

**Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections**

**Guide to Collection**

**Nelson, Urban C. "PETE", 1912-1978**

**Papers and Publications on Wildlife Management and Conservation, 1906-1978**

**MS 065**

19 boxes  
8 linear ft.

Processed By: Staff

### **INTRODUCTION**

The personal papers and private library of Urban C. "Pete" Nelson were donated to the Alaska Historical Library in late 1981-1982 by Ruth Nelson of Juneau in memory of her husband who died in 1978.

Pete Nelson was widely known throughout the United States and Alaska for his work in wildlife management. He came to Alaska in 1948 as a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and served as regional director from 1958-1963. After several years outside Alaska, he returned in 1967 to accept an appointment as Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game until his resignation in 1968. He served many years on the Joint Board of Fish and Game, two terms on the Alaska Game Board, and was active in various resource management societies. Additional biographical information is available with the collection in Box 15, Folder 1.

The Nelson Collection includes wildlife management reference material used by Pete in his work, personal writings, field diaries as a wildlife biologist, duck stamps, and photographs; also, the scrapbooks and diaries of Charles Sprague, Alaska's first Territorial Fish Commissioner and Superintendent of Hatcheries are part of this collection. Books received in the Nelson Collection have been added to the holdings of the Alaska State Library for statewide use.

PAMPHLETSBox 1. Private or non-government titles. 26 items.

Title sample includes: 1--THE RING-NECKED PHEASANT, by John Madison (Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation); 2--WILD GAME, ITS LEGAL STATUS (DuPont Company); 3--THE SOVIET REINDEER INDUSTRY (USSR Institute of Reindeer Industry. 1933); 4--GUIDE TO GAME BIRDS, by Edmund Sawyer (1948); 5--WOLF PREDATION IN THE NORTH COUNTRY, by I.P. Callison (Seattle, 1948); 6--THE BIRDS OF CAPE PRINCE OF WALES, by Alfred M. Bailey (Colo. Museum of Natural History, 1943); 7--BIRD-FINDING IN INTERIOR AND SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA, by Brina Kessel and others (Alaska Ornithological Society, 1967); 8--PHEASANT BREEDING MANUAL, by August Bade and others (More Game Birds in America Foundation, 1939); 9--NORTH AMERICAN FUR BEARERS (International Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 1978); 10--THE SEA OTTER (Israel Program for Scientific Translations--from Russian, 1962).

Box 2. University titles. 17 items.

Title sample includes: 1--AN ECOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE AVIFAUNA OF ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND, by F.H. Fay and T.J. Cade (Univ. of Calif. Press, 1959); 2--FUR TRAPPING AND MANAGEMENT FOR 4-H CLUBS, by A.O. Haugen and F.F. Tubbs (Michigan State College, 1946); 3--A SURVEY OF THE RESIDENT GAME AND FURBEARERS OF MISSOURI, by Bennitt and Nagel (Univ. of Missouri, 1937); 4--IMPLICATIONS FOR WILDLIFE OF THE 1968 JUNEAU UNIT TIMBER SALE, by A.S. Leopold and R.H. Barrett (Univ. of Calif., 1972); 5--THE LAKE CLARK AREA, v. 1, by Bea Van Horn (Univ. of Calif., 1975); 6--A STUDY OF CERTAIN PLANT AND ANIMAL INTERRELATIONS...MINNESOTA, by J.R. Tester and W. H. Marshall (Univ. of Minn. Press, 1961).

Box 3-4. State government titles. 49 items. Title sample includes: 1--A WYOMING BIGHORN SHEEP STUDY, by R.F. Honess and N.M. Frost (1942); 2--HISTORY AND MANAGEMENT OF MERRIAM'S WILD TURKEY, by J.S. Ligon (1946); 3--THE ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF THE, AMERICAN WOODCOCK, by H.L. Mendall and C.M. Aldous (1943); 4--THE JAWBONE DEER HERD, by A.S. Leopold and others (1951); 5--DUCKS AND LAND USE IN MINNESOTA, ed. by J.B. Moyle (1964); 6--THE GRASSES OF IOWA, PART II, by F.A. Wilder and T.E. Savage (1904); 7--THE GAME BIRDS IN HAWAII, by C.W. and E.R. Schwartz (1949); 8--THE MAMMALS OF MINNESOTA, by G. Swanson and others (1945); 9--A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN DEER, by E. Swift (1946); 10--MINNESOTA'S UPLAND GAME BIRDS, by A.E. Erickson (1944); 11--THE CHUKAR PARTRIDGE IN WASHINGTON, by D.S. Galbreath and R. Moreland (1953); 12--SOME ABC'S OF CONSERVATION (Wisc. Conservation Dept., n.d.); 13--SHARPTAILS INTO THE SHADOWS? by Hamerstrom and Mattson (1952); 14--LEAD POISONING AS A MORTALITY FACTOR IN WATERFOWL POPULATIONS, by F.C. Bellrose (1959); 15--CANADA GEESE OF THE MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY, by Hanson and Smith (1950);

Box 5-7. Federal government titles (U.S. and Canada). 35 items.

