't accomplish anything except some recognition that the preserve has watchable wildlife and could be supported with some of the revenues generated from the tags.

(PREPARED FOR USE ON MEMBERS DESKS WHEN BILL ON HOUSE FLOOR)

POSITION PAPER ON HB 172(RES)
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TAG PROGRAM

CSHB 172(Res) creates a wildlife conservation tag program that would encourage, and in some areas require, that non-consumptive users of Alaska's wildlife help to pay for wildlife management and the programs and facilities they use.

Wildlife viewing is a fast-growing form of recreation in the world, and is one of the biggest drawing cards for tourism in Alaska. Careful management and development of viewing areas is important to protect the wildlife while enhancing visitor opportunities. This bill is a "user pays" approach to generating funds to support this growing area of wildlife use.

The primary thrust of HB 172 is a voluntary program. Participants would pay a fairly small price for the tag, and receive a pin or patch or other memento to show that they have supported the wildlife conservation program.

In addition, CSHB 172 designates two sanctuaries in the state (McNeil River and Walrus Island) where possession of the tag would be required for entry. The bill authorizes the commissioner of Fish and Game to designate additional areas of the state to the list of mandatory tag areas in the future. Purchase of an annual tag would allow an individual to apply to enter any of the areas of the state where tags are required. The bill provides exemptions from the requirement for this tag for individuals who already possess other sport hunting or fishing licenses or are engaged in subsistence activities.

The price of the tag is left to the department but will necessarily be kept low since the goal is to sell large numbers of the tags to those who voluntarily purchase them. While the bill provides for some flexibility for differential prices, the department is currently planning for an initial charge of $15 for the tag. It will be the responsibility of the Department of Fish and Game to come up with a catchy logo and appealing pin or other memento, and to publicize and promote the tag program in order to successfully raise substantial amounts of new revenue for watchable wildlife management, facilities, education and programs.

2. Sec. 3 (f) (2). We support this section in so far as it applies to road traffic. However, when wildlife interpretive and viewing pull-out areas are established along the right-of-way or public easement in a state game or wildlife sanctuary, etc. that they be marked as wildlife viewing areas and that a tag be required, except when a vehicle has pulled into the pull-out in the case of an emergency. We would also like to see a provision that wherever wildlife interpretive or viewing areas are established along a public easement or right-of-way adjacent to state land that it be posted that watchable wildlife tags are recommended.

3. Section (10 old numbering) 9 (new numbering). (c) "The Department of Natural Resources may, after consultation with the Department . . ." In the case of Pack Creek or the Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary, ADF&G had a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Natural Resources governing the adoption of regulations governing the public use of the area. We suggest that this model be followed and that this section be amended to "after developing a memorandum of understanding with...".

4. Section 1 (6) and Section 3 (h). We have some concern that the phrase "wildlife conservation" is too broad. We are concerned that in the name of conserving some wildlife populations, watchable wildlife funds might be used for predator control. One possibility would be to amend the section to specifically exclude the use of funds from the watchable wildlife program for predator control.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully yours,

Nancy R. Lethcoe

Nancy R. Lethcoe, President

Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association

To: Chairman Williams, House Resources Committee Members
From: Nancy R. Lethcoe, President
Re: HB 172 Wildlife Conservation Tag and Fee Program
Date: March 3, 1993

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association is a non-profit professional organization (501(c)6) which promotes the recognition and protection of Alaska's recreation and tourism resources and works for ecologically responsible recreation and tourism use of Alaska's natural resources. We have over 300 members of which 180 are natural resource-dependent tourism businesses. Our business members include mountaineers, kayakers, river runners, backpackers, tour and charter boat operators, lodges, and sportfishing and hunting guides and outfitters.

The Board of Directors of the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association met last weekend and discussed the options for funding the watchable wildlife program and HB 172. Since our recreational and business members benefit from ADF&G's sport fishing, game and watchable wildlife programs, we are very interested in promoting ways to continue funding of these programs.

The Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association supports the approach of HB 172 which combines a mandatory and voluntary program. We recognize the difficulties inherent in developing full funding for the watchable wildlife program and look forward to continued discussions of ways to generate revenue.

I have reviewed HB 172 and the draft amendments and wish to make four comments:

1. Sec. 3. (b). This appears to imply that watchable wildlife tags could only be sold through vendors of fish and game tags. We also envision tour operators, travel agents, and Alaskan gift shops as major vendors of the watchable wildlife tags. We wonder if it is necessary to amend the bill to explicitly provide for the possibility of marketing the tags through special watchable wildlife vendors in addition to vendors of fish and game licenses.

P.O. Box 1353, Valdez, AK 99686. Phone: 907-835-4300. Fax: 907-835-4836

TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

ON CSHB 172(RES): WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TAG PROGRAM

BY STAFF OF REP. BILL WILLIAMS, SPONSOR

House Bill 172 creates a wildlife conservation tag program aimed at encouraging non-consumptive users of Alaska's wildlife to help pay for wildlife programs and facilities they use.

Wildlife viewing is a fast-growing form of recreation in the world, and a major factor in attracting visitors to Alaska. Careful management and development of viewing areas is important to protect the wildlife while enhancing visitor opportunities. This bill is a "user pays" approach to generating funds to support this growing area of wildlife use.

The primary thrust of HB 172 is a voluntary program. Participants would pay a fairly small price for the tag, and receive a pin or patch or other memento to show that they have supported the wildlife conservation program.

The price of the tag is left to the department but will necessarily be kept low since the goal is to sell large numbers of the tags to those who voluntarily purchase them. It will be the responsibility of the Department of Fish and Game to come up with a catchy logo and appealing pin or other memento, and to publicize and promote the tag program in order to successfully raise substantial amounts of new revenue for watchable wildlife programs.

In addition to the voluntary purchases of the tag, the bill designates two sanctuaries in the state (McNeil River and Walrus Island) where possession of the tag would be required for entry. The bill authorizes the commissioner of Fish and Game to designate additional areas of the state to the list of mandatory tag areas in the future. The bill provides exemptions from the requirement for this tag for individuals who already possess other sport hunting or fishing licenses or are engaged in subsistence activities. These few mandatory areas will provide some start-up money and will guarantee that the program will at least be self-sustaining as it gets underway.

At Rep. William's request, the draft Finance Committee Substitute before you makes three small technical changes to the House Resources version. These are things that have come up since Resources Committee passed the bill. The changes are minor, and mainly for clarification, but do improve the bill.

First, language is added to make it clear that the tag fee may be waived for such people as Fish and Game's own personnel working at the area or contractors who are there on agency business.

Secondly, language is added to the findings section of the bill, to more clearly explain that the main thrust of this program is the <u>voluntary</u> purchases of these tags.

And finally, at the request of the Forest Service, language is amended to just clarify that the Stan Price Sanctuary, which is jointly managed by the Forest Service and the State, is NOT an area where the tag will be mandatory. However, if and when the two agencies can agree on such a fee, this language provides that it could be so designated at a later date.

Rep. Williams hopes that this committee will consider adopting this amended version of HB 172.

There is someone here from the Department of Fish and Game who can answer questions about the bill and the amendments.

In closing, this bill is a revenue generating measure. It is aimed at enabling non-consumptive users to help sustain, enhance and expand watchable wildlife programs.

Rep. Williams appreciates your consideration of HB 172. Thank you.

(5)

Foster
Disabled veterans already get free licence

b (ii) Thinks Commissioner could add (all of western Alaska) into this plan

Insert "will" instead of "may" not be required.

Commissioner might make subsistence user little old lady out in Savoonga buy a permit

Serious considerations

Hanley says it may not be required.

Would like to limit law to those two areas & make the rest voluntary. Have Department come back if they want other areas

Return to subcommittee of Foster, Hanley & Grussendorf to address those concerns.

Hoffman Do - we charge for permit to get into reserves, Geron - there is an application fee but it doesn't pay for processing. Permit for entry, permit for application fee.

Fees set by reg

Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association

To: The Honorable Bill Williams
From: Nancy R. Lethcoe, President
Date: March 19, 1993

RE: HB 172 Watchable Wildlife Tag

The Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association thanks you for your continued efforts on behalf of HB 172.

I have reviewed proposed amendments 650\E.3, 650\E.4 and 650\E.5 with our executive board. We support these amendments.

I raised AVA's concerns about limiting the commissioner's ability to make tags mandatory in aditional areas again with the executive board. There is strong support of the bill's current language.

Again, we appreciate your support of this bill and hope that it will be passed out of the House Finance Committee quickly.

P.O. Box 1353, Valdez, AK 99686. Phone: 907-835-4300. Fax: 907-835-4336

The Sonics were only a year old when Wilkens took command as player-coach. But in three seasons, his expansion team posted a .573 winning mark. For some bizarre reason, Sam Schulman acceded to the wishes of his general manager and gave Wilkens an ultimatum. He could play or coach, but couldn't do both. Wilkens said he'd like to play a couple of more years. Seattle was the city he had in mind. But the Sonics immediately traded him to Cleveland.

When he returned for the first time as a Cav, Seattle fans gave him a standing ovation that has never been equaled in emotion or duration.

WILKENS HAD a chance to coach the Trail Blazers, with a rookie named Bill Walton. But the the UCLA All-American suffered from both a stress fracture and bone spurs in one foot and ended the season in a cast.

His second year, Walton, in quick order, suffered a bad cut over his eye in a collision, hurt his leg in a car accident, caught a three-stitch elbow thrown by John Havlicek, broke his nose against the Sonics, missed five weeks because of a stress fracture in his leg, then refractured his wrist. Meanwhile, Walton had hired a Black Panther lawyer as his agent and in a public declaration called on the world to join him "in a rejection of the United States government."

With Walton mentally focused and physically healthy, Portland had championship potential, as Jack Ramsey later proved. Without Walton, the teams Wilkens coached between 1974 and '76 were talent-poor.

Wilkens returned to Seattle to give the city its only major league championship in the modern era of sports.

The Cavaliers (who won 29 games the year before he became coach) should hit or exceed 57 wins for the third time in the last five years.

"Lenny Wilkens is the best thing that has happened to me," said Cleveland's 12-year veteran, Larry Nance. "I've never had a better time playing basketball."

Talk about fun, how about Wilkens' Cavs and Karl's Sonics in the NBA championship series?

John Owen is a P-I staff columnist.

Program focuses on wildlife watching

By Greg Johnston
P-I Reporter

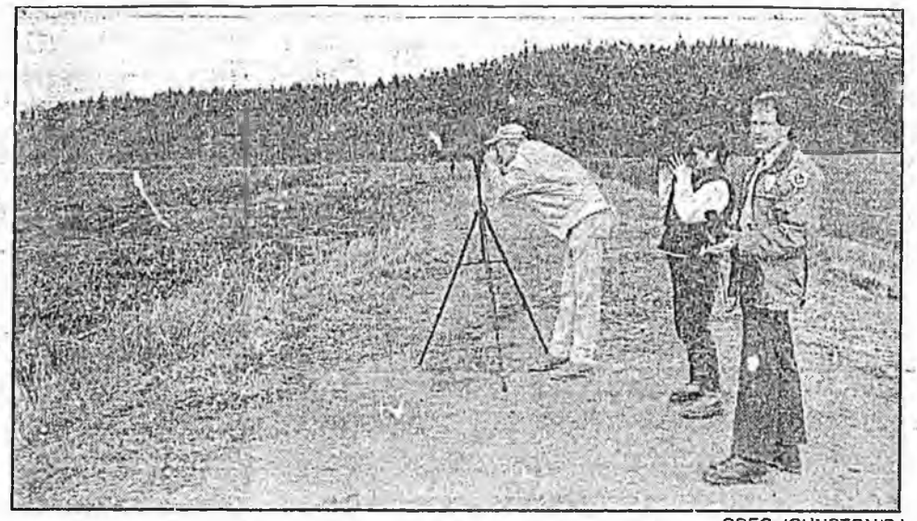
MOUNT VERNON — State wildlife managers see wildlife-watching as something like a raccoon — cute, cuddly and seemingly harmless, but fully capable of biting you in the backside.

So they are hoping that a new cooperative project, the Washington Watchable Wildlife Program, will allow them to stroke this growing creature of a sport while keeping its teeth inside its mouth.

"We're trying to help all members of the public experience wildlife," said Ruth Milner, a biologist at the Department of Wildlife's Mill Creek office. "With the signs and things this program will make available, we can route people where we want them and away from areas where they would disturb wildlife."

The Watchable Wildlife program was started in Oregon in 1988 by Defenders of Wildlife, a national conservation group that brought it north last month, launching it here with the publication of a guidebook, "Washington Wildlife Viewing Guide" (Falcon Press, $5.95).

The guidebook describes 90 viewing areas throughout the state, which in sum illustrate something fascinating about Washington: its mountains, valleys, inland seas, lakes and shorelines, combined with the ocean-driven weather that blows across it, make for a stunning variety of habitats and thus wildlife.



GREG JOHNSTON/P-I

Joe La Tourrette, author of a new guidebook to wildlife viewing in Washington, watches a flock of snow geese through a spotting scope during a tour of the Skagit Wildlife Area with area manager John Garrett and biologist Ruth Milner.

In what other state can you find painted turtles, killer whales, rattlesnakes, caribou and king salmon?

"I would venture to say we have more wildlife diversity than maybe any other state in the country because of our topography and climate," said Joe La Tourrette, a former state Wildlife Department official and author of the guidebook. "We go all the way from rain forest to desert and everything in between."

The new program provides a passport for novices to this wildlife-watching nirvana. The book is written mainly for the uninitiated, featuring mostly areas with easy access and providing a good distribution of sites, a variety of critters and places for every season.

It is not as if the public needs encouragement. Federal statistics show the popularity of wildlife-watching is increasing like deer after a warm winter.

Fish and Wildlife Service surveys in 1980 showed that 93.2 million Americans older than 15 participated in some form of "non-consumptive" wildlife use. By 1985, that number had increased to 134.7 million. However, while those numbers graphically illustrate the increase, they included casual wildlife observers, even those who watched an animal from their car while driving down the freeway.

In 1991, the service narrowed it down, counting 30 million Americans 16

See **VIEWING,** Page D3

Recruiting? Hawks embark on new NFL order today

By Clare Farnsworth

Don Maggs, a 6-foot-5, 290-pound tackle for the Houston Oilers, might not be too crazy about moving from a perennial playoff contender to a team that won just two games and had the NFL's worst offense last year. But his wife might fall in love with the idea raising a family in Seattle.

Kelvin Martin, a kick returner/wide receiver who wants to reverse the order of the way he is perceived, and Ferrell Edmunds, a one-time Pro Bowl tight end who now is a backup, would be crazy to

where players are coming in and running and working out for you and then hurrying to the next team," said Tom Flores, the Seahawks' coach, general manager and detester of the league's former free-agency system. "This will involve a lot more."

Longer stays. Tours of not only the facility, but the area. Meetings with not only coaches, but players. Wining and dining, with wives included. Recruiting.

"It's very important for us to have players come here to show them what we have to offer, to convince them of our commitment and to show them the area. This is a great area, one of the things we

Kite reaches $8 million with L.A. win

By Ken Peters
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tom Kite became golf's first $8-million man yesterday, and he did it in dramatic fashion.

Four shots behind with seven holes to play, Kite made five birdies down the stretch to win the Los Angeles Open going away.

Winning for the second time in three tournaments, Kite earned $180,000 for the victory at Riviera

Viewing:

From Page D1

and older as dedicated wildlife watchers, those who traveled more than a mile from their homes specifically to observe animals. The same survey showed 39 million Americans 16 and older fished and hunted in 1991.

Wildlife managers are treating the trend like they would a tranquilized timber wolf — with care, yet caution. That is because, although federal bureaucrats call animal observers "non-consumptive" users of wildlife, the mere presence of people can change wildlife behavior and make the difference between life and death.

John Garrett, manager of the state's Skagit Wildlife Area south of Mount Vernon, where thousands of hawks, eagles, snow geese, trumpeter swans, ducks and shorebirds winter each year, tells a flock of stories why.

"Weekend before last," he said recently, "I had probably 8,000 snow geese in the field right out here next to our headquarters. I went inside, and when I came back out, the birds were gone. Four people with cameras were standing right out in the field where the birds had been."

PHOTOGRAPHY fits naturally with wildlife-watching and it seems the desire for that perfect waterfowl-on-the-wing shot is often overwhelming.

"I've had about eight calls this winter from people about birders harassing snow geese," Garrett said. "What they do is just walk toward the birds until they flush."

One might wonder what it matters, considering it is legal to blow the feathers off any snow goose during the fall hunting season. The difference is that most waterfowl-watching is done in the winter, a critical time when the birds are attempting to fatten up for the spring flight north.

"In the case of snow geese, that's 2,500 miles," Garrett said. "You want to get the birds to the breeding grounds healthy so they can successfully reproduce their population."

A tangible example of such concerns is the current push by some members of the group The Nature Conservancy to restrict human activity upstream along the Skagit River to protect wintering bald eagles. A federal study in 1991 found that the heavy traffic of commercial eagle-watching raft trips and winter steelhead fishermen may be disrupting the eagles' feeding behavior.

"**SOMEWHERE ALONG** the line, the increased wildlife watching is going to have an impact on wildlife, and those are concerns we'll need to address," Garrett said. "What really needs to be stressed is that when you're out watching wildlife, you need to make sure you're not disturbing wildlife."

The classic disturbance story is that of the photographer who was killed by a grizzly bear a few years ago in Montana. When his film was later developed, it showed he had provoked the bear by pursuing it until he got too close.

Most don't take wildlife-watch-

'When watching wildlife, make sure you're not disturbing wildlife'

ing to such lengths. Many are content to simply watch from a distance and enjoy. Many birdwatchers document their successes, recording sightings on a "life's list" of species they have seen.

"It's just something different to do, to get out and relax," explained Vic Nelson of Hansville, an avid birdwatcher. "Sometimes it's the challenge of seeing something different, seeing a new species. I just like all animals."

Some are as skilled as the best of hunters in silently getting within camera range of their subjects. One celebrated local photographer tells a story about being attacked by a mother bird of prey after climbing to get a close-up of chicks in the nest.

Those are clear violations of animal-watching etiquette — approaching a nest and getting too close — which are listed in the program's viewing guide. Another tip in the book deals with the expectations of newcomers to the sport.

"Wildlife is really pretty unpredictable," said La Tourrette. "You really can't guarantee anything. A minor change in weather can change migration habits. They might not even stop in Washington."

Patience is advised, and a good way to boost success is to plan to visit two or more locations.

SPONSORS of the program, a cooperative effort also involving government and industry, include the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the state departments of wildlife and fisheries, Ackerley Communications, Plum Creek Timber Co. and others.

Defenders of Wildlife, which has 80,000 members, is not, contrary to the perception of some, an anti-hunting animal-rights group.

"The bottom line for Defenders of Wildlife is that, by getting people out watching wildlife and understanding wildlife needs, you'll increase awareness of conservation needs," said La Tourrette, himself a hunter. "I would never have become associated with them if they were an anti-hunting animals-rights group."

La Tourrette said federal and state sites involved in the Watchable Wildlife Program will be marked with signs bearing the project's logo, a pair of white binoculars on a brown background. The next step in the program will be to find funding for the construction of viewing facilities such as interpretive centers and boardwalks.

Institutionalizing wildlife-watching through such a program marks a significant step for the Wildlife Department.

"Traditionally, we've been the agency of the fishers and hunters, and we don't want to abandon them," said Milner, the biologist. "But the more commitment we have from the public, the more support we'll get for wildlife. The Watchable Wildlife Program will help us increase the focus on non-game species."

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The Magazine of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game

ALASKA'S WILDLIFE

$4.00

Special Edition

Alaska's Watchable Wildlife

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Cover: Dall sheep, one of Alaska's most popular species to view, are also among the easiest to spot in the summer, when their white coats contrast with their alpine habitats. John Hyde photo.

Back Cover: Black bears, the most abundant of the three species of bears in the U.S., occur over most of Alaska's forested areas. John Hyde photo.

ALASKA'S WILDLIFE

The Magazine of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Volume 23, No. 2 **March-April 1991**

In This Issue

Departments

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Alaska's wildlands provide a rich variety of recreational and educational experiences found nowhere else in the world. This issue of *Alaska's Wildlife* focuses on wildlife watching opportunities in Alaska and their relationship to economics and conservation.

According to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, more than 167 million Americans (about 75 percent) participated in hunting, fishing or wildlife watching during 1985. The survey also identified wildlife watching (including viewing, photography, and feeding) as the fastest growing segment of wildlife recreation, with 135 million participants age 16 years old or older accounting for $14 billion in annual expenditures. The same survey estimated that 288,000 Alaskans participated in wildlife watching in 1985. Clearly, wildlife watching has become a significant and growing recreational pursuit in Alaska and across the nation.

