



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of the Secretary  
Press Service



Release - Immediate.

March 9, 1922.

YUKON DELTA BIRD RESERVATION CANCELED.

At the request of the Secretary of Agriculture, the President issued an Executive Order on February 27, 1922, revoking an order which 13 years ago set aside the Yukon Delta Reservation, Alaska, as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds. The action was taken at the instance of the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, which, in the administration of such reservations, has found that no useful purpose would be served in the continuation of this extensive preserve, for the reason that so far as white settlers are concerned the region is remote and of too marshy a character to be desirable for settlement and this fact protects the birds to a great extent although many are taken annually by the resident Eskimos for food purposes. The reservation comprised approximately 8,000,000 acres, and with the limited funds at the disposal of the Department it was impossible adequately to administer it. The tundras of this vast area are inhabited chiefly by Eskimos, and the department has found it necessary to permit these natives to take the game birds found upon the reservation for food purposes, as they have always been obliged to rely upon them as one of the major elements in their food supply. For these reasons the Biological Survey recommended that the reservation as such be dropped and the area be restored to the public domain.

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Most of the fox raiser's troubles come when the young are a few weeks old and are peculiarly susceptible to attacks from worms. Great care is necessary to carry the young foxes through this period.

It is not advisable to kill a fox for the pelt before 18 months of age for at that time its fur is more valuable than at a younger age. Comparatively few of the foxes raised on American ranches are sold at the present time, however, for their pelts. Most of the ranchmen obtain higher values than the worth of the pelt by selling the live animals for breeding purposes. A good pelt may fetch as much \$600, though the average is much lower, approximating \$250 to \$350. The furs are comparatively little known because of their rarity. Silver foxes vary from those in which the color is entirely silver to those in which it is entirely black except for some white banded hairs on the back and rump. In the black fox the white is absent from all parts except the tip of the tail, which is generally white in all phases of the animal.