Title sample includes: 1--THE BIGHORN OF DEATH VALLEY, by R.E. AND F.B. Welles (1961); 2--THE PARASITIC WEAVERBIRDS, by H. Friedmann (1960); 3--THE ECOLOGY OF THE TIMBER WOLF IN ALGONQUIN PROVINCIAL PARK, by D.H. Pimlott and others (1969); 4--FAUNA OF THE NATIONAL PARKS OF THE UNITED STATES, by G.M. Wright and others (1933); 5--WATERFOWL HUNTERS' GUIDE (1954); 6--HANDBOOK OF ALASKA, by U.S. Army (1945); 7--LITERATURE OF THE AMERICAN PRONGHORN ANTELOPE, by Jim Yoakum (1967); 8--FINAL DRAFT NATIONAL PLAN FOR MARINE FISHERIES (1975); 9--OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (1976); 10-19--ALASKA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE PAMPHLETS (1974); 20-21--WILDLIFE ABSTRACTS, 193551, 1956-60; 22--COMPILATION OF FEDERAL LAWS RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATION'S FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES (1965).

Box 8. U.S. Department of Agriculture titles. 41 items.

Includes: CIRCULARS (8 items); FARMERS BULLETINS (12); BULLETINS (3); MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS (6); TECHNICAL BULLETIN (4); NORTH AMERICAN FAUNA (3); AGRICULTURAL HANDBOOKS (1); other (4).

Box 9. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service titles. 18 items.

Title sample includes: 1--FAUNA OF THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AND ALASKA PENINSULA, by Olaus J. Murie (North American Fauna 61. 1959); 2--ATTWATER'S PRAIRIE CHICKEN: ITS LIFE HISTORY AND MANAGEMENT, by V.W. Lehmann (North American Fauna 57. 1941); 3--THE SEA OTTER IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN, by K.K. Kenyon (North American Fauna 68. 1969); 4--ALASKAN PELAGIC BIRD OBSERVATIONS AND A DATA BASE PROPOSAL, by James G. King and others (1974); 5--WATERFOWL POPULATIONS AND BREEDING CONDITIONS--Summer 1949, by W.F. Crissey and others (Special Scientific Report--Wildlife no. 2).

Box 10. Conservation/Environmental Organization titles. 41 items.

Includes: National Wildlife Federation Conference proceedings, symposiums and miscellaneous (8 items); Wildlife Management Institute. AMERICAN GAME POLICY (2 items); Committee of North American Wildlife Policy (1 item); WILDLIFE SOCIETY NEWS (24 issues) and symposiums (1 item); miscellaneous (5 items).

## REPRINTS AND OTHER MATERIAL

Box 11. Reprints of magazine articles, speeches. 82 items.

Includes: Alaska topics (29 items); bird topics (21 items); mammals (11 items); fish (2 items); wildlife management and miscellaneous (19 items).

Box 12-13. Wildlife literature files. 2 boxes (ca 200 items).

Includes Mr. Nelson's file guide and subject outline; general and organizational literature; specific literature on game and non-game species; management literature; basic research literature; miscellaneous lists relating to natural history.

Material is reprints, extracts of articles, typescripts, manuscript items, etc.

Box 14. Duck stamps. 1 box.

DUCK STAMP DATA. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Migratory bird hunting stamps, 1936-1977 with Nelson hunting license included for 17 years. List: 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940(2), 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951(2), 1952(4), 1953, 1954, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963 1964, 1965, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978.

PERSONAL PAPERS OF URBAN C. NELSON (PETE)

- Box 15.
- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Folder 1.  | Biographical material, clippings, misc.   |
| Folder 2.  | Hunting and fishing licenses.   |
| Folder 3.  | Game breeder's permit, licenses. Minn. 4 items.   |
| Folder 4.  | Membership cards. 6 items.  |
| Folder 5.  | Photographs of people.  |
| Folder 6.  | Photographs of wildlife, miscellaneous.   |
| Folder 7.  | School yearbooks. 2 items.  |
| Folder 8.  | Personal diaries, 1936-1937. 3 v. (U.S. Soil Conservation Service biologist work in Minnesota). |
| Folder 9.  | Field notes, July 6, 1933-June 15, 1935. 4 v. (Minn.)   |
| Folder 10. | Field notes, June 20, 1935-Nov. 23, 1943. 4 v. (Minn.)  |
| Folder 11. | Field diaries, 1948-1952. 3 v. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service research biologist in Alaska.)   |

Box 16-17. Correspondence, writings and notes.