Wildlife managers throughout the United States are being challenged by diverse and increasing demands for wildlife recreation while, concurrently, wildlife habitat is shrinking and becoming fragmented. Revenues to support management and conservation programs are also declining. In recognition of this dilemma and the burgeoning public interest in wildlife, state and federal wildlife agencies are embracing the national "Watchable Wildlife" initiative. The central focus of this initiative, which is endorsed by national conservation groups (including Defenders of Wildlife, Izaak Walton League, National Audubon Society, and National Wildlife Federation), federal land management agencies, and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, is to promote and expand wildlife recreation and education. This, in turn, is expected to broaden public support and funding for the conservation of all wildlife species and their habitats.

Like our counterparts in Colorado, Montana, Oregon, and Wyoming, the Division of Wildlife Conservation recognizes the opportunity the "Watchable Wildlife" initiative represents for enhancing wildlife recreation and conservation in Alaska. This should not be interpreted as abandoning our traditional hunting constituency, nor decreasing our efforts to provide for sustained yield of game resources. Rather, we are acknowledging an expanding public interest in wildlife conservation and management and we will begin broadening our programs to reflect that change. All wildlife users (including hunters, wildlife watchers, and tour operators) must recognize that the conservation of wildlife habitat is the common ground they share in their pursuit of wildlife opportunities throughout this remarkable state.

We have the opportunity in Alaska for developing a wildlife recreation and conservation program that could stand as a model for the world. There are few areas on earth that capture people's enthusiasm for experiencing wildlife and wildlands more than Alaska. Tourism has become a billion dollar industry in Alaska and our spectacular wildlife resources are one of the state's primary attractions. A brief glance at Alaska travel brochures lends credence to this point. Where else can you walk on an ocean beach and watch mountain goats, brown bears, bald eagles, and humpback whales; or hike a tundra ridge and observe caribou, Dall sheep, snowy owls, muskoxen, wolves, and hundreds of thousands of migratory birds? In east Africa where wildlife viewing and photography have become a major industry, they say, "If wildlife pays, wildlife stays!"

This issue of *Alaska's Wildlife* highlights some of the world's premiere viewing areas, explains how and when to find several of the most sought-after species, and how we manage for wildlife viewing. You will also learn more about the importance of wildlife to the tourism industry and its potential economic significance to the state.

Although Alaska has outstanding potential for wildlife watching, we are at an early stage in our development of these new programs. One of our new projects, in cooperation with other resource agencies, will be a revision of the department's *Guide to Wildlife Viewing in Alaska* as part of a new national series. A key to successfully broadening the division's wildlife program will be finding new alternative funding sources. Currently, over 80 percent of our division budget comes from hunters through the sale of hunting licenses and excise taxes on firearms and ammunition.

Successful conservation of Alaska's unique wildlife heritage will require broad-based public support and interagency cooperation. We believe that expanding wildlife recreational and educational opportunities in Alaska will increase the public's enjoyment of their wildlife resources, promote long-term conservation, and benefit the Alaskan economy. We welcome your ideas and comments as we begin our new and exciting journey toward expanding wildlife management on the last frontier.

John Schoen in the senior staff biologist for Conservation and Education, Division of Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G, Fairbanks.

WILDLIFE WA

A Growing National

Americans' love affair with the great outdoors traditionally has been expressed through sport fish and game activities. But more recently, the relationship has been marked by a growing national interest in wildlife viewing and appreciation. Wildlife viewers are becoming increasingly vocal on the need for more attention to all wildlife, including the 90 percent of all species that are neither hunted nor fished.

The 1980 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation showed that some 93 million Americans, age 16 years and older, participated in some form of wildlife viewing, feeding, or photography as a primary or secondary recreational activity. By 1985, the number had increased to nearly 135 million—a 43 percent increase. The 1986 report by the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors identified wildlife-associated recreation as one of the nation's most popular outdoor activities.

John Hyde

Effects on Federal Agencies

Several federal agencies have responded to this trend by integrating wildlife viewing into all resource planning efforts and developing new recreation and conservation programs. The U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) "Eyes on Wildlife" program has resulted in enhancements like viewing platforms and blinds and interpretative information for viewers. The Forest Service has also entered into an agreement with Defenders of Wildlife to coordinate the publication of a state-by-state series of wildlife viewing guide books.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has joined the charge by playing a prominent role in seeking funding for the federal Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (1980). The Act (also known as the Nongame Act) was intended to provide funding to state fish and wildlife agencies to develop and implement comprehensive wildlife conservation plans to benefit species overlooked by traditional game management programs.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has also embraced this trend with enthusiasm, developing a strategic plan to implement more recreation and conservation programs to benefit viewers. BLM also deserves much of the credit for coordinating a partnership of 14 national agencies and conservation groups in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support wildlife viewing nationwide. Implementation of this national MOU offers exciting opportunities for cooperation among a variety of groups, including the military, federal natural resource agencies, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Defenders of Wildlife, Izaak Walton League, and other conservation groups to develop recreation, education, and conservation programs to benefit viewers.

One product of this partnership has resulted in the Federal Highway Administration adopting a binocular symbol as the official roadside logo for wildlife viewing areas. This logo will aid travelers in finding designated viewing sites along the nation's highways and roads.

Effects on State Agencies

In response to public concern, many state wildlife agencies began expanded efforts towards nongame species in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Funding for many of these programs was based on or enhanced by voluntary income tax donations. Although $11-15 million has been generated by 34 states annually, most nongame programs have been underfunded and understaffed, constituting less than 3 percent of statewide wildlife management budgets. The voluntary nature of the

T C H I N G

Recreation

by Sara Vickerman and Wendy Hudson

donations and growing competition from other income tax check-offs have rendered them an unreliable source of revenue. In any case, estimates are that at least 30 times the annual amount is needed nationally to conduct viable nongame and watchable wildlife programs.

At the same time, hunting has shown a steady decline nationally. In California, for example, the Department of Fish and Game posted a budget deficit of nearly $10 million in 1990 and anticipates a deficit of $12.6 million in 1991. "With their budgets still tied to license sales," writes Tom Arrandale in *High Country News*, "most state agencies lack the funds they need to protect nongame species and counter habitat destruction." In the face of declining hunting-related and nongame checkoff revenues, state wildlife managers are beginning to court additional political and financial support from wildlife viewers, most of whom do not fish nor hunt.

Wyoming was one of the first states to recognize that visitors were spending phenomenal sums annually to visit the state to enjoy its wildlife. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department, in coordination with their state tourism agency, developed a trademarked name, "Wyoming's Wildlife - Worth the Watching," and a professional public relations campaign to increase wildlife viewing tourism. Oregon, Montana, Utah, and Idaho also are developing viewing programs, and have published statewide viewing guide books as part of the national series with Defenders of Wildlife. Along with the guide books, these states have formally designated viewing sites, installed signs with the binocular logo, and developed interpretive materials for viewers.

In many of these states, it is hoped that by obtaining the political and financial support of hunters and wildlife viewers, and by enlisting the aid of the tourism industry, state conservation efforts can be expanded.

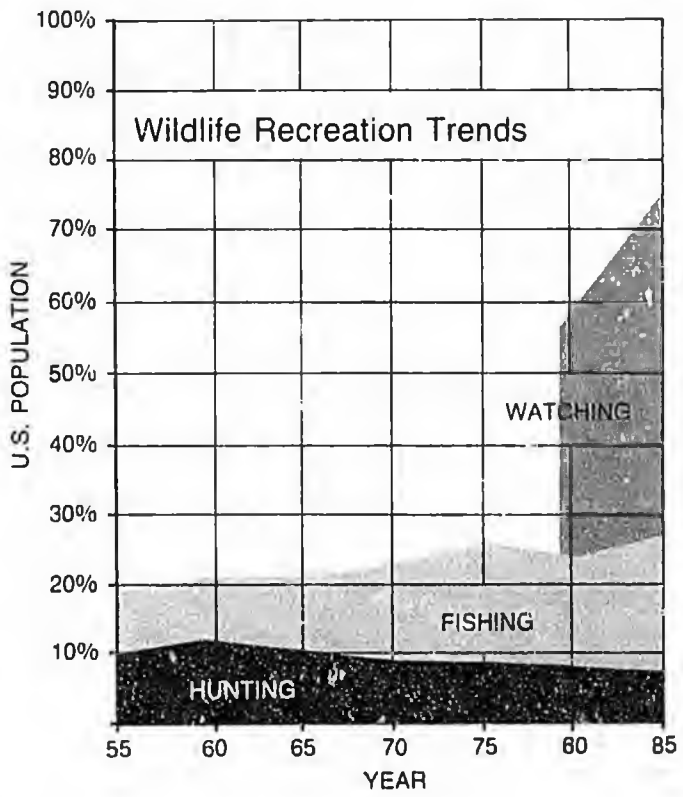
The Winning Formula

The ultimate success of these efforts, however, depends on our collective ability to maintain, and in some cases restore, habitat to support a natural diversity of wildlife. Recently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released its Strategic Planning Document that has as its centerpiece the conservation of biological diversity. The President's Commission on Americans Outdoors recommended the protection and enhancement of recreation opportunities on federal lands and waters, including long-term emphasis on conservation of natural resources. The commission also encouraged educators to integrate environmental issues into basic education, and urged federal resource agencies to help children experience the nation's diverse ecosystems.

For natural resource agencies, achieving broad conservation goals means making fundamental changes in policies, structure, funding, and constituencies. It means breaking out of the mold, taking risks, communicating with unfamiliar people, and accommodating the ecological requirements of some little known and unappreciated creatures and the vegetation upon which they depend.

Alaska has a tremendous opportunity--perhaps the last in North America--to design and implement a world-class wildlife recreation and conservation program, and to prevent the endangered species crises we have seen with alarming frequency in many other states. Defenders of Wildlife applauds the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for its interest in and dedication to the conservation of wildlife diversity, and for sharing its magnificent lands and inhabitants with those of us who are lucky enough to visit once or twice in a lifetime.

Sara Vickerman is Regional Program Director and Wendy Hudson is Communications Coordinator for the Defenders of Wildlife in Portland, Oregon.



How Much Is Wildlife Watching Worth?

by Daniel W. McCollum

Wildlife is a valuable resource. Most Alaskans already know that, but do they know just how valuable it is? According to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey, almost $56 billion were spent on wildlife-associated recreation in the U.S. in 1985. Over $14 billion of that was spent by wildlife watchers. Similar data show that $44 million of economic activity in Montana was generated by wildlife watching trips. In an example I will come back to later, the State of Wyoming recognized that wildlife-related recreational activities in their state had an annual combined net economic value of $102.3 million to residents and nonresident visitors, and that nonresident wildlife users accounted for a $230.6 million annual impact on the Wyoming economy. That same kind of economic information can contribute to wildlife management and economic development in Alaska.

The concept of economic value is one we deal with every day. We go into the grocery store and compare prices. Is the national brand of peanut butter really worth 60 cents more than the store brand? Do we like walnuts in our chocolate chip cookies enough to pay $4.00 for a pound of walnuts? Some of us do and some of us don't. The thought process that we go through in making those and other decisions, however, is exactly what economists try to capture when they attempt to measure economic value.

We are most familiar with placing values on goods and services that are sold in markets—peanut butter, walnuts, hockey tickets. But, are goods and services that are not sold in markets really any different? Don't we know our preferences for hunting and fishing, or wildlife watching, or wilderness camping as well as we know our preferences for walnuts or peanut butter? Most people do, but they are not used to thinking about market goods and nonmarket goods in the same terms.

Policy makers and resource managers are faced with a similar problem. Suppose a forest can be managed for timber or wildlife habitat, but not both. It is easy for a manager to determine the value of the land for timber production. Timber and other mineral resources are traded in organized markets. The benefits of managing the forest for wildlife habitat are not so clear or so easily determined. They would include, but not be limited to, those gained by people hunting and watching the wildlife. That difficulty in obtaining information may result in alternative land uses (like wildlife habitat) being slighted when it comes to allocating resources. When that happens, managers are not making fully informed decisions and society's resources are not being allocated efficiently.

Economic value is distinct from economic impact. Economic impact measures market transactions related to a particular resource or activity and tracks those expenditures as they move through the economy. Economic value provides information on how much value individuals or groups place on certain resources or services. Gross economic value includes the market transactions tracked by an economic impact analysis. Net economic value (above and beyond all costs or market transactions) is what is typically used in policy analyses.

Over the last forty years economists have developed methods by which net values for nonmarket goods and services can be estimated. One approach, of which the 'travel cost' method is the most common example, is to use related goods and services, which do move through markets, to infer information about the demand for and value of nonmarket goods. "Travel cost" (essentially the cost of travelling to and from a recreation site) is used as a proxy for the price of a good called "recreational visits." Numbers of visits serve as proxies for quantity demanded or consumed. To illustrate, suppose the site considered is Denali National Park. It might cost $50 for a trip to Denali if you live in Anchorage. It might cost $150 if you live in Juneau. It might cost $1500 for that trip if you live in Wichita, Kansas. One can observe how many trips are made to Denali from each of those places. Putting those pieces of information together allows estimation of a demand curve that can be used to estimate how much value visitors receive from a trip to Denali.

(Continued on page 40.)

WILDLIFE WATCHING IN ALASKA—WHAT'S IT WORTH?

by SuzAnne Miller

The image of Alaska as a wildlife haven has significant economic value which will only grow as wildlife continues to decline elsewhere. It is in Alaska's best interest to maintain and cultivate the resources upon which that image is based.

ADF&G's Division of Wildlife Conservation has initiated a research program to determine the economic value of Alaska's wildlife resources. It will allow the state to focus on wildlife as an economic resource which can be evaluated like other resources.

Research in the economic program is focusing on two areas: impact and value. A project has been started to estimate the impacts (the amount of money actually spent) of wildlife-dependent business activities on both the state and regional economies. This involves developing computer models which follow the flow of money generated by such businesses. This study will provide information on how much money comes in, where it comes from, who receives it, how much of it flows back out of the economies, and what jobs are created. This information will allow the state to examine the economic effects of different resource management decisions, to identify new business opportunities and to limit the flow of money outside the state. Alaska residents, nonresident visitors to Alaska, and Alaskan businesses will be surveyed to gather data on their respective expenditures.

Economic value data (how much a person values an experience, not how much they actually spend for it) will be collected through a series of site specific projects. For example, the Division of Wildlife Conservation cooperated with Yale University on an economic survey of wildlife watchers visiting the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary last summer. Results will be available later this year. Similarly, the division is cooperating with the University of Alaska Fairbanks to study the economic value of the Delta bison herd. Questions regarding economic value will be included on the surveys conducted for the impact study.

The difference between what a person actually spends for an experience (economic impact) and how much they would be willing to spend (economic value) is called consumer surplus. Knowing the consumer surplus for specific wildlife dependent activities (watching, hunting, etc.) will enable the state to consider ways of capturing some of that surplus in the form of state revenues.

The trick is to devise methods of payment (hunting licenses, for example) and appropriate amounts which will not turn users away, but will bring their actual expenditures closer to their total values. The only way to achieve this is through knowledge of both their expenditures and their values.

With the help of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Aid Program and with the U.S. Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, the Division gathered some of the nation's leading economists to develop a technically sound study plan. The results will be presented in a book entitled *Valuing Wildlife Resources in Alaska* to be published by Westview Press later this year. The book will establish the foundation for the division to proceed in applying economic principles to wildlife management issues.

Since wildlife and wilderness recreational opportunities are rural, they can be used to promote economic development and stability in remote areas where unemployment is high. Many wildlife-related business opportunities do not require large capital outlays, allowing entry by small operators.

By studying potential visitor's preferences, the state can stimulate appropriate tourism to capture more money from visitors. Thus the state can identify new revenue sources from visitors without burdening Alaska residents.

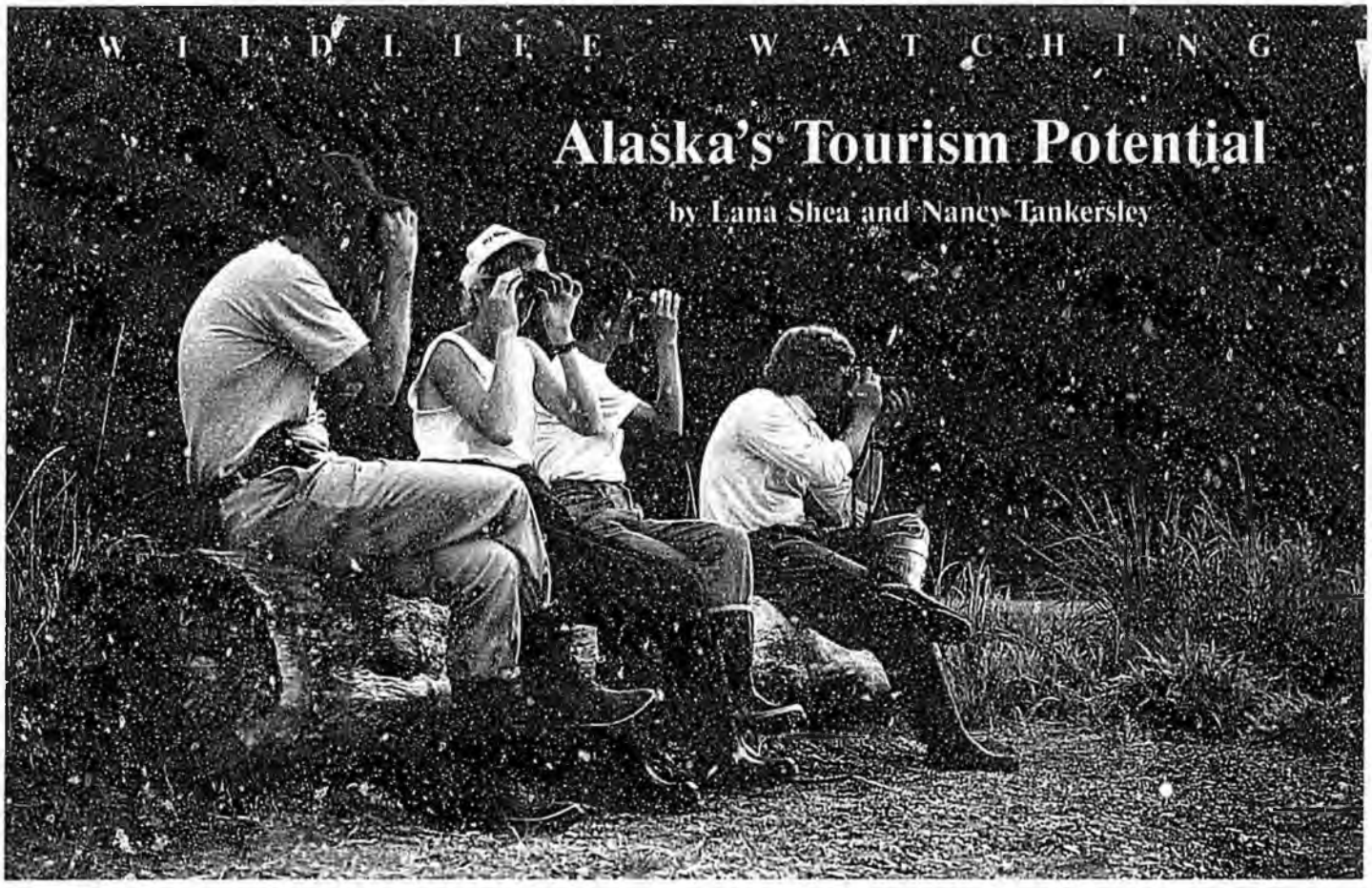
Too often wildlife has been seen as an obstacle to economic development, rather than as an opportunity. Knowledge of the value of Alaska's wildlife will enable decision-makers to better select among resource management and development alternatives.

SuzAnne Miller is a biometrician with the Division of Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G, Anchorage.

WILDLIFE WATCHING

Alaska's Tourism Potential

by Lana Shea and Nancy Tankersley



John Hyde

Alaska has an abundance of wildlife that visitors hope to see including species that are uncommon or endangered elsewhere, such as the brown bear, wolf, caribou, moose, bald eagle, trumpeter swan, peregrine falcon, and common loon. Large concentrations of seabirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, whales, sea lions provide unparalleled viewing specta. Alaska hosts many Asiatic birds that are found in North America.

These wildlife resources are big visitor attractions. Images of wildlife and wildlife recreation have been used successfully by state tourism agencies to lure visitors to Alaska. Passengers in cruise ships along the Inside Passage have indicated that wilderness and wildlife were their principal interests. Bird watchers from around the world flock to western and southwestern Alaska to view Asiatic and Alaska birds. Opportunities for wildlife viewing are even being used to lure convention business.

