

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

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RARE ALBINO BUFFALO IS SIGHTED IN ALASKA

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An albino buffalo, the third known to be living in North America today, was recently sighted south of Fairbanks, Alaska, by Wildlife Agent Grenold Collins, of the Alaska Game Commission, and Dick Hawley, pilot of the plane in which Collins was making a survey flight in the Big Delta River area. The U. S. Biological Survey has one white buffalo on the National Bison Range, Mont., and donated another of these rare animals to the National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.

Collins and his pilot were flying along the Big Delta River taking an inventory of the buffalo herd when the albino calf was seen. With the aid of powerful glasses, Collins noted that the animal was white, except that a brownish tinge covered the top of the head near the ears. As he could not see whether the eyes were pink, he could not determine whether or not the calf is a true albino.

White buffaloes have always been rare, the Biological Survey says. It is said that in a herd of 5 million buffaloes in southern United States, many years ago, only one albino was seen. The late Dr. William T. Hornaday, famed conservationist, stated that not more than 10 or 11 white buffaloes or white buffalo skins had ever been seen by white men.

The present Alaska herd descends from 23 buffaloes transferred to the Territory from the National Bison Range, Mont., in June, 1928 by the Alaska Game Commission and the Biological Survey. Some 200 buffaloes are estimated to be in the herd today.

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(PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE ALBINO BUFFALO ON THE NATIONAL BISON RANGE, MONT.,
ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLICATION UPON REQUEST TO THE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.)

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