Files include some articles and publications. Folder captions include:

State employment  
 Forest problem--field windbreak  
 Unpublished articles  
 Wetlands  
 Sherburne Refuge (Minn.)  
 Easement defense (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act)  
 Stocking notes  
 Society of American Foresters

Rampart Dam  
 Published writings of Urban Nelson  
 Nelson bird notes  
 Life histories (biology)  
 Juneau area wetlands  
 Nelson drawings

Box 18. Files relative to Clarence J. Rhode.

Material on the search effort for Clarence Rhode, regional director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who was lost on an airplane flight in the Brooks Range in 1958 along with his son and another man.

The file includes correspondence, official memos of acting regional director Dan Ralston, maps on search area, record of search procedures and persons involved, memorial service for Clarence and Jack Rhode, eulogy, memorial scholarship fund, newspaper clippings, etc.

Box 19. Files relative to A.J. Sprague, Superintendent of Hatcheries and first Territorial Fish Commissioner for Alaska.

Journal/diary, 1917-1921 [1920]. Documents the establishment of the fish hatchery at Annex Creek which failed and new effort at Salmon Creek; describes work at hatchery; names various people in Juneau area and activities, i.e., meetings of Alaska Fish and Game Club, Arctic Brotherhood Hall, Elks Club, jury duty, legislators and other visitors to hatchery; meetings with Legislature's Fishery Committee, Governor Riggs, planting salmon in lakes and creeks in Juneau area; May 22, 1920 left Juneau for Cordova to put up new hatchery on Eyak Lake.

Diary, 1921. Hatchery work record, supplies.

Diary, 1928. Sections removed. Entry dates, April 13-September 30.

Cover title: Yokobi investigation of streams. Diary records travel to various Southeast Alaska localities to check fish in streams.

[Scrapbook] Newspaper clippings, 1918-1921, regarding Alaska fishery and hatchery activities, conservation, Alaska Fish and Game Club, Mr. Sprague's work, etc.

Alaska Territorial Fish Commission. EGG AND FRY DISTRIBUTION SHEET FOR HATCHERY AND FIELD OPERATIONS for the years 1919, 1920, 1921; also undated log sheet. 2 items.

Box 19A Photographs

Folder 1. 17 photographs.  
 Treadwell ditch, Lemon Creek flats, Tracy Arm, portraits of A.J. Sprague.

- Folder 2. 5 photographs.  
Annex Creek and Lake trout planting, 1918.
- Folder 3. 15 photographs.  
Admiralty Island--field stations for fisheries.
- Folder 4. 5 photographs.  
Yes Bay on Cleveland Peninsula. Cannery and hatchery, 1906.
- Folder 5. 24 photographs and 1 negative.  
Cordova-Eyak Lake hatchery; Power River and fishing.
- Folder 6. 14 photographs.  
Eagle River station, Pearl Harbor, Peterson Creek and Mine.
- Folder 7. 14 photographs.  
Salmon Creek and Lake. Stocking trout, 1917.
- Folder 8. 21 photographs.  
Skagway area, Nickel Lake, Eldred Rock fish trap,  
Juneau area and misc., Sitka.
- Folder 9. 6 mounted Boundary Commission photographs, taken in 1894 by J.  
J. McArthur, who was a Canadian land surveyor and part of the Alaska  
Boundary Commission in 1893-1895
- ASL-MS65-19A-9-1 Mouth of Skagway River  
Note: Key photo of the mouth of the Skagway River  
before the gold rush. Single bldg. shown, probably  
Capt. Moore's cabin
- ASL-MS65-19A-9-2 Skagway River above the Box Canyon  
Note: Looking NNE up the Skagway River Canyon,  
probably from up on Dewey  
Peaks. Mine Mtn. (truncated) in center
- ASL-MS65-19A-9-3 Near White Pass Summit
- ASL-MS65-19A-9-4 West Wall of Skagway Canon  
Note: Appears to look west, from near present-day  
[1986] Border Monument #116 to the RR's White  
Pass [that is, before the WP& Y railroad was built]
- ASL-MS65-19A-9-5 Looking out the Skagway River
- ASL-MS65-19A-9-6 Looking up Taiya Pass from mouth  
Note: Shows Healy & Wilson trading post from the  
Dyea flats
- Folder Poems