In Alaska, visitor surveys in 1985 and 1989 showed that interest in wildlife viewing was growing. Wildlife viewing was the activity with the highest level of participation in every region (from 27 percent to 67 percent of visitors in 1989), with birdwatching second. In fact, more visitors participated in wildlife and bird watching than in sport fishing, hunting, hiking, flightseeing or city tours.

The number of visitors to Alaska in the summer of 1990 was approximately 585,000, with summer tourism growing at an average of about 4 percent per year. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service surveys indicate that wildlife viewing tourism more than doubled from 1980 to 1985. All indications are that participation is growing in North America, as well as overseas. This indicates that the potential markets for wildlife viewing tourism in Alaska are large.

Other states and Canadian provinces have recognized the value of wildlife-related tourism and are taking steps to capture more of this growing market. Alaska was identified as a prime competitor of British Columbia (B.C.) in capturing this market because of the similarity of wildlands, wildlife, and viewing opportunities. Although B.C. is more accessible to many U.S. states, Alaska was acknowledged as a more obvious destination. The B.C. report states, "If any region of North America captures imaginations, Alaska is it."

Although Alaska tourism is currently a billion dollar industry, relatively little attention has been paid to the potential worth of wildlife resources to Alaska's economy.

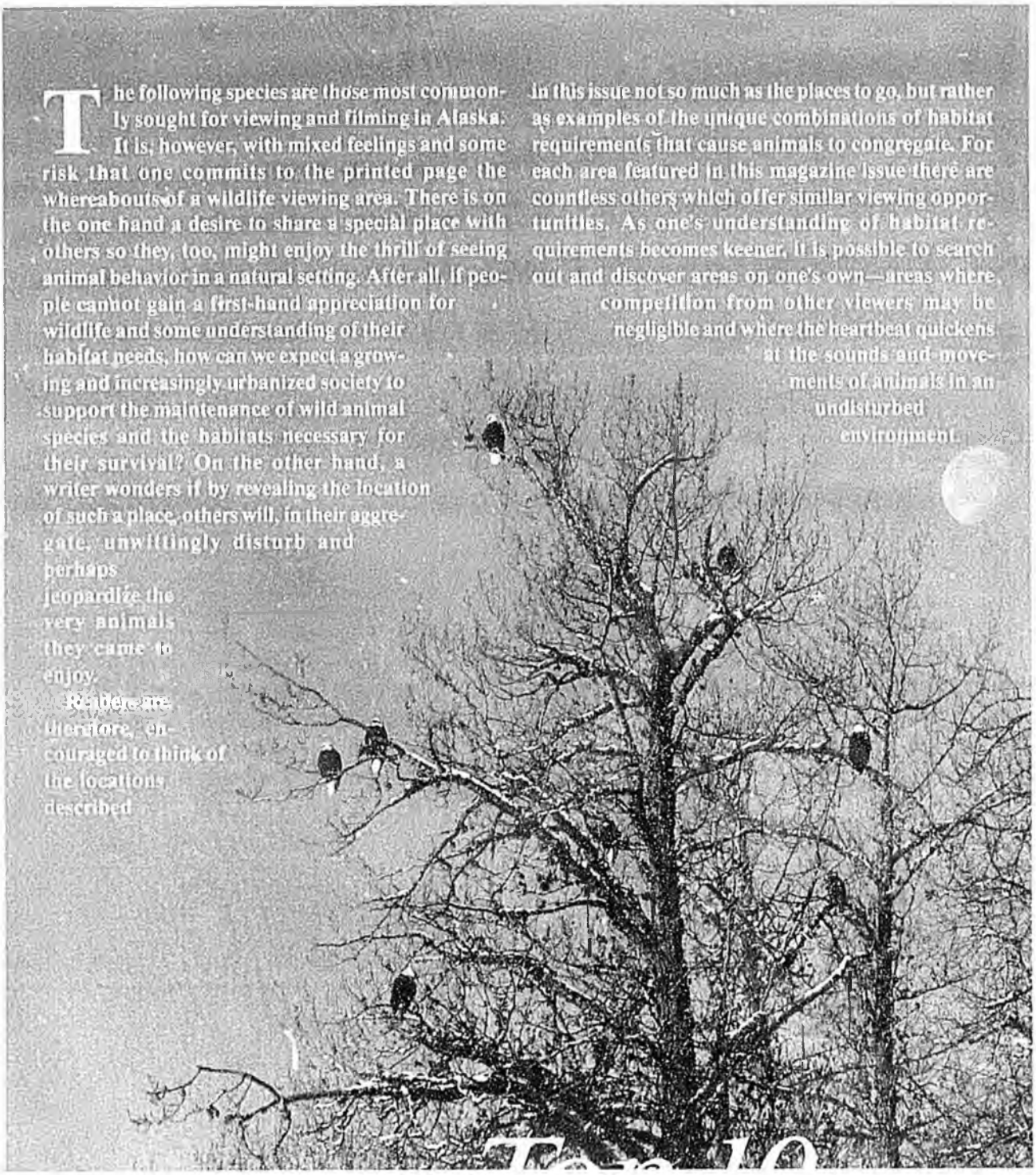
Limited information from southeast Alaska indicates that in 1989 there were more than 180,000 visitors who participated in wildlife viewing, and businesses that marketed wildlife viewing as an important component of their services had 146,000 clients. These clients spent $43 million on charter boat, kayak, canoe, raft, hiking, and flightseeing trips and remote lodges. Another indication of the importance of wildlife viewing to

(Continued on page 41.)

John Hyde

**"Come to Alaska.
Come see the land
where bald eagles soar
above your head.
Where whales dive and
otters splash right
before your eyes.
Where caribou, moose,
and bear roam free."**

Recent advertisement by
Alaska Visitors Association
in several national magazines.



The following species are those most commonly sought for viewing and filming in Alaska. It is, however, with mixed feelings and some risk that one commits to the printed page the whereabouts of a wildlife viewing area. There is on the one hand a desire to share a special place with others so they, too, might enjoy the thrill of seeing animal behavior in a natural setting. After all, if people cannot gain a first-hand appreciation for wildlife and some understanding of their habitat needs, how can we expect a growing and increasingly urbanized society to support the maintenance of wild animal species and the habitats necessary for their survival? On the other hand, a writer wonders if by revealing the location of such a place, others will, in their aggregate, unwittingly disturb and perhaps jeopardize the very animals they came to enjoy.

Readers are, therefore, encouraged to think of the locations described in this issue not so much as the places to go, but rather as examples of the unique combinations of habitat requirements that cause animals to congregate. For each area featured in this magazine issue there are countless others which offer similar viewing opportunities. As one's understanding of habitat requirements becomes keener, it is possible to search out and discover areas on one's own—areas where competition from other viewers may be negligible and where the heartbeat quickens at the sounds and movements of animals in an undisturbed environment.

Top 10

Monthly Viewing Highlights by ADF&G Staff

Here is a summary of some of the wildlife viewing opportunities that exist around Alaska each month. For more local detail, see *A Guide to Wildlife Viewing in Alaska* (see page 39 to get yours FREE).

JANUARY:

Chickadees, woodpeckers, redpolls and jays can be attracted to birdfeeders in forested areas throughout the winter.

Sitka black-tailed deer are sometimes seen along south coastal and southeastern beaches when heavy snow makes travel difficult at higher elevations.

Caribou are frequently visible from highways near Cantwell and Glennallen.

FEBRUARY:

Ravens begin pairing in late winter and their courtship antics and vocalizations can be enjoyed around many towns.

Arctic foxes roam widely across the pack ice searching for seal carcasses left behind by polar bears, but they also frequent northern coastal towns to scavenge.

Moose are frequently visible from highways in the Susitna Valley.

MARCH:

Bird migration begins in most of the state with the arrival of snow buntings.

Owls establish nesting territories by hooting and calling.

APRIL:

Waterfowl, shorebird and raptor migration begins in most of the state (earlier in Southeast).

Walrus, gray whales, and bowhead whales migrate along the southwestern and western coast.

Belukas and harbor seals congregate near southern river mouths to feed on smelt.

MAY:

Bird migration is in full swing. In coastal areas, look for ducks, geese, swans, cranes, loons and shorebirds. The Copper River Delta and some areas of Kachemak Bay host impressive numbers of shorebirds. Some waterfowl also migrate through mountain passes and river valleys.

Tree and violet green swallows look for nesting sites in natural tree cavities or nest boxes around residences.

This is a good time of year to observe bears, wolves, foxes and wolverines in open areas, while their darker coats contrast against remaining snow and before the vegetation leafs out.

JUNE:

Dall sheep ewes and lambs are often seen on the lower slopes of mountains feeding in the newly green tundra vegetation.

Enjoy courtship displays of cackling ptarmigan in alpine tundra, and listen to territorial songs of thrushes, kinglets, warblers and sparrows in forested areas.

Early June is the best time to see rare Asiatic birds in western Alaska.

JULY:

This is the best time to see seabird rookeries containing murres, kittiwakes, puffins and cormorants feeding their young.

Brown and black bears fish for spawning salmon along rivers and streams.

AUGUST:

Look for sharp-shinned hawks, merlins, and golden eagles migrating along ridge tops in alpine areas of central and southcentral Alaska.

After post-calving aggregations form during July, caribou begin migrating to their wintering areas.

SEPTEMBER:

Large concentrations of waterfowl occur in coastal wetlands.

Moose and caribou bulls have full antler racks, shed their velvet and begin aggressive rut behavior. Fall colors provide a magnificent backdrop to the action.

OCTOBER:

Hundreds of Ross' gulls occur offshore near Point Barrow and other coastal spits of land, providing a unique opportunity to view this Siberian bird.

Beavers renovate lodges and dams in southern areas in preparation for winter, mostly active in early morning and late evening.

NOVEMBER:

The largest known concentration of bald eagles in the world occurs along the Chilkat River near Haines, where they feed on spawning chum salmon.

Dall sheep and mountain goats perform rutting displays in alpine areas.

DECEMBER:

Look for wintering waterbirds by southern coastal waters, such as eiders, oldsquaws, scoters, grebes and loons. Bald eagles are often seen here too.

Moose commonly search for food in residential areas of Anchorage, especially when snowfall is deep. Look for tracks of wolves, wolverines, foxes, marten, mink, and river otter in fresh snow.

Eagle

John Hyde

by Marilyn Sigman

Alaska boasts four species of eagles: the better-known bald and golden eagles and the rarer white-tailed and Steller's sea eagles.

It is the stronghold of the bald eagle, which gathers in Alaska's Chilkat Valley during the winter in numbers unequalled by any other spot in the world for any species of eagle. Bald eagles nest throughout Alaska south of the northernmost tundra areas and are year-round residents of the southern coastline that remains ice-free during winter. They are most often located near their primary food source—fish. Thus, they reach often spectacular concentrations when the salmon are spawning in shallow rivers during summer and on into fall or when eulachon (a type of smelt) run several feet thick in estuaries in early spring in areas like Yakutat, Haines, Juneau, and in the Stikine River.

To spot bald eagles, scan the shorelines of the salt water or streams. Look for the prominent habitat feature—the tallest tree, the point of land which commands the best view of the water, or a small island, which is where you might see a perched eagle or a large stick nest. One of the best bets for a sighting is from boats in the broad saltwater bays and channels of southeast Alaska's Inside Passage or of Prince William Sound. You are also likely to spot bald eagles along the road systems of many coastal communities, especially where the roads are close to the ocean or the mouth of a salmon stream during the spawning season.

Golden eagles are more limited in distribution but are often seen during summer by hikers or from cars as the eagles soar along alpine ridges in the Alaska and Brooks Ranges or circle far overhead. A single white-tailed eagle nested only in the Aleutians. Steller's sea eagles are documented on the Alaska Peninsula, and a single Steller's sea eagle is a recent summer resident of the lower Taku River. Trips to view these rare eagles are best arranged through tour guides which specialize in birdwatching tours or through local air charter operators.

Avoid disturbing eagles when they are on the nest or perched. Repeated flight, especially during winter when food supplies are low, can be costly in energy. Closer approaches are often possible by small boat (especially kayaks) or by using your car as a blind near a gathering spot.

Mark Newman

Sea Otter

by Ed Klinkhart

Sea otters, which number over 150,000 in the state, usually occur in shallow water along the shore, particularly in or near kelp beds. From a distance they may be confused with seals, but a sea otter spends most of its time on its back and usually rolls over and dives. A seal will usually sink straight down and disappear. A female otter will carry her pup on her chest. Young pups cannot dive; if you see a small ball of fur that is squealing its head off, leave it alone as its mother is probably feeding nearby. In areas of frequent boat traffic, otters will show little fear and can be closely approached.

Kodiak

Over 4,000 sea otters live near Kodiak. Most may be found near the northern part of Kodiak Island and throughout the waters of Afognak and Shuyak Islands. As sea otters are usually not seen from the city of Kodiak, transportation to outlying areas is necessary.

Seward

A few otters live in Resurrection Bay, and once in a while one will enter the boat harbor. If you want to view sea otters and other types of marine mammals, take a private or commercial tour to the Kenai Fjords. Most tour boats will visit Resurrection Bay, Aialik Bay, and Chiswell Islands. If you go farther west and are visiting the fantastic glaciers in Harris Bay, check out Northwestern Lagoon in the southwest corner of Harris Bay. At times, up to 100 otters may be found there.

Prince William Sound

In Valdez, a small group of sea otters can frequently be seen near the city dock and the state ferry terminal. Occasionally an otter will enter the small boat harbor.

If you are traveling by boat between Valdez and Whittier, watch for otters throughout Port Valdez and all along your route through northern Prince William Sound and in Passage Canal at Whittier, particular-

(Continued on page 20.)

Caribou

K. R. Whitten

by Ken Whitten

Caribou are the most abundant large mammal in Alaska. At approximately 800,000 animals, they substantially outnumber the human population. Caribou inhabit tundra and open taiga forests, are generally easy to approach, and are distributed throughout most of the state except for south coastal regions. Nevertheless, they are not always easy to find and can present some special problems for wildlife viewers.

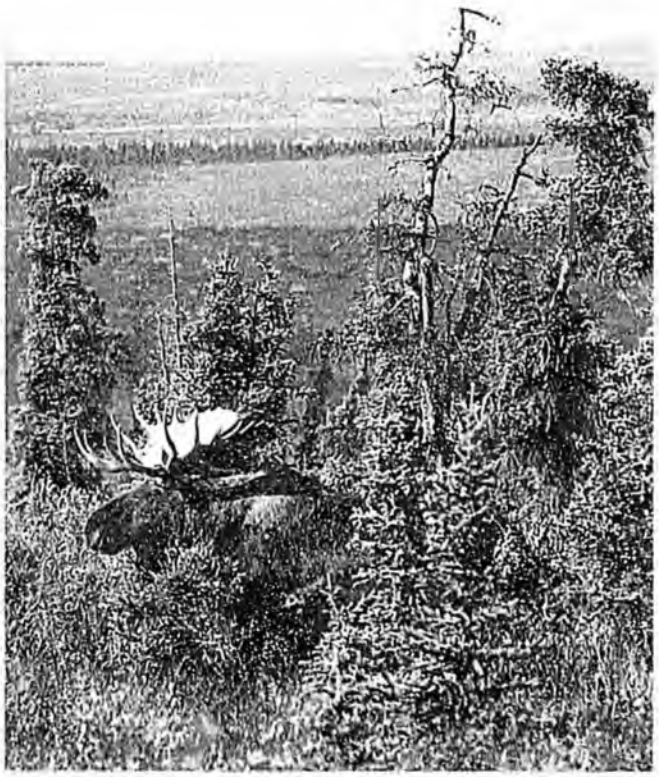
To encounter the really large aggregations of migratory caribou requires flexibility, mobility, and more than a fair share of just plain luck. Alaska's really big herds—the Mulchatna (80,000), the Porcupine (180,000), and the Western Arctic (350,000)—inhabit remote, roadless corners of the state. To ensure success, a caribou viewer needs the flexibility to go where the caribou are, and not to some predetermined location where they may be in most years. The only feasible access is by air, and to maintain contact with the caribou requires a personal or charter aircraft at your disposal.

Most people don't have personal aircraft or don't want to spend their life savings on a long-term charter, even for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Therefore, most folks who seek out the really big herds fly into a preselected spot in generally good caribou range that's usually a little easier (and cheaper) to get to and has nice scenery. They set up a base camp, go hiking, or float down a river. They'll probably see a few caribou, and maybe even a lot, but the chances of finding the "motherlode" of caribou this way are pretty slim.

Although aerial access is best, that doesn't mean you cannot view caribou from roads. Far from it! A drive along the Denali Highway or through Denali Park will almost always turn up a few caribou for visitors in summer or fall. The North Slope portion of the Dalton Highway is almost a sure thing any time of the year.

Although closed to private vehicles, the Dalton Highway or "Haul Road" is open to business traffic, including tour busses, and is becoming one of Alaska's more popular tourist routes. Travelers along the Taylor, Richardson, and Glenn highways may be rewarded with sightings of caribou during late fall and winter. Recently, the Alaska Highway between Tok and the Yukon border has been particularly productive for viewing wintering bands of caribou from the Nelchina, Mentasta, and Fortymile herds.

Hikers can reach caribou reasonably easily on the Malcomb Plateau south of the Alaska Highway between Delta and Tok, or on backpack trips of varying length from the Denali Highway. In many years caribou can be found during June and October near Glacier Mountain off Taylor Highway. Caribou are also accessible in the mountains of the Kenai Peninsula and even on the flats near the Kenai Airport.



John Hyde

Moose

by David Kelleyhouse

Moose are the easiest of all Alaskan big game animals to view. Moose are well distributed throughout most of southcentral and interior Alaska, they are huge (over 1,000 pounds), and in summer love to venture out into Alaska's many roadside ponds to seek nutritious aquatic vegetation.

Some of the better moose viewing areas are found in southcentral Alaska from Glennallen down to the Kenai Peninsula. In the Interior, good moose viewing areas are Donnelly Dome south of Delta and along the Chena Hot Springs Road east of Fairbanks.

To view moose during summer months in interior Alaska, it is best to travel at night (it's light enough to see moose nearly all night long). Moose are most active when the light dims and temperatures cool during the evening hours. Use binoculars to search around the margins of ponds from vantages afforded by many highway turnouts.

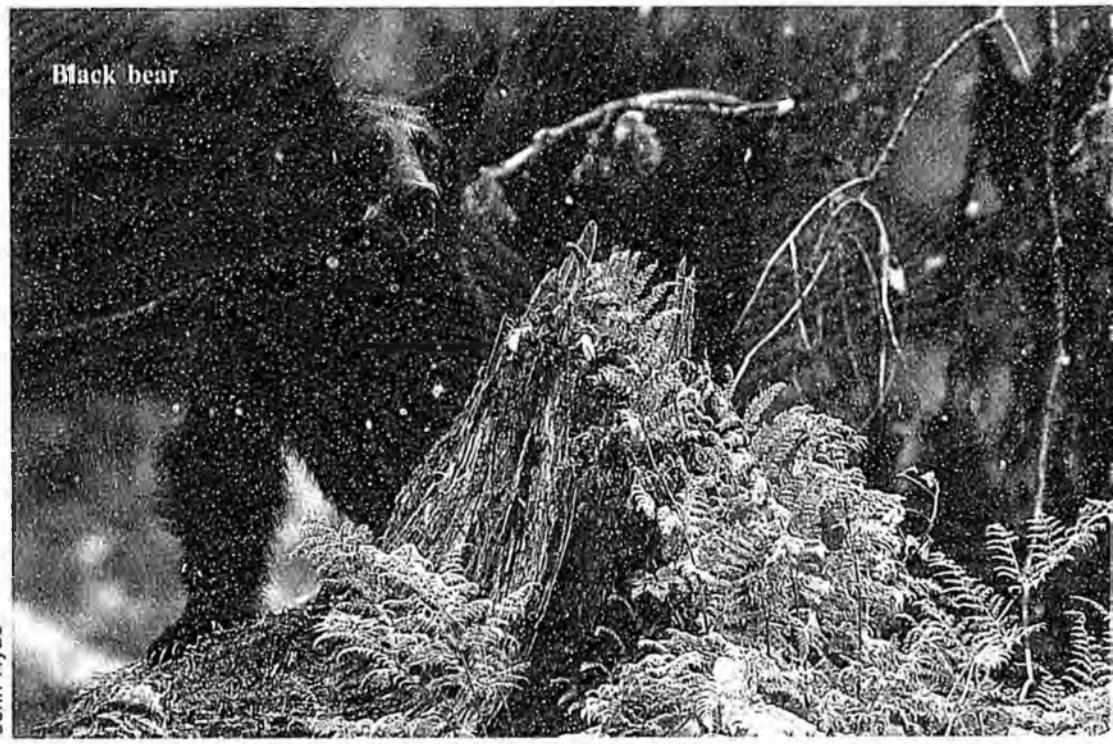
The surest way to view moose in Alaska during the summer is to charter a light aircraft for a "flightseeing" tour offered by most Alaskan air taxi companies. Experienced bush pilots know the best places to see moose because these charter operators spend so much time in the air. A flight may also reward you with a bird's-eye view of Dall sheep, glaciers, and maybe even a bear or wolf. Again, be sure to schedule such a flight either early in the morning or late in the evening when wildlife tends to be most active in open areas.

