

## NOTES AND NEWS

The Cooper Ornithological Society is happy to acknowledge the generosity of Crawford Greenewalt in financing the color plate of hybrid hummingbirds appearing in this issue of *The Condor*.

The publication of the extensive and significant paper on sympatry in grackles by Selander and Giller was partly subsidized.

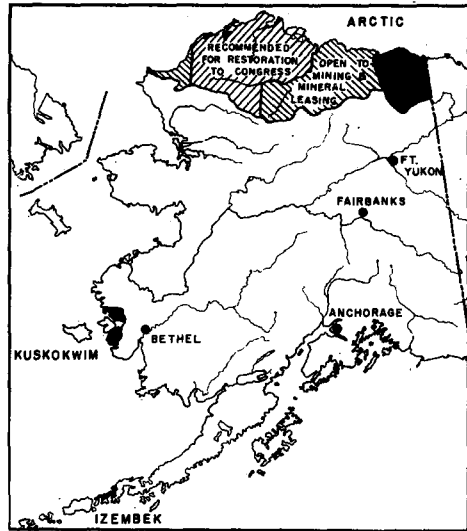
**New Wildlife Ranges in Alaska.**—A significant event for the history of conservation in the closing months of the Eisenhower administration is the establishment of three new wildlife areas in Alaska, shown in black on the accompanying map. These are the Kuskokwim, Izembek, and Arctic national wildlife ranges. The announcement of this action was made by Secretary of Interior Fred A. Seaton on December 7, 1960.

The Kuskokwim area is important as a large waterfowl breeding ground contributing thousands of birds to the Pacific Flyway. In addition, it serves as a preserved sample of western Alaskan tundra supporting many other kinds of birds. The establishment of this range is not to affect the rights of natives in the area to hunt, fish, and carry on their normal activities. Consisting of 1.8 million acres, the Kuskokwim Wildlife Range becomes one of the nation's largest conservation areas.

The Izembek Wildlife Range of 415,000 acres contains the greatest concentration point for migratory waterfowl in Alaska. It is primarily a feeding ground, providing large acreages of eel grass in shallow waters of bays and lagoons and also lowland tundra supporting plants of various kinds used as food by waterfowl.

The most important of these three new wildlife ranges, in both national and international ways, is the Arctic Wildlife Range, an area of nine million acres. A neighboring corner of Canada is now also under protective law so that the effective area of this reserve from the standpoint of wildlife population security is enormous. For large arctic mammals and birds, this is a most essential provision.

In the past two years, the Arctic Wildlife Range has received much newspaper publicity as a result of opposition, chiefly in Alaska, to its establishment. In the 86th Congress, the House of Representatives acted favorably on the range bill, but it was then blocked following referral to a Senate committee. Arguments regarding the resource



values of the Arctic Wildlife Range and the need for their protection had been developed over a period of years by conservationists and others, in both Alaska and the "south 48." For dismissing political opposition and announcing that there exists no compelling reason for further delay in establishing the Arctic Wildlife Range, Secretary Seaton gains the appreciation of many who have followed these developments and that of many more who have yet to learn about them.

The Arctic Wildlife Range includes mountains rising above 9000 feet as well as rolling foothills and coastline. It is unexcelled by other preserves in magnificent expanse of tundra wilderness. I say this with conviction, having seen the area myself last summer as a member of a field party from the Arctic Research Laboratory at Barrow, Alaska. Not merely conservationists, but the citizenry generally can take pride in the inclusion of this area among the nation's wildlife reserves.

Growing interest in the conservation problems of Alaska has resulted in the establishment of the Alaska Conservation Society, now in its second year of operation. Its membership now exceeds 400, about evenly divided between Alaska and the other states. A quarterly newsletter and a monthly memo-sheet are sent to members. The society's role in Alaskan conservation matters is clearly growing and deserves support. Those interested in particulars may write to the society at Box 512, College, Alaska.—FRANK A. PITELKA.