

ADF&G will review list of Alaska endangered species

JUNEAU — The Department of Fish and Game has initiated a review of the Alaska List of Endangered Species. The department is seeking advice and recommendations on the status of the five birds which currently make up the state's list, and any other fish or wildlife that are now or may in the future be threatened with extinction. The five birds on Alaska's list are the Eskimo curlew, Aleutian Canada goose, American peregrine falcon, Arctic peregrine falcon, and the short-tailed albatross.

The federal list of species endangered in Alaska includes all the birds on the state list except the Arctic peregrine falcon. Other species on the federal list for Alaska which are not on the state list include eight of the great whales and the Pacific leather-back turtle.

Among the department's considerations this year will be whether to remove the Arctic peregrine falcon from the state endangered species list. In 1983, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reclassified that falcon from endangered to threatened. Both the federal and state statutes define an endangered species as one which is in danger of possible extinction. The state does not have a threatened species list, which under federal statute is defined as being a species likely to become endangered. Removal from the state's endangered list of the Arctic falcon may be inappropriate for Alaska, as no other classification can afford protection to their limited population.

Species may be endangered by the destruction, drastic modification or severe curtailment of their habitat; by overutilization for commercial or sporting purposes; by the effects of disease or predation; and by other natural or man-made factors.

Any individual or organization having information on the status of Alaska's endangered species, or information about other state species that may be endangered, is urged to contact Fish and Game. Reasons should be given for recommendation either for inclusion of a species on the list or for removal of a species from the existing Alaska list.

Comments must be received by March 7, 1986 and should be sent to Division of Game, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 3-2000, Juneau, Alaska 99802