Don't approach a moose too closely if you see one near the road. Cow moose with young cinnamon-colored calves can be particularly dangerous. Bulls are less aggressive except during late September when the breeding season, or rut, begins. All moose should be considered potentially dangerous because of their sheer size and power. These are wild animals and can instantly change demeanor from docile to threatening.

If you plan to photograph moose or other wildlife, consider using a camera equipped with a good telephoto lens and a sturdy tripod. If you have a 35 mm camera, choose a high speed film with a high ASA value (it's always printed on the box). Remember, most photo opportunities will probably occur under low light conditions and usually at considerable distance.

When viewing the ungainly moose, you should try to appreciate the animal for what it is—a large mammal uniquely adapted to life in the far north. The large ears and bulbous nose serve the moose well for sensing predators such as wolves and bears or potential mates during the rut. The long, hollow hairs ward off temperatures down to -70° F during winter. The moose's long legs allow it to wade into ponds in summer or through deep snow in winter in an endless quest for food.

Bear



Black bear

John Hyde

Species	Location	Season/ Dates	Access
Polar Bear	Kaktovik on the Northern Alaskan coast	Mid-September to when ice forms, usually in mid-October	Commercial airline to Kaktovik
Black Bear	Anan Creek in southeast Alaska near Wrangell	July through August	By boat or floatplane from Ketchikan or Wrangell
Grizzly Bear	Denali National Park and Preserve in interior Alaska	When the road opens til when the road closes, usually May-September	Parks Highway to park. Bus trips available.
Brown Bear	McNeil River State Game Sanctuary on the Alaska Peninsula	Mid-June through late August	Floatplane from Homer
Brown Bear	Brooks River in Katmai National Park and Preserve on the Alaska Peninsula	Peaks mid-July and again in September	Commercial jet to King Salmon-floatplane to Brooks camp.
Brown Bear	Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary at Pack Creek, Admiralty Island	Mid-July through mid-August	Floatplane or boat from Juneau
Brown Bear	Fraser River on Kodiak Island	Early July until early August	Floatplane via Kodiak to Fraser Lake

by Larry Aumiller

Viewing bears in Alaska requires careful planning before ever stepping foot into the wild. Although bear populations are thought to be healthy in most parts of Alaska, they are usually not concentrated in one place and can be difficult to locate.

Bears are also potentially dangerous although not nearly to the extent most people believe, and they require special considerations when your intent is to purposefully seek them out to photograph or watch them. It is recommended that people do not directly approach bears. In general, it is better to position yourself near areas where bears are commonly seen and let them move around you. Viewing in this manner allows bears to choose a distance that is comfortable for them.

The safest way to see bears is to visit the regular viewing areas listed below. These areas have bears that are somewhat used to seeing people and are generally less fearful when they do see humans. More importantly, these areas usually have management plans to minimize bear/human conflicts and field personnel to assist visitors.

In addition to these areas, bears can be seen at times in all of Alaska. The key to finding bears is an understanding of what bears eat. Except for denning, bears spend all of their time where they can best meet their nutritional requirements.

Long lenses, careful planning, and caution are recommended.

Facilities/Improvements	What you will see	Restrictions/Permits
Commercial accommodations in Kaktovik	The probability of seeing bears is further enhanced when whales are killed and butchered in the fall.	None
FS cabin, maintained trail, observatory	Black bears and occasional brown bears fish for salmon in creek	Reservations required for cabin well in advance
Tent campground and cook cabin	Grizzly bears graze and travel over tundra	Require campground reservations. Bus travel on most of road
Commercial lodge, campground and viewing platform	Numerous brown bears fish for salmon. Activity peaks in late July	April 1 application deadline for lottery permits issued for June, July, and August
Viewing platform, food cache, individual tent camping	Brown bears fish for red salmon in the Brooks River and at Brooks Falls	Campground limit, reservations necessary
Hotels, cabins, both inside and outside of the park	Brown bears fish for salmon in Pack Creek and intertidal area	Pre-registration recommended
Tents and cookshed provided	Brown bears catching salmon in Fraser River	Pre-registration required

Locations	Transportation	Special Points
St. Lazaria Island, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge	Commercial air or cruise ships to Sitka; charter boats out of Sitka.	A large tufted puffin colony (4,000 birds) is readily accessible by charter boats in good weather. There are few horned puffins.
Glacier Bay, Glacier Bay National Park	Commercial air or cruise ships to the park; charter boats from park headquarters or private vessels from Juneau.	These are very small colonies totalling about 100 puffins, mainly tufted. Sightings are reliable and not limited by rough seas because of the protected nature of the bay.
Chiswell Islands, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge	Charter boats out of Seward; Seward is not road accessible.	These are the easiest large puffin colonies (over 5,000 of each species) to visit. Numerous large tour boats leave Seward for these colonies every morning.
Gull Island in Kachemak Bay, Seldovia Native Association	Charter boats out of Homer; Homer is road-accessible.	This is the easiest colony to visit because it is only three miles from shore in a protected bay and accessible in any weather. However, there are only a few hundred tufted puffins, with only an occasional horned puffin present.
Barren Islands, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge	The state ferry *Tustemena* from Homer to Kodiak or specially charted boats out of Homer; Homer is road-accessible.	These are large, impressive colonies totalling over 150,000 tufted puffins and 10,000 horned puffins. The charter industry has not yet developed to provide regular service because of the distance from Homer (50 miles) and rough seas. A boat would have to be specially chartered.
Kodiak Island, various ownerships	Commercial air or the ferry to the island; roads go near some colonies or charter boats out of Kodiak.	Mainly tufted puffins. Puffins can occasionally be seen in the water from the road. Numerous small colonies located on offshore islands near the town of Kodiak and large colonies at the Triplets and Cape Chiniak can be viewed from charter boats.
Baby Islands, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge	State ferry *Tustemena* from Homer to Dutch Harbor or possibly a charter out of Unalaska; commercial air or the ferry to Unalaska.	This is an impressive colony of 150,000 tufted puffins. It has not been exploited by tourism because of its remoteness and the lack of charter operators in Unalaska. Thousands of birds can be seen in the water from the ferry, but the ferry does not go close to the colony.
Pribilof Islands, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge	Commercial air service to the islands; guided land tours access the colonies.	There are 5,000 mostly horned puffins on St. Paul and 30,000 on St. George. This is one of the easiest places to photograph puffins because it is one of the few areas where colonies can be approached from land.

John Hyde

Puffin

by Poppy Benson

Opposite is a list of areas where both tufted and horned puffins can be viewed. The best viewing is in summer, June through the end of August, all during the day. Puffins will be found on steep grassy slopes and cliffs. Like many other seabirds, puffins nest underground. The toes of their webbed feet have sharp claws that are used to scratch out burrows three to four feet deep into the steep hillsides of their nesting areas. At rockier sites where soil is scarce or non-existent, puffins nest on rocky slopes or cliff faces. Puffins may desert their nests if disturbed by humans during nesting. They are not a vocal bird. Binoculars or spotting scopes will help in viewing. Prepare for cold, rainy weather with the likelihood of rough seas.

Salmon

Spawning sockeye salmon

John Hyde

by Kent Roth

Alaska offers unequalled opportunities to view migrating and spawning salmon in their natural environment. While five species of Pacific salmon return to spawn in Alaska's streams during the summer and fall, not all are normally available to see at any given time each year. As a general rule, chinook salmon are the first to return each summer, primarily during June and July. Pink, sockeye, and chum salmon return to most area streams during July and August, while coho salmon generally arrive last in August and September.

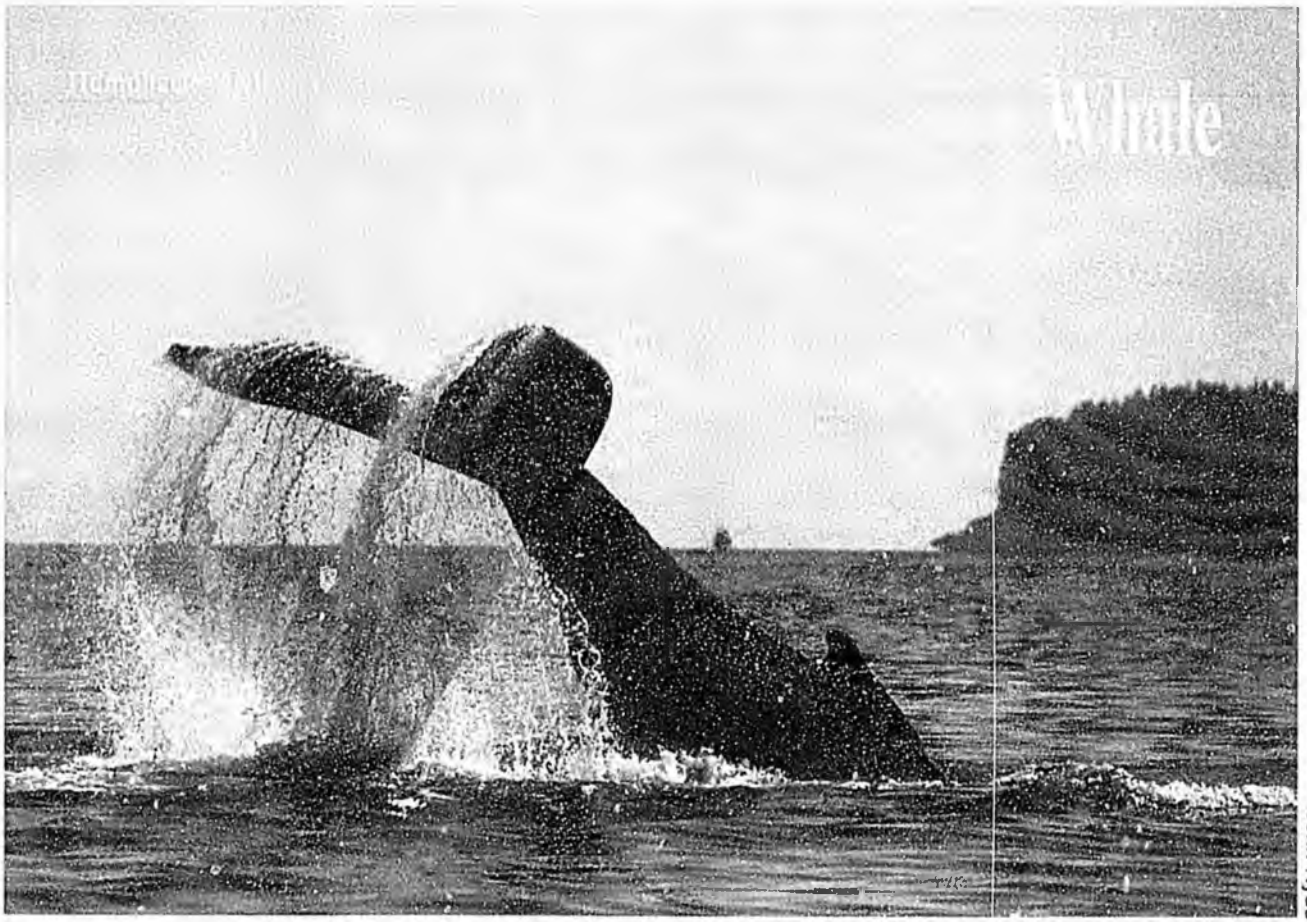
To view fish in Alaska, you need only to find a clearwater stream that supports a run of salmon. A pair of polarized glasses can help to enhance the viewing. Counting weirs or natural stream obstructions such as small waterfalls are good places to view migrating salmon. While pink and chum salmon often spawn in the intertidal reaches of coastal streams, most salmon migrate upstream to areas of clear flowing water.

In southeast Alaska, most of the coastal streams have salmon present during at least a part of each year. Near Juneau, one of the best viewing areas is Steep Creek, which is on the road leading to the Mendenhall Visitors Center. Sockeye are abundant from late July through early September in this stream. Ketchikan Creek near the city of Ketchikan has three species of salmon which provide viewing opportunities from late June through September. In Prince William Sound, the most convenient salmon viewing areas are in Valdez at City Limits Creek and in Cordova along the roadside streams.

In the Anchorage area, chinook salmon can be seen during July and early August in the South Fork of Eagle River, Ship Creek downstream of the Elmendorf Hatchery, Campbell Creek, and Potter Marsh along the boardwalk. Ship and Campbell Creeks and Potter Marsh are also good places to observe coho salmon from late August through September. Good viewing sites in late summer are the Bodenburg Ponds along the Old Glenn Highway and the spawning channels and viewing area in Portage Valley.

Near Fairbanks, numerous access points along the Chena Hotsprings Road provide opportunities to view chinook salmon in the Chena River from mid-July through early August. The Steese Highway parallels portions of the Chatanika River with viewing opportunities for both chinook and chum salmon, also from mid-July through early August. For those who may be traveling the Richardson Highway, sockeye salmon returning to the upper reaches of the Gulkana River drainage can be seen at the viewing area just downstream from the outlet of Summit Lake.

The numerous hatcheries around the state also provide excellent salmon viewing opportunities.



John Hyde

by Marilyn Sigman

While 14 different species of whales have been observed in Alaska's waters, the two species sighted with the greatest predictability are humpback whales and orca (killer) whales. Whales can sometimes be viewed from land, such as beluga whales, which occasionally travel up Cook Inlet near Anchorage, and gray whales, which may be sighted during their spring and fall migrations, but most sightings occur from on board boats and ships. Please remember, almost all species of whales in Alaskan waters are endangered and all are protected as marine mammals.

Humpback whales

Most humpback whales arrive on their summer feeding grounds in Alaska between mid-June and late July and stay until late September. The four major feeding grounds are in southeast Alaska, Yakutat Bay, Prince William Sound, and the western Gulf of Alaska.

Look for a thick pear-shaped spout or "blow" to identify a surfacing humpback. The "humped" back of this species can frequently be seen as the whale dives. Its tail flukes are held high as it slowly slides beneath the surface. You may actually hear the slap of long thin white flippers on the water or a watery explosion as a humpback breaches, propelling itself completely out of the water and landing on its side with a tremendous crash and splash.

In July and early August, humpbacks can often be viewed in Icy Strait, near the entrance to and inside Glacier Bay National Park, in Stephens Passage, or in southwestern Prince William Sound. One of the lesser-known areas and times to view humpbacks is Frederick Sound in southeast Alaska around

(Continued on page 20.)

WILDLIFE VIEWING

Sea Otter

(Continued from page 11.)

ly in the Port Wells/College Fjord area.

Cordova has the distinction of being near the largest number of sea otters—1,000—of any Alaskan city.

Southeastern

Sea otters were re-introduced by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in the late 1960s. Since that time, they have spread along the southeast Alaska coast, most occurring along the outer coast north of Sitka. They may commonly be seen in the area near Elfin Cove on Chichagof Island. If you are in Sitka and plan to visit the St. Lazaria Island bird rookeries, watch for sea otters there and around the southern end of Kruzof Island.

Whale

(Continued from page 19.)

Brothers Island in early September. Here, a late bloom of krill concentrates many of the whales from the entire region and provides opportunities to view many whales lunge-feeding, "bubble-net" feeding, and displaying.

Orcas

Orcas are perhaps the easiest whale to identify and one of the most fascinating. The first sight of an orca is usually the tall, dark dorsal fin, which can be 6 feet tall in males but is more curved and smaller in females and younger males. A closer look at surfacing orcas reveals the striking pattern of sharply-contrasting white and black.

Orcas are frequently seen in groups or pods. Resident pods can be found in the bays and inlets of southeast Alaska, Glacier Bay, and in Prince William Sound. Other pods are transient and travel over great distances in search of food. With both residents and transient pods occurring in Alaskan waters south of the Bering Sea, the possibility of seeing orcas always exists when travelling by boat.

Thanks to the following authors for writing the sections on the "Top Ten" species:

Larry Aumiller (Bear),
Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G, Anchorage

Poppy Benson (Puffin),
Outdoor Recreation Planner, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Homer

Wayne Heimer (Sheep),
Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G, Fairbanks

David Kelleyhouse (Moose),
Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G, Tok

Ed Klinkhart (Otter),
Retired from ADF&G (1960-79), Anchorage

Kent Roth (Salmon),
Sport Fish, ADF&G, Anchorage

Marilyn Sigman (Eagle and Whale),
Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G, Douglas

Robert Stephenson (Wolf),
Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G, Fairbanks

Ken Whitten (Caribou),
Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G, Fairbanks

GUIDE TO COLLECTING, BUYING AND SELLING WILDLIFE SOUVENIRS

by Marilyn Sigman

Finding an eagle feather on the beach or a moose antler on the trail is a special Alaska experience. For many people, seeing these signs of wildlife is reward enough, while others want to take something home to prolong the experience.

If you are a collector, you should be aware that there are laws concerning possession of wildlife parts that you find. While you may think that taking "just one" of something can't harm wildlife, remember that the laws were established to protect wildlife from illegal harvests and to protect species that are rare or endangered. Also, remember that the remains of wildlife, as they decay, play a part in the natural cycle if left where they are.

Here is a brief summary of state and federal laws that pertain to acquiring souvenirs.

1. Leave feathers and any other parts of birds, eggs, or nests where you find them. It is illegal to possess any part of a migratory bird, except when legally harvested. This pertains to most species of birds in Alaska except grouse, ptarmigan, crows, waterfowl, starlings, and snowy owls in a few areas of the state.

2. Parts of nonendangered marine mammals can be kept, but they must be registered with the National Marine Fisheries Service (offices in Anchorage and Juneau) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (offices in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau, and refuge headquarters in several locations). The majority of whale species in Alaskan waters are classified as endangered, so it's best to leave whale bones where you find them.

3. You can legally possess any part of a land mammal except the edible meat that you find, provided the animal died of natural causes. It's illegal to possess any part of a road-killed animal or animal that was killed illegally without special permission of state or federal wildlife officials.

Help stop illegal trade in wildlife parts. To protect Alaska's wildlife, including rare and endangered wildlife species, learn the rules for legal sales and purchases.

1. Big game trophies and bear skins can be sold only by people with a special permit from the Commissioner of Fish and Game. (These are rarely issued.) No other parts of a bear can be purchased, sold, or bartered. The skulls of big game cannot be bought or sold. Big game species are black bear, brown bear, bison, caribou, Dall sheep, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat, muskoxen, wolf, and wolverine.

2. Antlers or horns naturally shed or permanently removed from the skull may be purchased, sold or bartered, except in Unit 23 where caribou antlers must be naturally shed (that is, caribou antlers cut off of skulls can't be bought, sold or bartered).

3. The meat of game animals cannot be bought or sold except for hares and rabbits, and caribou in a portion of the state. The meat can be bartered under some circumstances.

4. Items made from walrus ivory or fossilized ivory, whale baleen, and other parts of marine mammals are sold in many giftshops. The use of Alaska marine mammals by Alaska Native artists is traditional and specifically permitted by the Marine Mammals Protection Act. However, it is illegal for anyone who is not an Alaska Native to buy raw (unworked) ivory or any part of a marine mammal that has not been "worked" by an Alaska Native and made into a traditional Native handicraft.

5. The importation of elephant ivory is illegal, but be aware that legal elephant ivory may be found in some Alaska giftshops. Elephant ivory can be distinguished from walrus ivory by its white color and criss-cross or striped grain. New (unfossilized) walrus ivory is mostly white but has a wide mottled core surrounded by a broad layer of smooth white ivory without any grain. "Fossil" walrus ivory will be slightly colored, usually in a shade of tan or brown.

For more details on clarification of wildlife laws, contact Alaska State Troopers, Fish and Wildlife Protection Division, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement.

REPORT ANY ILLEGAL OFFERS OF WILDLIFE PARTS FOR SALE TO
Alaska Fish and Game Safeguard. Call 800-478-3377.

Wolf

by Robert Stephenson

John Hyde

Wolves are encountered in almost every habitat in Alaska, but the opportunity to watch wolves for long periods is greatest in open country. Alpine and subalpine habitat, as well as large, open river beds, provide best viewing opportunities. Some of the best areas include the northern mountains and foothills of the Brooks Range (including Denali Park), and the Chugach, Wrangell, and Talkeetna mountains. Large open river channels at lower elevations such as the Nabesna, Robertson, Johnson, and Wood rivers in eastern Alaska also offer good possibilities.

