

Additional Nene Released in Hawaiian Islands

Honolulu, Hawaii: Twenty-four Hawaiian Nene geese recently were released in the wild by the Hawaii Department of Natural Resources. The birds, among the rarest of waterfowl species, and Hawaii's State Bird, were a gift from the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge, England.

In cooperation with the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the birds were quarantined in New Jersey for approximately three weeks before continuing the journey to their ancestral home.

This is the third shipment of Nene (pronounced "Nay-Nay") from the Wildfowl Trust, which maintains a small captive flock of the birds in England.

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Shrimp is Most Valuable Fishery Item

Washington, D. C.: The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries says shrimp was the most valuable item taken by United States fishermen in 1964, accounting for 17.9 percent of the total paid for all species. The amount paid for the domestic catch of shrimp at various ports was \$70 million, 20 percent more than for the second most valuable domestic catch, Pacific salmon.

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Four National Wildlife Refuges Expand Hunting and Fishing Opportunities

Washington, D. C.: Four national wildlife refuges are increasing their public hunting and/or fishing opportunities, the Interior Department has announced. Approximately 100,000 acres of the Desert Game Range in Nevada will be opened to turkey hunting; Camas National Wildlife Refuge in Idaho will increase its public waterfowl and pheasant hunting area; Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge on the Delaware coast will open an upland game area; and the Ravalli National Wildlife Refuge in Montana will add hunting of waterfowl, upland game, and big game, plus fishing. All four areas are administered by Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

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Alaska Leads in Value of Fishery Products Landed

Anchorage, Alaska: The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries says Alaska continued to lead all other states in the value of fish landed in 1964. The Alaska catch, mostly high-value salmon and shellfish, was worth \$57 million; followed by California, \$50 million; Massachusetts, \$40 million; and Louisiana, \$35 million.

Louisiana, with large landings of both edible and industrial fish, led all states in volume of catch, followed by California, Alaska, Virginia, and Massachusetts.

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Crayfish May Help Control Weeds in Ponds

Albuquerque, N.M.: Crayfish, a small lobster-like crustacean, may help clear aquatic weeds from ponds. Early experiments by biologists from the Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife indicate that crayfish contribute to the control of aquatic weeds under some conditions. Working in cooperation with Tribal Councils, the biologists have collected crayfish from the Zuni Indian Reservation in New Mexico for release in weedy ponds on other Indian reservations in Arizona and New Mexico. Aquatic weeds are often detrimental to sport fishing.

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Most Abundant Fish is too Oily to Eat

New Orleans, La.: The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries says the fish making up the biggest percentage of the total United States catch is menhaden, a bony fish too oily to eat but very valuable industrially. The menhaden catch of 1.6 billion pounds in 1964 represented about 35 percent of the total United States catch of all species.

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Further details regarding any of these items can be obtained from the Information Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., 20240. (Area Code 202, 343-5634).

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