Wolves can be seen at any time of the year, but the summer months are the most practical. The warmer months are probably best for ground-based wolf watching. From mid-May through August, most adult wolves center their activity at dens or rendezvous sites where the pups are raised. It is best to stay well away from active homesites because wolves are sensitive to human intrusion in these areas. Older wolves hunt extensively around these sites and bring back food to feed the pups. These hunting adults can be seen during summer without disturbing dens.

Whether you reach a remote site using aircraft, or take advantage of roads or trails, you will greatly increase your chances by using a good quality spotting scope (variable power is best), folding tripod for the scope, a comfortable seat, an elevated lookout (a bluff or mountainside), and relaxed and patient attitude. Under these conditions, you have a good chance to see wolves as far away as 2 to 5 miles. A spotting scope will reveal a surprising amount of detail even at long range. Wolves, caribou, and Dall sheep can be seen at similar distances.

During summer, wolves are usually active during early morning and evening when temperatures are cooler, and when other animals are most active also. One of the nice things about wolf watching is that it puts you in an ideal position to watch other wildlife and enjoy the landscape as well. Alaska's long summer 'nights' are great times to be out and serious wolf watchers often sleep during the day, like wolves, in order to take advantage of the better light and wildlife activity in the evening and early morning. Because weather can be chilly, even in midsummer, it is important to take warm clothes (winter gear is often just right for long periods of inactivity) and otherwise make yourself comfortable.

Wolves are great travelers and their tracks can be seen in soft soil, especially along waterways, and are easy to find and observe in snow. Wolf howls are also commonly heard in Alaska from late summer through winter, especially during the breeding season in February and March. Wolves often respond to human howls and these can be used to locate wolves.

John Hyde

Dall Sheep

by Wayne Heimer

Dall sheep are probably the easiest of Alaska's big game species to see. They are completely white and contrast starkly with the green meadows and dark rocks of their summer alpine habitat. Dall sheep can be seen from the highway in many areas of the state where treeless alpine tundra is nearby. The Cooper Landing Closed Area at Mile 41.1 of the Sterling Highway on the Kenai Peninsula; at Miles 104-106 along the Seward Highway; the Eklutna/Twin Peaks area (use the Glenn Highway Mile 26.3 exit); the Sheep Mountain Closed Area near Mile 106 and Mile 116 of the Glenn Highway, and Denali National Park are the best places to see sheep from the highway or at marked pull-outs. Powerful optics like spotting scopes or high-powered (at least 10X) binoculars will help your viewing.

Dall sheep are rewarding to watch because they are intensely social animals and offer the serious observer an opportunity to see and interpret a fascinating series of behavioral displays. Many of these displays are well understood by humans as well as by sheep. An observer has only to recognize and interpret these behavioral displays to understand what is happening within the band to gather an increased appreciation for the importance of the social 'pecking order' in Dall sheep ecology.

The classic reference on sheep behavior is *Mountain Sheep, a Study in Behavior and Evolution* by Valerius Geist (University of Chicago Press, 1971). This reference will help the serious wildlife watcher make the most of watching sheep.

If you wish to go beyond casual roadside viewing, considerable effort is required. You will have to join the sheep in their environment. This requires that you equip yourself and develop the necessary skills and physical endurance. In short, you must prepare to go "sheep hunting" even though you do not plan to shoot one with a gun. Several good reference books covering equipment and techniques are available. The classic in this field is *Sheep and Sheep Hunting* by Jack O'Conner (Winchester Press, 1974). The tips it provides on stalking and advice on optics and backpacking equipment are common to both hunting and watching. You might also ask an experienced sheep hunter for advice. One hint: being downwind is more important than being out of sight.

The best times and places to see a broad array of Dall sheep behavior displays are during the rut, which is in late November and early December wherever sheep can be approached; and during the last half of June when sheep congregate at mineral licks.

If you are interested in this sort of "heavy duty" sheep watching, contact the ADF&G office in the area where you want to watch Dall sheep, and our wildlife biologists will be glad to help you.

GUIDELINES FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING

- Observe animals from the distance they consider safe.
- Approach wild animals slowly, quietly, and indirectly. Avoid sudden movements or surprise encounters at close range.
- Use binoculars for closer looks and long-range telephoto lenses for close-up photographs.
- Avoid the use of tape-recorded calls or other attraction devices.
- Always view nesting birds from a distance. Avoid the nests and never handle eggs or young.
- Avoid coming between or disturbing female animals and their young.
- Don't handle or adopt "orphan" animals, as parents are usually nearby.
- Don't feed wild animals. Feeding wild animals is against Alaska state law.
- Dispose of garbage properly. Wildlife can be endangered by discarded plastic or other garbage. Carry out all non-biodegradeable trash from the backcountry. Dispose of food and human waste by burial at least 200 feet from water sources.
- Leash and control your pets.
- Learn bear safety. Write *Alaska's Wildlife* for a copy of "The Bears and You."

Wildlife Viewing Turnouts on Alaska's Highways

by John Wright

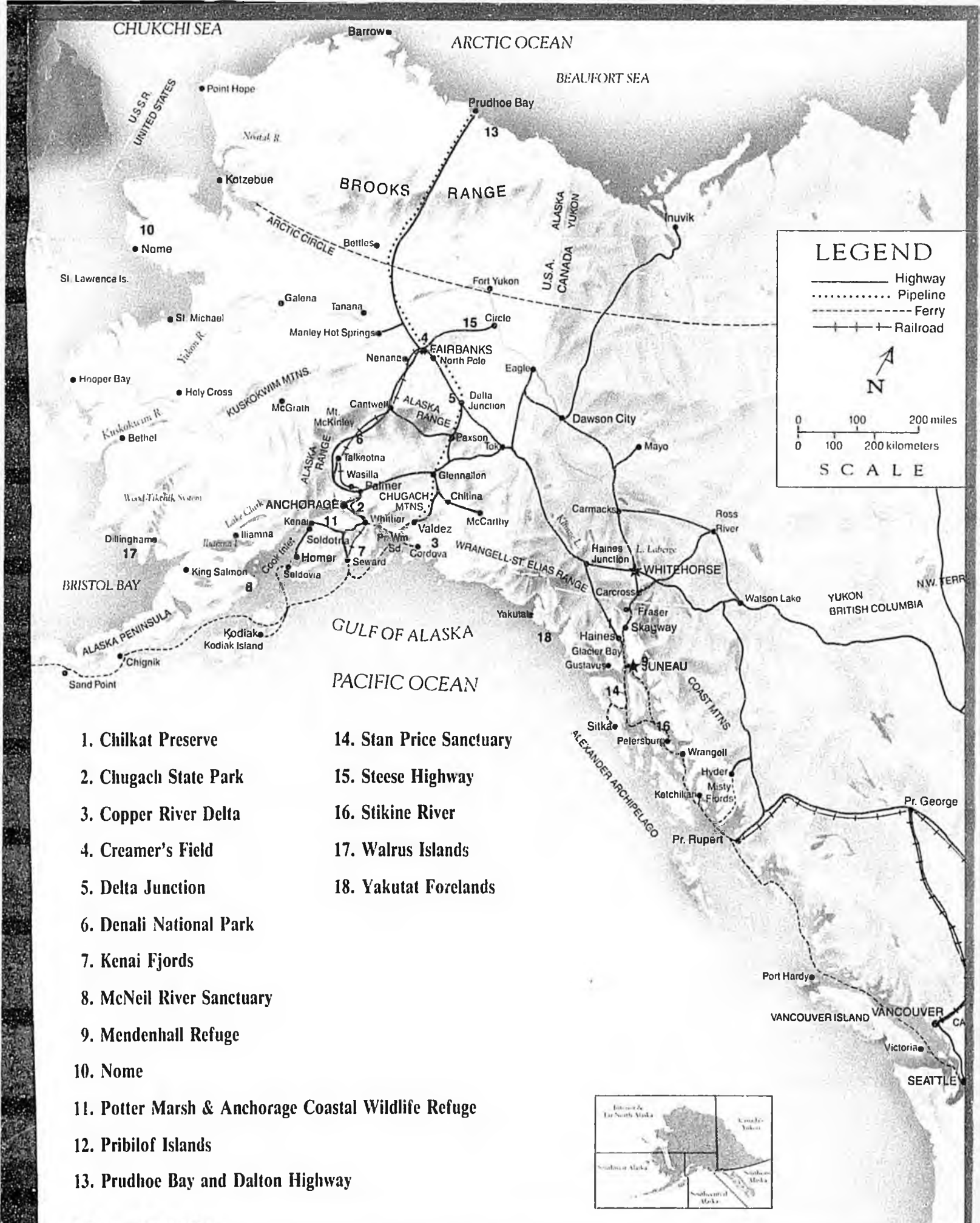
Many travellers on Alaska's highways wonder why they don't see more wildlife as they pass through vast stretches of wilderness. Part of the answer lies in the fact that productivity in the north is generally low—there are fewer animals per unit area in the north compared to warmer regions to the south. In many cases, however, wildlife are present and available for viewing, if only the drivers knew where to stop, the best times to look, and in which habitats to concentrate their search.

In the past year, Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) biologists in Fairbanks suggested that the Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) develop more roadside turnouts for wildlife viewing. The DOT responded enthusiastically and together with ADF&G organized an advisory group of experts in geology, botany, wildlife, and other fields of natural and human history to assist them in selecting turnout locations. Eventually we would like to expand the roadside turnout program and develop an integrated system of roadside interpretive sites throughout the state highway system, including the marine highway.

Initial efforts have focused on identifying sites along sections of Interior highways as they came up for repair or upgrading by DOT planners. Sections reviewed as of September 1990 included parts of the Alaska, Denali, Elliott, Glenn, Parks, Richardson, and Tok Cutoff highways. Limited only by safety and engineering constraints, DOT has been very receptive and is incorporating most suggestions into their work plans.

Natural history experts and highway planners are aiming to have the first of a new series of turnouts in place for the 1992 celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the AlCan Highway. The "Alaska Highway Rendezvous '92" is being promoted by representatives from Alaska, the Yukon, and British Columbia. In Alaska, the Great Alaska Highways Society is developing a year-long calendar of special events and memorial programs along the Alaska highway system.

John Wright is a wildlife biologist with the Division of Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G, Fairbanks.



1. Chilkat Preserve
2. Chugach State Park
3. Copper River Delta
4. Creamer's Field
5. Delta Junction
6. Denali National Park
7. Kenai Fjords
8. McNeil River Sanctuary
9. Mendenhall Refuge
10. Nome
11. Potter Marsh & Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge
12. Pribilof Islands
13. Prudhoe Bay and Dalton Highway
14. Stan Price Sanctuary
15. Steese Highway
16. Stikine River
17. Walrus Islands
18. Yakutat Forelands

John Hyde

Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge

Location and Access

Creamer's Refuge is located on the northern edge of Fairbanks, less than two miles from downtown. A large parking lot along College Road provides a good location to view birds in the fields. From the parking area, a self-guided nature trail passes through the forest and muskeg habitats. The original dairy farmhouse is being restored to serve as an interpretive center for the refuge.

Viewing Opportunities and Seasons

The main attraction of this urban state wildlife refuge is the thousands of migrating waterfowl and other birds that stop over in the cultivated fields each spring. A few hundred sandhill cranes remain through the summer months after most of the waterfowl have continued on to more northerly nesting areas. The forest and muskeg habitats on the refuge are home to a variety of mammals such as moose, red fox, snowshoe hare and red squirrel, and birds like the gray jay, black-capped and boreal chickadee, and nearly 150 other species. The historic barns and farm buildings, remnants of the gold rush period at the turn of the century, still stand in the fields.

Habitat

While most attention is focused on the farm fields, these cultivated fields actually comprise only a small fraction of the refuge. Most of the 1,776-acre refuge is covered by the vegetation types common to Interior floodplains, mixed spruce-birch forests and black spruce forests, shrub, and muskeg with ponds and seasonal wetlands. Recent habitat enhancement projects, in addition to the cultivated fields, include waterfowl nesting ponds, and crane roosting and feeding areas.

Advice and Cautions

Even though Creamer's is right in town, be prepared for mosquitoes during summer months.

Prudhoe Bay and the Dalton Highway

Location and Access

Prudhoe Bay can be reached only by air or tour bus. Access within the oil fields and on the northern portion of the Dalton Highway is restricted. Combined tours of the oil field and the Dalton Highway are available.

Viewing Opportunities and Seasons

An abundance of activity is packed into the short summer on Alaska's north slope. As snow melts off the tundra plain in early June, caribou calve and migratory birds arrive, court, and begin nesting. Many of the birds, such as loons, eiders, oldsquaws, and a variety of shorebirds nest only in northern wetlands and are of particular interest to bird watchers and others traveling to Alaska. Arctic fox are found in the oil fields, while grizzly bears and muskoxen are often seen a short distance down the Dalton Highway. Along the highway south to the Yukon River, moose, Dall sheep, and black bear also may be seen.

Habitat

The arctic coastal plain is mostly flat, wet tundra. Lakes and ponds are abundant throughout the region. From Prudhoe, the highway passes through upland and alpine tundra and then the boreal forest as it nears the Yukon River.

Advice and Cautions

Bring warm clothing, even in summer. If you are fortunate to arrive during warm, calm weather have a good supply of mosquito repellent ready.

Above: Caribou cross river in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge during fall migration.
Right: Mt. McKinley in Denali National Park.

Denali National Park

Location and Access

Denali National Park may be reached from Anchorage or Fairbanks via the Parks Highway, the Alaska Railroad, or by small aircraft. Access within the park is strictly regulated. The National Park Service and private concessionaires offer shuttle bus service on the park road. Registration for camping and overnight hiking is required.

Viewing Opportunities and Seasons

The park provides excellent opportunities to view an assortment of wildlife as well as scenery. Grizzly bear, moose, Dall sheep, caribou, red fox, and sometimes even wolves may be seen, as well as beaver, marmot, pika, and arctic ground squirrel. For birdwatchers, there are resident species, such as the willow and rock ptarmigan, hawk owl, and gyrfalcon, and exotic long-distance migrants like the long-tailed jaeger, northern wheatear, and arctic warbler. Most visitors come to Denali in the summer, but there are opportunities to enjoy the park in the winter as well.

Habitat

Much of the park is above tree-line, with alpine tundra, moist tundra and shrub habitats common. Forests are mostly black spruce, with some spruce-birch woods at lower altitude. Rivers, ponds, lakes, and glaciers abound.

Advice and Cautions

Denali is the most popular tourist destination in central Alaska. To prevent overcrowding, disturbance to wildlife, and destruction of fragile habitats, a number of regulations on access and behavior have been established. Follow bear safety instructions.

John Hyde

Steese Highway

Location and Access

The highway connects Fairbanks with the village of Circle on the Yukon River. Several campgrounds are located along the route, and side roads provide access to the White Mountains area.

Viewing Opportunities and Seasons

The Steese Highway provides access to several areas of interest: Eagle Summit, a number of trails and rivers within the White Mountains National Recreation Area and Steese National Conservation Area, historic and active gold mines, the Yukon River, and a hot springs. Eagle Summit is one of the most easily accessible examples of northern alpine tundra in the region. Alpine tundra animals include the hoary marmot, pika, caribou, ptarmigan, golden eagle, gyrfalcon, lesser golden plover, wheatear, water pipit, horned lark, Lapland longspur, and many others. The wide open expanses provide excellent vistas, and the opportunity to view the midnight sun at the time of the summer solstice. Winter recreational activities, such as cross country skiing, snow machining and camping, are promoted within the White Mountains by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Habitat

Most habitats common to interior Alaska are represented along the Steese Highway, including forests of mixed spruce and birch, aspen, riparian white spruce, and black spruce, muskeg wetlands, shrub thickets, alpine tundra, rivers, lakes, and snow fields.

Advice and Cautions

Only the first 45 miles of the 160-mile-long road is paved. Use caution if dust limits visibility. Alpine areas are subject to cool temperatures and strong winds at any time of the year. Bring along an ample supply of mosquito repellent.

Interior/Far North

Nome

Location and Access

Nome is the transportation hub for the area between Unalakleet and Kotzebue. Regular jet air service is available from Anchorage, with local flights by smaller aircraft to surrounding communities. Three major roads fan out from Nome, providing access to a variety of coastal and interior habitats. Local air services provide access to Saint Lawrence Island (colonial nesting seabirds), Wales, and other birding hot spots.

Viewing Opportunities and Seasons

Nome lies on the Seward Peninsula, which juts west towards Siberia. Its location on the Bering Sea provides access to a variety of marine mammals and birds, and its proximity to Asia increases the chances of finding birds seldom seen on the North American continent. Walrus migrate offshore as the ice recedes in spring. Reindeer, herded by local residents, grizzly bears, red fox, arctic ground squirrels, and marmots are found on the tundra. Among the many birds that may be seen are the arctic loon, Aleutian tern, bristle-thighed curlew, bar-tailed godwit, snowy owl, gyrfalcon, bluethroat, and yellow and white wagtail—plus rarities such as great knot, rufous-necked stint, and red-throated pipit.

Habitat

This region lies west of treeline. Tundra habitats predominate, ranging from coastal salt meadows to wet lowland tundra and rocky alpine tundra. Shorelines vary from lagoon systems sheltered by sand spits to dramatic wave-washed cliffs.

Advice and Cautions

Weather in this maritime region is unpredictable; be prepared to wait out storms. As accommodations are often in short supply during the brief summer season, plan ahead and make reservations early.

Tourism Division

Delta Junction

Location and Access

Delta Junction is located at the intersection of the Alaska and Richardson highways, about 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks. The spring-fed rivers and lakes are accessible by road, as are the farm fields.

Viewing Opportunities and Seasons

Delta is best known for the free-ranging herd of wild bison that was introduced in the area in 1928. In the winter, the bison are usually found east of Delta Junction near the Alaska Highway, while in the summer they graze on the Delta River floodplain west of Donnelly Dome and the Richardson Highway. Several spring-fed streams and lakes in the Delta area provide open water far into winter for late spawning salmon and a variety of birds, including bald eagles, dippers, and waterfowl. In spring these same areas host large numbers of migrant waterfowl. The farm fields of Delta are also excellent areas to view migrant birds—raptors, owls, waterfowl, and snowbuntings—in both spring and fall. The fields and neighboring shrub habitats are also preferred by sharp-tailed grouse, which perform unique courtship behavior on their "dancing grounds" in spring.

Habitat

The Delta area lies within the boreal forest region of interior Alaska but is unique because of the large area cleared for farmland and the abundance of spring-fed waters open through most of the winter.

Advice and Cautions

Ask permission before entering farmlands. Be prepared for strong winds and blowing dust along the Delta River.

Tourism Division

Nancy Tankersley

Pribilof Islands, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

Location and Access

These are remote oceanic islands off southwest Alaska, accessible by commercial air service from Anchorage during the summer. Portions of the islands are included in the 3.5 million acre Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, and other portions are occupied by year-round residents. Guided land tours and hotels are available.

Viewing Opportunities and Seasons

The Pribilof Islands have some of the largest seabird colonies in the northern hemisphere. Common nesting seabirds include fulmars, cormorants, murres, kittiwakes, auklets, and puffins, which are best seen from late May to early August. Sightings of rarer Asiatic birds mostly occur during migration in spring (mid-May to early June) and fall (early August to mid-September). The world's largest rookery for northern fur seals is on St. Paul Island, and harbor seals and Steller sea lions are also commonly seen during the summer.

John Hyde

Habitat

These islands have extensive rocky cliffs where the seabirds nest, and also have areas of coastal wetlands and tundra. Tundra wildflowers can be spectacular from mid-June through July.

Advice and Cautions

Bring appropriate clothes and equipment for foggy, windy, and rainy weather. Fog frequently closes the airport, so leave some flexibility in your travel schedule. A bird checklist is available.

Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary (Round Island)

Location and Access

These islands are approximately 70 miles southwest of Dillingham in southwestern Alaska and have virtually no amenities. An access permit is required to visit Round Island, and the numbers of campers and day visitors are limited. Most visitors arrive by charter boat from Togiak when conditions permit. Seasonal sanctuary staff ferry visitors from the boat or plane to the rocky shore via a small inflatable raft.

Viewing Opportunities and Seasons

Round Island, one of the islands in this remote state sanctuary, is home to a unique concentration of male walrus each summer. As many as 14,000 male walrus rest here between periodic feeding forays for clams and other shellfish. Up to 1,000 Steller sea lions haul out here, and hundreds of thousands of seabirds (mostly murres, kittiwakes, cormorants, auklets, puffins, and gulls) nest here. A small resident population of "tolerant" red foxes often allows good photographic opportunities as well. From late May through August is the best time to visit.

Habitat

The island habitats include marine waters, rocky shorelines, and moist alpine tundra.

Advice and Cautions

Travel to Round Island is expensive and can be dangerous. Visitors should be in very good physical condition and have appropriate clothing and gear for wet and extremely windy weather.

Above, top: Watching walrus, Round Island.
Above: Red foxes are commonly seen on Round Island.

Potter Marsh and the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge

Location and Access

The marsh is located 10 mi/16.1 km south of downtown Anchorage along Mile 117 of the Seward Highway. A large parking lot north of the marsh can accommodate passenger cars and tour buses. From there, a 1,550 foot boardwalk provides excellent vantage points for viewing and photography by foot or wheelchair.

Viewing Opportunities and Season

Potter Marsh, part of this state-owned refuge, is Anchorage's most popular bird viewing area. From early May through early September, this wetland hosts migratory and nesting ducks, geese, arctic terns, grebes, shorebirds, and other wildlife. Bald eagles frequently soar overhead and three species of spawning salmon can be seen from July through early September from a boardwalk spanning a creek. Waterfowl and shorebirds can also be found on the rest of the refuge.

Mike Baron

ADF&G Nongame

Habitat

The 540 acres/219 hectares of wetlands in Potter Marsh were created by an embankment for the adjacent Alaska Railroad and enhanced by land subsidence following the 1964 earthquake. A spruce/hardwood forest bordering the marsh provides nesting areas for warblers, swallows, eagles, Bonaparte's gulls and other tree-nesting species, and forage and cover for moose and other wildlife.

Advice and Cautions

To reduce disturbance to nesting and resting birds, access at Potter Marsh is restricted to the boardwalk, and motorized vehicles are not allowed anywhere on the refuge. Bird feeding is not allowed. Travel on the mudflats west and north of the marsh can be dangerous because of soft mud and quickly rising tides. Use caution near the Rabbit Creek Rifle Range, just north of the marsh, which is part of the refuge.

Chugach State Park

Location and Access

The park is located in the mountains just east of Anchorage. A visitor center and trailhead are located at 13 mi/30 km Eagle River Road. Access from roads and trails also can be made from Eklutna, O'Malley, and Upper Huffman roads and the new Seward Highway. A few campgrounds and picnic areas are located on the periphery, and backcountry hiking, camping and skiing are very popular. A few trails are open to horseback riding, mountain biking, snow machine, and off-road vehicle travel.

Viewing Opportunities and Seasons

A wide variety of forest and tundra animals can be enjoyed in this 500,000 acre/202,000 hectare wilderness park, including moose, Dall sheep, black and brown bears, pikas, ptarmigan, eagles, ravens, and salmon. In summer, the alpine tundra hosts a variety of wildflowers and nesting birds, and spawning salmon occur in some creeks. In the

John Hyde

Above: Students watch water birds at Potter Marsh.
Left: Canada goose and goslings at Potter Marsh.
Right: Dall sheep

fall, moose gather in groups to rut. Winter is a good time to look for tracks of ptarmigan, weasels, and even wolves.

Habitat

Much of the park is alpine tundra, separated by glaciers and ice fields. At lower elevations, hemlock-spruce forests, spruce-hardwood forests, and shrub thickets occur, interlaced with lakes, rivers, and creeks.

Advice and Cautions

Stay alert while hiking to avoid close encounters with moose and bears. Avalanche danger is common in winter.

Copper River Delta

Location and Access

The Copper River Highway connects Cordova and the Copper River Delta. Cordova is accessible by daily air service or periodic Alaska Marine Highway ferries from Valdez.

Viewing Opportunities and Seasons

Up to 20 million migrating shorebirds and waterfowl occur on the delta and adjacent inlets each spring, with lesser numbers each fall. The delta has been designated part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network for its importance as a resting and feeding area for Western sandpipers and dunlins during spring migration. A variety of other wildlife can be seen year-round in the area, including moose, mountain goats, black and brown bears, beavers, sea otters, harbor seals, sea lions, bald eagles, Canada geese, trumpeter swans, arctic terns, and seabirds. Sea ducks can be seen in winter and spawning salmon in fall.

Habitat

The coastal wetlands and mudflats are surrounded by tall shrub thickets and hemlock-spruce forest, with mountains and glaciers as a scenic backdrop. Scenic marine waters add diversity to this picturesque area.

ADF&G Staff

Advice and Cautions

Use caution to avoid close encounters with moose or bears, and avoid disturbing nesting birds. Soft mud and rising tides can entrap you.

Kenai Fjords National Park

Location and Access

The park is located close to Seward, where charter boats and planes can accommodate visitors. Exit Glacier is accessible by road and trail, with access for the disabled up to .25 mile from the glacier. Authorized commercial guides provide camping, fishing, and kayaking guide services.

Viewing Opportunities and Seasons

Thousands of seabirds, including puffins, kittiwakes, murres, and gulls can be found nesting along cliffs during the summer months. Bald eagles are commonly seen perched on the tops of spruce or hemlock trees year-round. Steller sea lions haul out on rocky islands, and harbor seals ride icebergs close to the tidewater glaciers. Other commonly seen marine mammals include porpoises, whales, and sea otters. Mountain goats, bears, moose, and other wildlife can also be found in the park.

Habitat

The park encompasses spectacular environments from marine waters, rocky coasts and steep forested terrain, up to alpine tundra, glaciers, and icefields.

Advice and Cautions

There are no overnight accommodations or food services in the park other than two public use cabins. Weather can change quickly, and you should be prepared for cold, wet, and windy conditions. Use caution to avoid dangerous encounters with bears.

McNeil River State Game Sanctuary

Location and Access

This remote sanctuary is located approximately 100 miles southwest of Homer. Most visitors arrive by floatplane from Homer, with arrivals and departures coinciding with high tides. A permit is required to visit the falls during June, July, and August; the deadline for applications to enter the permit lottery is April 1. All visitors are accompanied to the falls by sanctuary staff.

Viewing Opportunities and Seasons

McNeil River State Game Sanctuary has Alaska's largest concentration of brown bears, gathering during the summer to feed on spawning chum salmon at the McNeil River falls. July is the peak month when up to 65 bears have been seen at one time. Red foxes, bald eagles, gulls, murres, and cormorants are commonly seen during the summer as well.

Habitat

This area is mostly open country, featuring creeks and rivers, shrub thickets, coastal wetlands, rocky shorelines and cliffs, and marine waters.

Advice and Cautions

Sanctuary staff are committed to providing a safe environment for bears and people and sanctuary regulations are strictly enforced. Weapons are allowed but not necessary. No bears or people have been injured since the permit system was initiated in 1973. All visitors must be self-sufficient as facilities are limited to a primitive campground with a cook cabin and an outhouse. Visits to the falls require a three mile hike, round trip. High quality warm clothing, raingear, and hip waders are essential, as the weather is frequently cool, wet, or windy. A good camera with a telephoto lens and lots of film are strongly recommended.

John Hyde

Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve /Haines Highway

Location and Access

The preserve, a unit of the state park system, is accessible from Mileposts 19-26, north of Haines. The only facilities available within the preserve are portable toilets, garbage containers, and highway turnouts. Visitors stay in nearby Haines, which is accessible by ferry from the south, by regularly-scheduled air taxi flights from Juneau, or by highway from the north. During fall and winter, commercial tours provide transportation and guides for viewing and photography expeditions to view the eagle concentrations, while "do-it-yourselfers" who arrive without a vehicle can combine a hotel/motel stay with car rental. During summer, natural history-oriented tours of the Chilkat Valley are provided by commercial tour operators based in Haines.

John Hyde

Viewing Opportunities and Season

The winter gathering of bald eagles on their "council grounds" to feed on salmon in the Chilkat River is the largest gathering of eagles in the world. Numbers of eagles begin building up in late September and peak as high as 3,500 in November. High numbers usually remain into January, unless cold weather freezes over the open channels sooner.

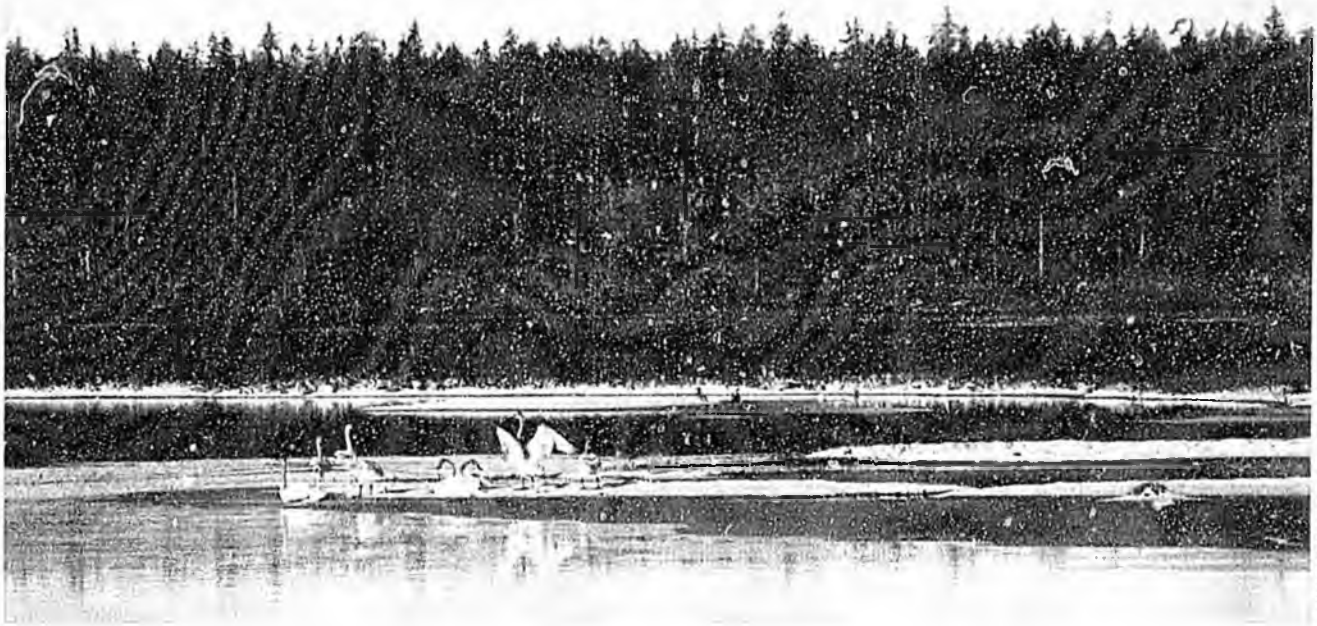
Habitat

A 48,000-acre preserve surrounds the unique stretch of the Chilkat River where upwellings of warm water below the massive Tsirku River alluvial fan persist late into winter. The late fall run of chum salmon attracts the large numbers of eagles because it is their sole abundant food source during late fall and early winter.

John Hyde

Advice and Cautions

Park only at turnouts along the Haines Highway. To reduce disturbance to the eagles, view and photograph them from a distance, using binoculars and telephoto lenses. Remember that the birds cannot afford unnecessary expenditures of energy during this stressful period.



R. E. Johnson

Yakutat Forelands

Location and Access

The coastline of the Yakutat Forelands is truly remote, accessible only by boat or plane specially equipped to land along the long stretch of broad, sandy beaches. The nearest community is Yakutat to the west. Yakutat-based air taxi operators provide charter service, and the U.S. Forest Service maintains several public use cabins located on or near the coastal lagoons.

Viewing Opportunities and Seasons

The coastal Yakutat Forelands area is another high-ranked birdwatching area in southeast Alaska during migration and provides opportunities for outstanding wildlife viewing along coastal lagoons throughout the summer. In early spring, the lagoons teem with eulachon making their upstream spawning run, and the sandbars are crowded with eagles, gulls, and waterfowl. May brings migrant birds, and large numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds use the beaches and lagoons to rest. Subsequent summer salmon runs attract concentrations of eagles, gulls, and brown bears, and moose are common.

Habitat

As the Akwe, Italio, Dangerous, Ustay, East, and Doane rivers flow from the Brabazon Mountains and reach the vicinity of the ocean, they meet the strong coastal forces that build up and maintain 60 miles of sandy beaches along the unprotected Gulf of Alaska coast. Bending sharply to the west behind the beaches, the rivers form shallow lagoons. The riparian forest follows the course of the rivers, and the lagoons comprise diverse and productive areas of wildlife habitat.

Advice and Cautions

While camping is possible, staying in a cabin will likely make for a more comfortable stay because Yakutat weather is usually wet, windy, and changeable. Be aware of tides. Fording rivers may not be possible at many tidal stages.

Page 32:
Top: Brown bears feed on salmon at McNeil River falls.
Middle: Female chum salmon struggles up natal stream to spawn.
Bottom: Bald eagle, with chum salmon, Chilkat River.
Page 33:
Above: Trumpeter swans and mallards, with Mt. St. Elias in background, Yakutat Forelands.

John Hyde

Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary/Pack Creek

Location and Access

The refuge is located 28 miles south of Juneau on Admiralty Island. Access is by charter boat or air taxi from Juneau. Guided tours are available from commercial tour operators. Some visitors arrive by kayak, available for rental in Juneau, but the required open water crossing between Juneau and Admiralty Island can be difficult in bad weather. Primitive camping is allowed in designated areas.

Viewing Opportunities and Seasons

Located on Pack Creek, the Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary is becoming increasingly popular for its opportunities to view and photograph brown bears in July and August. A small portion of the famed Admiralty Island "Fortress of the Bears," the Pack Creek area has been closed to bear hunting for many years and is jointly managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The bears tolerate a certain amount of human presence and visitors can view and photograph bears fishing for salmon and interacting. Sows and sow-cub groups are the primary users. The salmon runs attract bald eagles and gulls as well.

Habitat

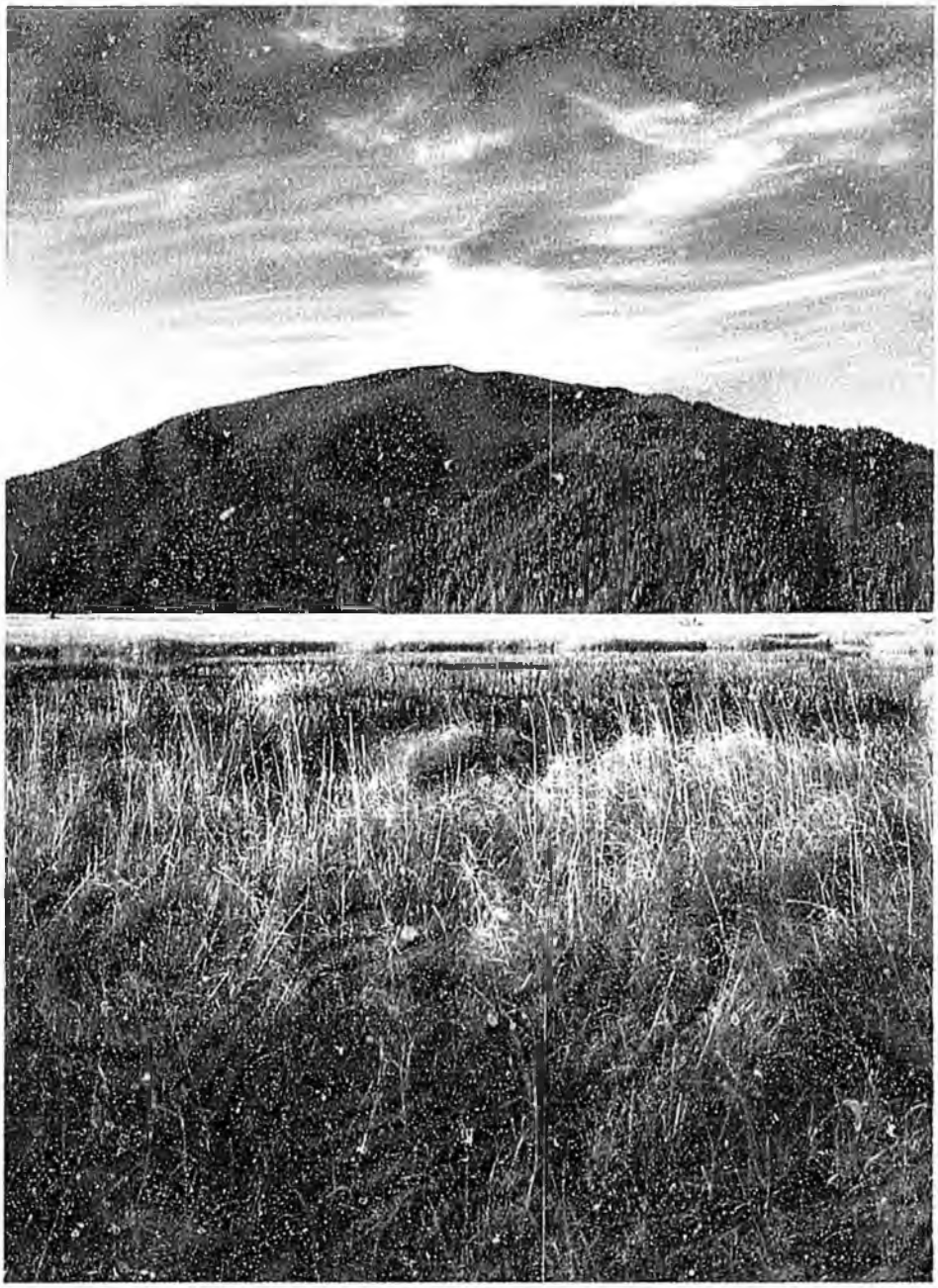
Pack Creek is typical of many streams on the large islands of the Alexander Archipelago. It passes through the coastal spruce-hemlock forest and supports runs of pink and chum salmon which attract bears and other predators. A broad estuary and tidal flat at the stream's mouth is used frequently as a travel route and resting area by bears.

Advice and Cautions

Brown bears can be extremely dangerous and unpredictable. Visitors must obtain a permit from the U.S. Forest Service in Juneau or the Regional Division of Wildlife Conservation office in Douglas. Permits are free and currently not limited to a specific number each day. An orientation to the area and rules to increase (but not guarantee) your safety in the area are provided upon arrival.

John Hyde

Top: Viewers look for brown bears at Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary. Left: In her younger days, this female was a nuisance to Pack Creek visitors. With better management systems now in place, she has gotten over her bad habit of looking to people for food.



Pat Costello

The Stikine River Flats, a major migratory stopover for birds, is one of Southeast's leading birdwatching areas.

Stikine River Flats and Valley

Location and Access:

The closest communities are Petersburg, 25 miles to the northwest, and Wrangell, four miles to the south. Access is possible by boat or air charter, but boat access to some areas is limited to high tides and may require local knowledge of channels. The U.S. Forest Service maintains a number of public use cabins which provide a good base for birdwatching and photography.

Viewing Opportunities and Season

The Stikine River Flats at the mouth of the Stikine River is one of two high-ranked birdwatching areas in southeast Alaska. The Flats provide a major migratory stopover for birds during April and October. Spectacular concentrations of snow geese, trumpeter swans, sandhill cranes, and a variety of shorebirds dot the flats. The April eulachon run also attracts large concentrations of bald eagles, mergansers, and glaucous-winged and mewgulls to the Flats.

Habitat

The Stikine River Valley is a corridor between the continental climate and boreal forest habitats of interior British Columbia and the maritime climate and coastal forest and wetlands at its mouth. The valley provides a natural migration pathway for birds and a diversity of habitats for nesting birds and for mammals such as moose, bear, and furbearers. Migrating shorebirds gather on sand bars and along the shores of sloughs while waterfowl and swans concentrate in ponds, lakes, and marshy wetlands of the delta.

Advice and Cautions

If you plan to travel on the river by boat, be aware of and prepared for the fairly sudden changes in water level that can occur following storms or warm weather that accelerates glacial melting in headwater streams. If you plan to travel or stay on the Flats, get as much information as possible about the tidal movements where you will be.

Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge

Location and Access

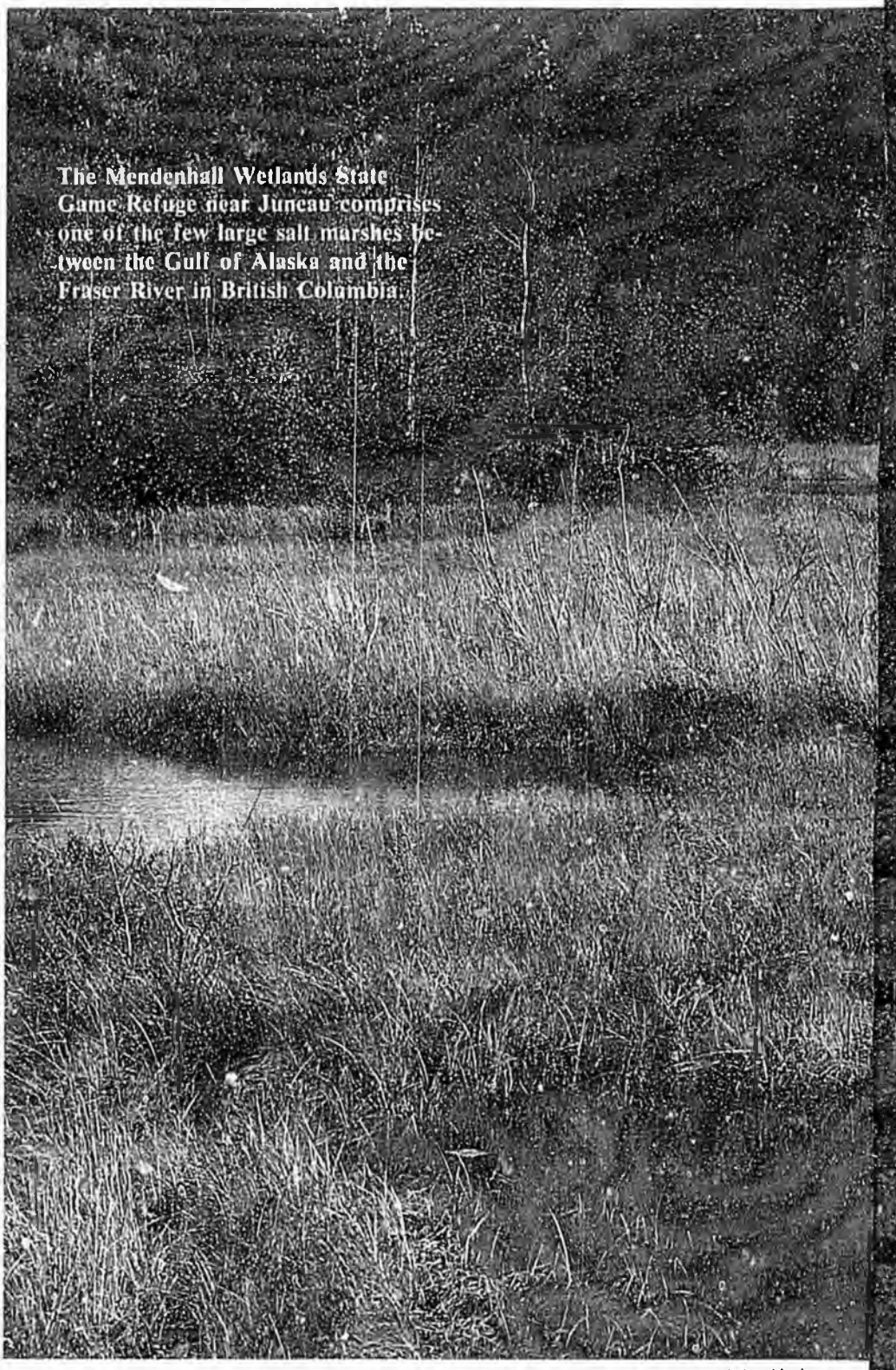
The refuge, in the Juneau area, is located along three miles of the Gastineau Channel. A large portion can be viewed from Egan Expressway or the North Douglas Highway. A number of access points exist from the Juneau or Douglas Island road system. The refuge is closed to off-road vehicles. A viewing platform is found off the southbound lane of Egan Expressway just past the Sunny Point turnoff.

Viewing Opportunities and Season

Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge is Juneau's most popular bird viewing area. From mid-April through May, the large salt marsh is an important link in the chain of widely-separated "stop-over" areas for coastal migrants. Pintails, mallards, teal, American wigeon, and shovellers pass through on their way to northern nesting grounds, yellowlegs and other shorebirds probe the mud, and warblers and sparrows feed in alder and willow thickets. Nesting is dispersed and limited during summer, but a variety of birds can be observed. Herons, bald eagles, Vancouver Canada geese, and many species of waterfowl are winter residents in open water areas.

Habitat

The 3,789 acre refuge includes a tidal salt marsh with a variety of coastal habitats including grass/sedge communities, sand and mud flats, ponds, and tidal channels. Portions of several small streams and the large glacial Mendenhall River are included in the Refuge as are the estuarine habitats at stream mouths in Gastineau Channel.



The Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge near Juneau comprises one of the few large salt marshes between the Gulf of Alaska and the Fraser River in British Columbia.

John Hyde

Advice and Cautions

Avoid crossing private property or fenced airport areas to gain access to the refuge. Keep pets on a leash or under voice control at all times and do not allow them to chase birds. When crossing the tideflats, check a tide table before crossing tidal channels to avoid being isolated by rapidly-rising tides.

Chilkat Eagle Preserve
Alaska State Parks
400 Willoughby Street
Juneau, AK 99811
Phone: (907) 465-4563

Chugach State Park
Alaska State Parks
P.O. Box 107001
3601 C Street, 12th floor
Anchorage, AK 99510-7001
Phone: (907) 762-2600
or in Eagle River
Phone: (907) 694-2108

Copper Delta
Chugach National Forest
P.O. Box 280
Cordova, AK 99574-0280
Phone: (907) 424-7661

Creamer's Field
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 456-5156

Delta Junction
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation
P.O. Box 605
Delta Junction, AK 99737-0605
Phone: (907) 895-4484

Visitor Information
(May to September)
Phone: (907) 895-9941

Denali National Park
Denali National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 9
Denali Park, AK 99755-0009
Phone: (907) 683-2294

Alaska Public Lands
Information Center
605 W 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 271-2737

Kenai Fjords
Kenai Fjords National Park
P.O. Box 1727
Seward, AK 99664-1727
Phone: (907) 224-3175

McNeil River
McNeil River State Game Sanctuary
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518
Phone: (907) 267-2180

Mendenhall Refuge
Refuge Manager
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation/
Divison of Habitat
P.O. Box 240020
Douglas, AK 99824-0020
Phone: (907) 465-4265/4290

Nome
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation
Area Biologist
P.O. Box 1148
Nome, AK 99762-1148
Phone: (907) 443-2271

Potter Marsh
Anchorage Coastal Wildlife
Refuge Manager
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599
Phone: (907) 344-0541

Pribilof Islands
Alaska Maritime Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 3069
Homer, AK 99603-3069
Phone: (907) 265-6546

Prudhoe Bay
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
1150 University Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Phone: (907) 474-2300

Princess Tours
3045 Davis Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Phone: (907) 479-9640

Gray Line of Alaska
1521 S. Cushman Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone (907) 456-5816

MarkAir
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Phone: (907) 842-1013

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Steese/White Mountains District
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Fairbanks, AK 99709
Phone: (907) 474-2350

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Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
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Area Biologist
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Phone: (907) 772-3801

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How Much is it Worth?

(Continued from page 4.)

The second approach, "contingent valuation," uses interviews and surveys to elicit information on how much benefit or value people receive from nonmarket goods or services directly. During the interview the subject is given a detailed description of the nonmarket good. He or she is then asked: "What is the most you would be willing to pay to acquire that good?" For example, a trip to Denali National Park might be described to a group of people. They would then be asked what they would be willing to pay for that trip. Their responses would be taken as direct revelations of how much they value a trip to Denali. While these descriptions of both methods are highly simplified, they should give a basic feel for how the methods work.

There have been many valuation studies done involving wildlife-related recreation. Almost all of them, however, have focused on consumptive uses of wildlife—primarily hunting and fishing. Very little work has been done on nonconsumptive uses of wildlife, like wildlife watching. Traditionally, wildlife management agencies have been funded largely from sources related to hunting and fishing—license fees, etc.; and those users have been active in their interaction with the agencies. Consequently, the values and preferences of consumptive users have been of interest to agencies and policy analysts. Along with that, consumptive users are a relatively easy population to identify and their high level of devotion to their sport typically makes them a cooperative group to study.

That pattern has been changing. The numbers of consumptive users appear to be decreasing over time, implying a shrinking of the funding base for wildlife management agencies. At the same time, wildlife watching was one of the fastest growing outdoor recreation activities of the 1980s, and that trend is expected to continue.

Nonconsumptive users of wildlife present some analytical complications, however. They are less readily identifiable and, therefore, more difficult to sample. Practically no valuation studies have been done on nonconsumptive wildlife use in Alaska (and only a few on hunting and fishing). If we move down to the lower 48 states, we can say a little more about the value of nonconsumptive wildlife activities, though still not much. A few scattered studies have been done on the economic value of wildlife watching: two on general wildlife watching (one in western national forests and one in Arizona), and one each on deer watching in California, bighorn sheep watching in Arizona, and whooping crane watching in Texas. The work being initiated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will be a major contribution to the state of the art in nonconsumptive wildlife valuation.

Economic information is beginning to be used by several states to develop and manage wildlife resources. One such state is Wyoming. Data from the 1985 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (NSFHWAR) show that, in 1985, Wyoming had 2,094,000 activity days of hunting and 3,946,000 activity days of nonconsumptive wildlife recreation, mainly watching or photographing wildlife, of which 510,000 and 2,029,000 respectively were by nonresidents of the state. Combining those data with estimates of net economic value for hunting (about $30 per activity day) and wildlife watching (about $10 per activity day) from studies specifically in the Rocky Mountain region shows that the well-being of residents and nonresidents were enhanced by $66.7 million and $35.6 million, respectively, by participating in wildlife-related activities. To add some perspective to those numbers, the value of the timber harvest in Wyoming in 1986 was around $2.3 million.

Trip-related expenditures (excluding equipment purchases) actually made in Wyoming in 1985 averaged $60.11 per day by nonresident hunters and $41.72 per day by nonresident wildlife watchers and photographers. That implies a direct economic impact of $115.3 million—wildlife-related activities brought $115.3 million into the Wyoming economy in 1985. Multipliers for recreational activities in the contiguous U.S. typically average around 2—every recreation dollar that comes into the state generates a second dollar of economic activity within the state. That implies the total nonresident economic impact of wildlife-related activities in Wyoming was around $230.6 million in 1985. Such impacts, fueled by nonresident expenditures, are a source of economic growth. The NSFHWAR data are only on "primary purpose" trips, i.e., they do not include people for whom wildlife was a secondary activity on their trip, so the economic impact is a conservative estimate.

Of that $230.6 million of total nonresident economic impact, $169.3 million (73 percent) was generated by wildlife watching. That kind of information, combined with the net economic value estimates for both residents and nonresidents, led Wyoming state officials to recognize nonconsumptive wildlife use as "one of the more feasible areas to target for expansion of Wyoming's recreation-tourism industry," according to a Wyoming Game and Fish Department report. One result was "Wyoming's Wildlife—Worth the Watching," a program to develop easily accessible opportunities for wildlife watching that will induce people driving through Wyoming to stop, view the wildlife, and spend more time (and money) in Wyoming.

All indications are that the wildlife resource in Alaska is a valuable one. Numbers can be put on that value to confirm what Alaskans already know, and to point out areas and ways that wildlife resources might be enhanced and developed to increase the well-being of Alaskans and promote economic growth.

Dr. Daniel W. McCollum is an economist with the U.S. Forest Service at the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Alaska's Tourism Potential

(Continued from page 6.)

the southeast tourism industry is that almost half of the non-retail businesses actively market wildlife viewing, while a quarter of them believe they are dependent on wildlife viewers.

Other states and Canada already have decided to invest in promoting wildlife watching as a way to diversify their economies with a renewable resource. Wyoming's Department of Game and Fish has teamed up with the state Travel Commission to promote wildlife viewing, designate viewing sites, and develop interpretative displays. Wyoming expects to increase the economic value of wildlife viewing from $680 million in 1986 to $1 billion in 1991, with an investment of $3.5 million.

British Columbia initiated a 5-year program to increase regional economic growth by dispersing visitors into the remote areas of the province and expanding the operating seasons of hotels, restaurants, and guide/outfitters. Through the development of 51 viewing sites and more aggressive marketing, B.C. expects to increase the outdoor adventure tourism sector by $200 million over the next five years.

Alaska has a good start in providing outstanding wildlife viewing opportunities for residents and visitors. Highlights include Denali National Park, Glacier Bay National Park, McNeil River State Game Sanctuary, and Chilkat River Bald Eagle Preserve. State game refuges near Juneau, Fairbanks, and Anchorage are popular sites as well.

In a 1979 study, cruiseship passengers in southeast were disappointed in the wildlife viewing opportunities. However, expanded backcountry travel services in the 1980s greatly improved visitor satisfaction on cruises and elsewhere. In 1989, visitors to Alaska rated their satisfaction with wildlife and bird watching as good or very good.

More of these types of areas and related services and products must be developed and promoted if Alaska is to capture its share of the growing wildlife viewing market. Demand exceeds supply in many of the existing viewing areas. Less than 10 percent of applicants for McNeil River obtain a permit to visit. Denali National Park has closed most of its road system to private vehicles to reduce crowding, and the campgrounds usually are filled to capacity throughout the summer. Even in remote settings, crowding has been documented as a problem for tour operators.

Tourism opportunities can be promoted in undeveloped areas as well as designated sites. Examples of wildlife viewing services, products and facilities that would benefit state, regional and local economies are:

1. More guided wildlife viewing trips out of towns served by state ferries, cruise ships, regular air carriers, roads, or the railroad. Local economies could be boosted by direct income to tour operators, as well as additional lodging, meals and related services. Trips should be offered in a variety of lengths and styles to accommodate various visitor preferences.

2. More wildlife viewing services in remote areas. This is an opportunity for some hunting guides and outfitters during their off-season. A tourism marketing study in Alberta in 1990 noted that the markets for wildlife viewing and hunting overlap considerably, since 90 percent of hunters are also viewers and many have families that are interested in viewing as well. The study said that guides and outfitters have good potential for providing more viewing opportunities, but may need some assistance with upgrading and marketing these services. This may be pertinent to Alaska as well.

3. Development and distribution of wildlife viewing guidebooks for local areas which may encourage visitors to spend more time (or a night) in the town. These guides could encourage an independent traveler to go on a self-guided tour along the road or trail systems or from a rented kayak, raft, canoe, sailboat or motorboat.

4. Marketing wildlife viewing opportunities in the spring, fall and winter to promote off-season travel. For example, use winter wildlife viewing opportunities in ski promotions.

5. Increased information about wildlife viewing opportunities with displays and brochures on the state ferries, railroad, airports, and other public buildings.

6. Construction of highway pullouts, trails, boardwalks and other facilities with interpretative information and good vantage points for wildlife viewing.

If Alaska is interested in sustaining growth of wildlife viewing tourism, cooperation among landowners, managers, and the private sector is critical. Protection and management of wildlife and the environment are the cornerstones of sustainability. Conflicting land uses also must be considered when developing viewing sites. Management of people is also important, such as adherence of tour operators and viewers to ethical and safe viewing practices.

In order to develop more sustainable and high quality wildlife viewing opportunities, and to increase visitor satisfaction, some recommendations from Canadian studies are pertinent, including increased research, marketing, and development of new services and facilities.

The growth of wildlife viewing tourism has exciting implications for Alaska. Wildlife is a resource that Alaskans can promote and develop into educational and unforgettable experiences for the growing legions of wildlife viewers. We look forward to partnerships between the public and private sectors to promote growth of Alaska's economy and wildlife conservation.

Lana Shea is a biologist with ADF&G's Division of Habitat in Juneau.
Nancy Tankersley is a biologist with ADF&G's Division of Wildlife Conservation in Anchorage.

McNeil River

In Alaska, the best known wildlife viewing site is McNeil River State Game Sanctuary, one of 30 special areas managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). McNeil River has received worldwide recognition for the opportunities it offers to view and photograph Alaska brown bears at close range. It has become a phenomenal success story: a place where 300 people come each summer to an area less than two square miles to safely watch more than a hundred brown bears fishing for salmon.

Over the years, management of the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary has evolved from primarily bear management to management of both people and bears to management which incorporates concerns for the entire ecosystem. Our 24 years of experience at McNeil provides valuable insights into managing wildlife viewing programs elsewhere in Alaska and serves as a model for managing sustainable wildlife viewing.

When McNeil River was first established as a state game sanctuary, wildlife managers recognized that the concentration of bears was a unique combination of several environmental factors which occurred nowhere else in the world. Managers also realized that any human use of the area would have some impact on the bears. Accordingly, specific management guidelines were established to achieve the primary goal of the sanctuary—to maintain the unique concentration of brown bears using the area. Some of the guidelines were designed specifically to protect the bears from eager wildlife watchers. All of these guidelines, however, are interrelated in purpose and all were based on our knowledge of bear ecology. At any wildlife viewing site, it is important to understand why animals are using the area and then design a program which ensures that management does not jeopardize the site's suitability for wildlife.

Monitoring trends of both wildlife populations and human use is an important tool for managing wildlife viewing. Trend data provide wildlife managers an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of their management programs. If we can identify a particular human use or environmental condition that is causing an undesirable change in behavior or population status, we may be able to correct the problem through habitat alteration or modifying the quantity or pattern of human use.

A fundamental characteristic of all wildlife populations is their requirement for suitable habitat. Thus protection of the viewing site and its surrounding environment from incompatible land uses is paramount. ADF&G has long recognized that the home ranges of McNeil bears encompass areas far beyond the boundaries of the sanctuary. Because uncontrolled human activity in areas adjacent to the sanctuary would be incompatible with the sanctuary goals, ADF&G is sponsoring efforts to develop public support for new legislation that would extend the sanctuary boundaries farther south and establish an adjacent refuge to the north. By developing management guidelines for these adjacent lands which are compatible with sanctuary goals, we will provide greater protection for this unique brown bear viewing site.

After site selection, one of the most important aspects of developing a successful wildlife viewing program is visitor management. Each has different goals and objectives and visitor management should reflect those differences. For example, some sites such as McNeil River and Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary (where, on Round Island, you can observe up to 8,000-12,000 male walruses and thousands of nesting seabirds) have developed a high-quality wilderness experience for relatively few people. At all three state game sanctuaries (McNeil, Walrus Islands, and Stan Price) overcrowding is minimized by allowing visitor access by permit only. Because McNeil River has become so popular, permits are selected by drawing and fewer than 10 percent of those who apply actually receive permits.

Some wildlife viewing sites with different management goals and environmental conditions can sustain much higher visitation. For example, the state's three large urban game refuges, Anchorage Coastal (which includes Potter Marsh), Creamer's Field in Fairbanks, and Mendenhall Wetlands in Juneau, offer unlimited access for wildlife watching throughout most of the year. A new parking lot and boardwalk have greatly increas-

Managing for Wildlife Viewing

by Larry Aumiller and John Schoen

ed visitor access and use of Potter Marsh. All three sites sustain high levels of visitor use, particularly during waterfowl migrations.

Recreational wildlife viewing encompasses a wide range of public expectations and desires. Wildlife managers are beginning to assess those desires through the use of visitor surveys and interviews. Such surveys were begun at McNeil River last summer and ADF&G intends to conduct additional surveys on public desires for wildlife recreation in the future. Interpretation and education are an important part of a successful wildlife viewing program. Increasing public understanding of wildlife ecology not only enhances enjoyment of recreation but also motivates people to be responsible viewers and comply with conservation regulations and also encourages public support for wildlife conservation.

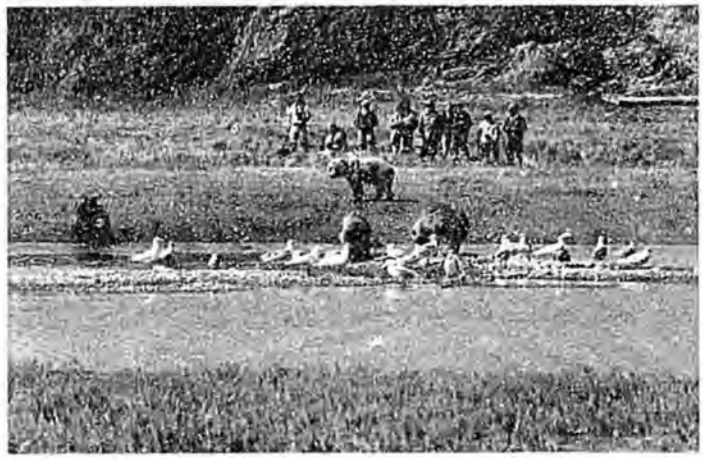
To ensure long-term sustainability, wildlife viewing programs require a regulatory framework designed to promote human activity which minimizes impacts to wildlife and their habitat. The safety of both the watchers and the watched must be a high priority in any management plan. And, once established, regulations must be fairly and consistently enforced.

Many of the rules established at McNeil River have been formulated specifically to minimize negative interaction between humans and bears. In the 18 years since the management plan was started, there have been no injuries to humans or bears. In addition, success could be measured by increased bear use. In 1990, there were over twice as many bears using the area as there were in 1973, the first year of active management. Bears have adapted and appear to be comfortable with our management of McNeil. This is important since the creation of a low stress environment is critical for ensuring safe co-existence between humans and bears. Human visitation to McNeil has increased three-fold over the same period of time. A better indication of human interest, however, is that the number of applications to visit the sanctuary has more than tripled to over 1,400 in 1990. Typical visitor comments remind us over and over that McNeil River is one of the world's best wildlife viewing sites, comparable to the African Savannah.

The administration of an outstanding wildlife viewing program includes planning, inventory, research, management, enforcement, and education. In addition, a knowledgeable and dedicated professional staff is essential for maintaining a successful program.

Establishing policies and guidelines are an essential first step for initiating a wildlife viewing program. Priority should be given to sustainable viewing programs in contrast to projects

Photos by Larry Aumiller



designed for short-term economic gain. A rule of thumb is that the viewing activity should not jeopardize the wildlife resource either directly or through impacts to habitat.

The key to a successful wildlife viewing program is managing for sustainability. This is important both from a wildlife conservation and economic perspective. For example, if tourism is to grow and prosper in Alaska, we must provide a long-term, dependable supply of wildlife. To do that, we need to ensure the availability of suitable habitat and productive wildlife populations. This requires expertise in wildlife management and conservation.

Alaska offers an outstanding opportunity to develop a model conservation program emphasizing a diversified portfolio of wildlife recreation opportunities based on scientific knowledge of wildlife and their habitats. No other place in the world has the same abundance of wildlands, wildlife populations, and public interest in those resources. Interagency cooperation and innovative partnerships with both the public and private sectors will be key elements in making best use of Alaska's potential as a wildlife viewing destination. Expansion and successful management of wildlife viewing opportunities in Alaska will benefit wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation, tourism, and the Alaskan economy.

Larry Aumiller, a fish and wildlife technician with the Division of Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G, Anchorage, manages the McNeil River State Game Refuge during the summer and is stationed in Anchorage in the winter.

John Schoen serves as senior staff biologist for Conservation and Education, Division of Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G, Fairbanks.

To the Editor:

I read an article in *North American Hunter* about the future of nonresident hunting in Alaska. The way things stand now the chance of me being able to someday fulfill my dream hunt in Alaska looks pretty dismal.

I would hope the state and federal agencies can get together and manage the wildlife for everyone's benefit.

I had always figured the whole of the U.S.A. as the land of opportunity for everyone—not part of it only for the people in one state for that state only.

I sincerely hope that you can get the subsistence hunting mess cleared up. And remember that there are a lot of other hunters who someday dream of going to Alaska. I hope the chance will not be denied us.

Sincerely,
Becky Kalagher
Douglas, MA

To the Editor:

Don't make Alaska a "closed" third world country—it is American and ALL Americans (resident and nonresident) should be allowed to hunt on a prorated basis.

Sincerely,
Bob Eisele
Leesburg, N.J.

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the pending changes being considered in relation to the discontinuance of nonresident sport hunting in Alaska. As a hunter, my dream has always been to hunt big game in Alaska. I have made plans to come to Alaska in the next few years and would be very upset to learn (as will many of my compatriots and friends) that all opportunities have been taken away.

Let me remind you that there are hundreds of thousands of dollars being brought into the state economy by hunters from the lower 48. Many of these dollars I'm sure are being used for wildlife conservation and will be lost if we are denied the opportunity to hunt in Alaska. However, indiscriminately closing all areas is not in the public's best interest and should not even be considered.

Sincerely,
Alan Kruse
Clementon, NJ

To the Editor:

I am an avid Texas hunter and would like someday to be able to hunt in Alaska with my sons. We are now in the process of getting our Hunter Safety Certificates for Texas that are normally accepted in other states. We are also saving the needed dollars to make such a trip.

I do hope Alaska will continue to have nonresident sport hunting as the animal population allows. I know Alaska has subsistence regulations to provide for first but I hope nonresident hunting will still be allowed.

Alaska is one of the last frontiers for hunting on a basis of animal knowledge and proficiency of the hunter. It would be a shame if all nonresident hunting was discontinued.

I hope the State of Texas does not stop nonresident hunting because these kinds of hunters bring good hunters to the state and also help the economy of Texas as well.

Sincerely,
Alfred D. Coe III
Tyler, TX

Editor's Note:

Recently we have received many letters similar to the above. We appreciate the wide interest in wildlife management in Alaska and have attempted to answer each. While we continue, in Alaska, to wrestle with the needs of subsistence hunters and work to ensure ample hunting opportunities for all Alaskans, we have certainly not forgotten nonresident hunters. There will always be a place in this state for nonresidents to hunt. We encourage any interested potential nonresident hunter to write to us for our hunting regulations booklet. Our present booklet, 1990-91, is effective through June 30, 1991. Our 1991-92 booklet will be available late in June. This booklet will amply demonstrate the unparalleled opportunities that still exist for hunting in Alaska.

To the Editor:

For two years I have been working on a monograph, "Women and Hunting—The Woman Hunter in Past and Present." I would appreciate any information your readers might have about women hunters, including different methods of hunting used by women in different historical periods and from different ethnic backgrounds. I would appreciate any pertinent information sent to me.

Sincerely,
Professor Monika Reiterer
A-8010 Graz
Evangelimanngasse 13
AUSTRIA

Please let us hear from you! We welcome your letters and will print them as space allows.

Nick Dudiak Honored

Nick Dudiak, a fishery biologist with the Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement, and Development (FRED) Division, recently was recognized with two honors for his work in fishery enhancement. The Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) awarded him its prestigious Meritorious Service Award for 1990 and *Fishing & Hunting News* named him Outdoor Personality of the Year in Alaska for 1990.

Nick received the AFS award at the Alaska Chapter AFS annual meeting in Homer on November 14, 1990. This award was presented in recognition of Nick's work as a fisheries professional in developing and enhancing the sport and commercial fishing opportunities of lower Cook Inlet.

The *Fishing & Hunting News* recognition notes Nick's success in expanding the sport fishing opportunities in Kachemak Bay.

One of Nick's projects, the Homer Spit Enhancement Project, received national recognition in 1990 by the American League of Anglers and Boaters as the best project in the nation.

Nick began working for ADF&G FRED Division in Homer in 1978 and has contributed significantly to the success of enhancement programs there. Nick's work, combined with the efforts of his dedicated staff and support from Tutka, Crooked Creek, and Elmendorf hatcheries, has contributed to the success of the program in lower Cook Inlet.

Nick currently provides support to both the FRED and Sport Fish Divisions in Homer. A number of the sport fish programs for which he is responsible are partially funded by Dingell-Johnson/Wallop Breaux federal funding.

Western Alaska Goose Populations Increase

State and federal waterfowl biologists report improvement in populations of four species of geese nesting in western Alaska which have been the subject of intensive efforts under the Yukon-Kuskokwim (Y-K) Delta Goose Management Plan for the last 7 years. The four species—cackling Canada goose, white-fronted goose, Pacific black brant, and emperor goose—nest in Alaska and, except for the emperor, winter in California or Mexico. Waterfowl hunters and wildlife agencies from California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, Alaska, and Yup'ik Eskimo subsistence hunters on the Y-K Delta helped devise the innovative cooperative management program which recommends strategies, guides habitat conservation efforts, and identifies research and education needs along the Pacific Flyway.

Cackling Canada Geese, the population of most concern, has shown steady increases. In 1984, there were fewer than 30,000 birds. In 1990, breeding pairs were 85 percent greater than in 1985, and the fall count was 110,200 birds.

Pacific White-fronted Geese have shown the most rapid improvement of the four populations, increasing from about 100,000 in 1984 to 240,500 in October 1990.

Emperor Geese have shown a slow recovery from 42,600 in 1986 to 67,600. A fall survey flown in mid-October tallied 109,500 emperors, the highest fall total recorded to date.

Black Brant populations have been quite variable but have averaged about the same level since the mid-1970s. In January 1990, the count was 146,000 birds. Preliminary indications from the 1991 survey indicate a somewhat lower population at the present time. The primary concern was a large decline in colony-nesters on the Y-K Delta in the early 1980s. An improved colony census method indicates some improvement in large colonies and some reestablishment of nesting in adjacent habitat.

According to data from Pacific Flyway states and the USFWS, the overall recovery of these four goose populations is progressing well.

Enhancement Program Announces Record Year

Alaska's statewide fisheries enhancement program had its biggest year ever in 1990, according to a report released by the Department of Fish and Game's Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement and Development (FRED) Division.

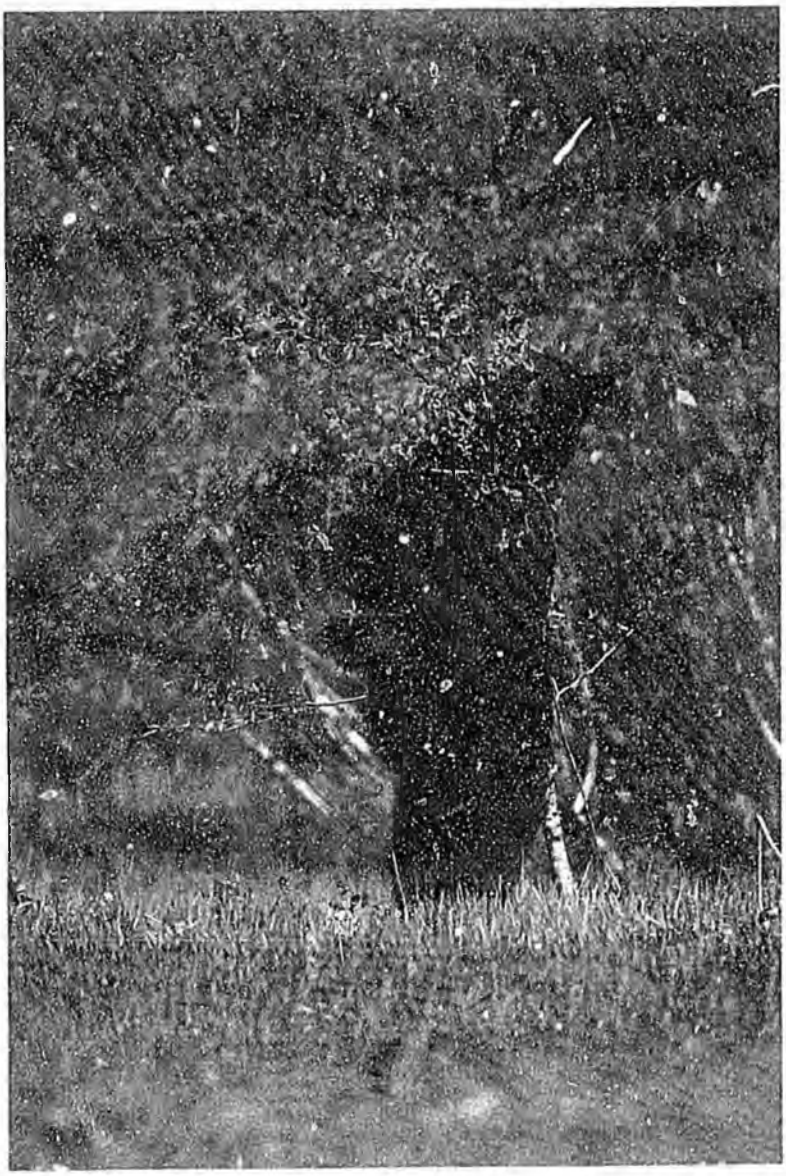
During the last year, crews from public and private nonprofit hatcheries collected 1.6 billion eggs, a 33 percent increase over the previous year, and nearly 1.2 billion young fish were released from hatcheries across the state.

License Sales Soar

A record number of sport fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses were sold in 1990, according to statistics recently compiled by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

More than 409,974 sport licenses were sold in 1990, up from 399,738 in 1989.

Revenue from the sale of sport fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses goes into the Fish and Game Fund, which is used to support department programs.



HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: 3/3/93

PLACE: Capitol, Room 124

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
1) HB 172: Wildlife Conservation Tag/Fee
2) Discussion of Mental Health Lands Subcommittee Findings

	NAME	REPRESENTING	BUSINESS/PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	(H) PHONE	(W) PHONE	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?		WHAT SUBJECT/ WHICH BILL?
(1)	David G. Kellyhouse	ADFG	Box 25526 Juneau	99802		465-4190	(Y)	N	HB 172
(5)	Mary Forbes	AK Env Lobby	419 6th St Juneau	99801		463-3366	(Y)	N	HB 172
(6)	Tom Garrett	AVA	234 Gold St Juneau	99801		586 2480	(Y)	N	HB 172
(4)	John George	ADC	9515 Morgan Way Morgans Way			9-0172	(Y)	N	HB 172
(2)	Geron Bruce	F&G					Y	N	
(3)	Telecon- Nancy Lethcoe Valdez L10						Y	N	
							Y	N	
							Y	N	
							Y	N	
							Y	N	
							Y	N	

HB 182

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(9)

Date Referred: March 31, 1993 FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

Date of Committee Action: 4/16/93

The RESOURCES Committee considered: HB 182

HOUSE BILL NO. 182 APPROP: FAIRBANKS-NOME TRANS. CORRIDOR

"An Act making a special appropriation to the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, northern region, for identification and delineation of a transportation and utility corridor between Fairbanks and the Seward Peninsula; and providing for an effective date."

RECOMMENDATIONS: [ ] the same title

be replaced with _____ [ ] a new title

[ ] have attached amendments(s)

[ ] do pass

[ ] do not pass

[ ] no recommendations

[ ] individual recommendations

[ ] additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s): (Dept)

[ ] fiscal impact _____

[ ] zero fiscal note _____

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

[ ] fiscal note(s) _____

[ ] zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
[illegible]	✓	David Finkelstein	✓		
[illegible]	✓	John M. Davies	✓		
Jeannette James	✓	Con Bunde		✓	
Gideon Kaufman	✓	W.K. Williams		✓	
[illegible]	✓				

W.K. Williams

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(9)

Date Referred: March 31, 1993 FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

Date of Committee Action: 4/16/93

The RESOURCES Committee considered: HB 183

HOUSE BILL NO. 183 TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR: FAIRBANKS-NOME

"An Act directing the identification and delineation of a transportation and utility corridor between Fairbanks and the Seward Peninsula for road, rail, pipeline, and electrical transmission purposes; and providing for an effective date."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

be replaced with CSHB 183 (RES) [X] the same title [ ] a new title

[ ] have attached amendments(s)

[✓] do pass

[ ] do not pass

[ ] no recommendations

[ ] individual recommendations

[ ] additional referral to the ______ Committee

ADOPTS: ______ letter of Intent

[✓] attaches memo from Legal Services Division regarding correction of a drafting error.

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s): (Dept) APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

[1] fiscal impact DOT/PF [ ] fiscal note(s) ______

[ ] zero fiscal note ______ [ ] zero fiscal note(s) ______

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
[signature]	✓	David [signature]	✓		
[signature]	✓	[signature]	✓		
Jeannette James	✓	Don Bennett [signature]	✓		
[signature]	✓	E.R. Williams		✓	
~~[signature]~~					

[signature]

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

2.

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE
JEANNETTE JAMES
P.O. Box 56622
North Pole, Alaska 99705
(907) 488-0862

House District 34

While in Juneau
State Capitol
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99801-1182
(907) 465-3745

House Of Representatives

Sponsor Statement HB 182 & HB 183

By Rep. Jeannette James
Revised: 3/30/93

HB 182 and HB 183 are intended to initiate preliminary and ultimately result in final action necessary to properly review, identify and survey the best options for the establishment of a transportation/utility corridor from the Interior's existing transportation distribution hub to the western area of the Seward Peninsula near Nome.

The future of Alaskans residing north of the Alaska Range will require expansion of our existing transportation infrastructure. With the recent completion by the State of Alaska of its remaining land selection allotment, the major land ownership patterns are now discernable.

This legislation will direct the Dept. of Transportation to perform aerial reconnaissance, photography, interpretation and surveying. The DOT in the attached position paper supports this work. This work will identify areas with transportation corridors to be established and which offer the best cost effective options to access this vast resource rich area of our state.

The apprpriation for this project is included in HB 182 and will authorize the expenditure of the funds necessary to secure this very important multi-model land use transportation corridor as a step that will move us forward to a more positive economic future for a very large portion of Alaska.

8-LS0296\K
Chenoweth
4/12/93

adopted passed

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 183( )

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES JAMES, Mulder

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act directing the identification and delineation of a transportation and utility corridor between Fairbanks and the Seward Peninsula for road, rail, pipeline, and electrical transmission purposes; and providing for an effective date."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

*** Section 1.** AS 19.25 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 19.25.123. FAIRBANKS - SEWARD PENINSULA TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITY CORRIDOR. (a) The northern region of the department shall identify and delineate a proposed transportation and utility corridor between Fairbanks and the western end of the Seward Peninsula. The corridor shall be sufficient to accommodate construction of

(1) a road;

(2) an extension of the Alaska Railroad;

(3) oil, natural gas, or coal slurry pipelines, or any of them; and

(4) an electrical transmission line.

(b) In performing the work required by (a) of this section,

(1) the railroad alignment and identification of a railroad right-of-way of not less than 500 feet shall guide the identification and delineation of the corridor; and

(2) the northern region shall consider the following factors:

(A) grade and alignment standards that are commensurate with rail and road construction standards;

(B) availability of construction materials;

(C) safety;

(D) service to adjacent communities;

(E) significant environmental concerns;

(F) use of public land to the maximum degree possible; and

(G) minimization of probable construction costs.

(c) Within 90 days after receiving a report transmitting the work of the northern region of the department under (a) of this section, the commissioner shall, in conformity with AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), if necessary, adopt a regulation approving, modifying, or rejecting the proposed corridor.

(d) If the commissioner approves or modifies the proposed corridor when presented under (c) of this section,

(1) the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities shall promptly classify, or reclassify, and reserve any state land within the corridor for use as a corridor; and

(2) the department shall

(A) exercise its authority under AS 19.05.040 to acquire rights-of-way across land within the corridor that is subject to the state's power of condemnation; and

(B) work with federal officials to secure reclassification and withdrawal of federal land in the corridor for reservations and rights-of-way across the federal land for use as a corridor.

(e) The requirements of AS 38.05 (Alaska Land Act) relating to classification and reclassification of land are inapplicable to actions taken under this section.

New (f) To complete the work required by this section, the commissioner may accept gifts and grants and may enter into contracts or other transactions or agreements relating to it with the federal government, an agency or instrumentality of the state, a municipality, or a private organization.

New (g) In this section, "corridor" means the transportation and utility corridor required to be identified and delineated by (a) of this section.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 19.25.123, added by sec. 1 of this Act, is repealed July 1, 2055.

* **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

STATE OF ALASKA
1993 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NUMBER: CS HB 183 (RES)

FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: 04/19/93 Department Affected: DOT&PF
Title: Transportation Corridor: Fairbanks-Nome BRU:

Sponsor: James Component:
Requestor: James Component Serial Number:

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING:	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL	4,090.0	3,210.0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE FUND SOURCE	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 FEDERAL RECEIPTS	0	0	0	0	0	0
1003 GF MATCH	0	0	0	0	0	0
1004 GF	4,090.0	3,210.0		0	0	0
1005 GF/PROGRAM RECEIPTS	0	0	0	0	0	0
1006 GF/MHTIA	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL FUNDING:	4,090.0	3,210.0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS

FULL-TIME	25	25	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year (FY93) impact: $

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)
Funding amount is based on an estimate by DOT&PF (included in HB 182). Work would require hiring several survey crews, substantial air charter, and extensive GPS program.

Prepared by: Mike McKinnon, Director Phone: 465-4070

Division: Plans, Programs and Budget Date: April 19, 1993

Approved by Commissioner: B.A. Campbell Phone: 465-3901
Bruce A. Campbell

Agency: Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Date: April 19, 1993

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Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

MEMORANDUM April 23, 1993

SUBJECT: Substituted copy, CSHB 183(Resources)
(Work Order No. 8-LS0296\R)

TO: Representative Bill Williams, Chair
House Resources Committee
ATTN: Mary McDowell

FROM: Jack Chenoweth
Legislative Counsel

Enclosed is a substituted copy of CSHB 183(Resources). This should replace the original committee substitute previously provided.

In this version I have changed page 2, line 20 to substitute reference to "the Department of Natural Resources" for the reference to "Department of Transportation and Public Facilities." The Transportation Department has no general authority to classify or reclassify state land. The Department of Natural Resources does. This version now correctly assigns that responsibility.

The error arose in the preparation of the draft committee substitute from which the Resources Committee worked. The draft, you may recall, resulted in drafting this measure in codified form (rather than in uncodified form, as originally introduced). In sorting out the references to "department" as we shifted from uncodified to codified format, we simply inserted reference to the Transportation Department where reference should have been made to the Department of Natural Resources and then missed the error on review. This version corrects that drafting error.

JBC:LMB:gc
93-134.lmb

Enclosure

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 183(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES JAMES, Mulder

A BILL

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