

KEYPUNCH DATA OF WING ENVELOPES

Summer report

by

SUZANNE ROBERTSON

August, 1971

Canadian Wildlife Service
Vancouver, B.C.

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I began work on July 5 knowing that I was to key punch, and also organize data from wing envelopes. The Vancouver office had received envelopes for 1967-68, 1968-69 and 1969-70 hunting seasons, and my job was to have the pertinent information on key punch cards, ready for the computer. A rough estimate put their number at 10,000.

The purpose of this survey is to enable the Canadian Wildlife Service to construct a model to evaluate the effect of various modifications on a season, bag limits, hunter reactions, etc. For example; biologists consider that an extended season on one species, e.g. mallards, in a specific game management area, is feasible. The hypothetical season is fed into the computer which supplies a mathematical probability of the outcome.

The data punched onto computer cards was as follows:

Permit number - on 1969-70 envelopes only

Date

Time

Latitude & Longitude - ± 2 miles. The 1967-68 data was inadequate, and accuracy was considerably lower than ± 2 miles.

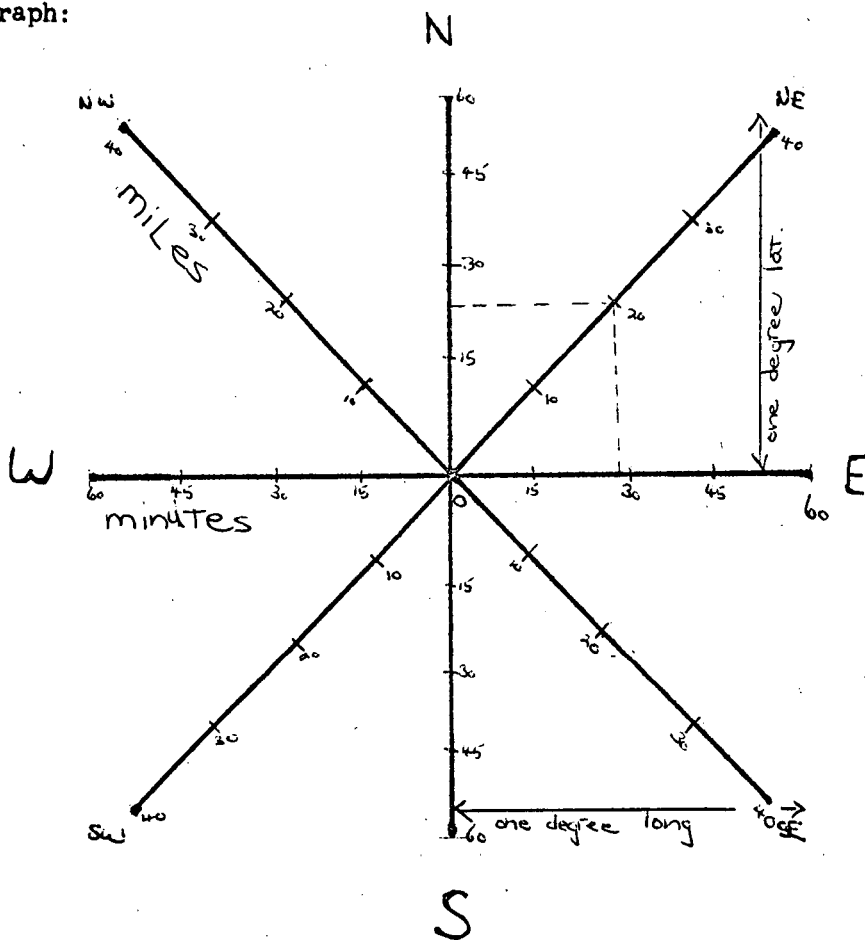
Species

Age, Sex, Condition

The addition of the hunter's place of residence, will allow computation of a mean travel distance. Such information is a valuable reference when designations of comparatively remote areas to hunting is being considered.

Mr. W.A. Morris was my supervisor and Dr. Carl Walters, of the University of B.C. agreed to construct a computer program for the wing data.

Subsequently I had to get his advice on several occasions. The envelopes I received were already marked with latitude and longitude of the nearest town to where the bird was shot. Dr. Walters asked that the shooting location be identified with an accuracy of \pm two miles, which meant taking the position in degree-minutes latitude and longitude. To do this I used a map series of B.C. containing a good representation of towns and post offices, and constructed a plastic overlay on which "minutes" were drawn. This method, though accurate, was time consuming; and I spoke to Dr. Walters about it. He solved the problem by suggesting that I construct a graph:



I used the graph to calculate the positions in a NW, NE, SW or SE direction from the nearest town. I calculated co-ordinates of the shooting places which were in a N, S, E. or W direction by determining that (a) 2 mi. (N,S) = 1 min. (lat.), and (b) 2 mi. (E,W) + 3 min (long.)

In this way, given "O" as the nearest town, adjustments to latitude and longitude could be calculated quickly and with the required accuracy of \pm two miles. I completed keypunching for the seasons of 1969-70 and 1968-69 using this method. The envelopes for 1967-68 however, contained only the name of the nearest town to the hunting location. It occurred to me that by using a three letter code for every town mentioned on the envelopes I could save the time otherwise needed to type latitude and longitude co-ordinates onto every keypunch card. By August 31, approximately 8,875 envelopes had been keypunched, leaving only 1967 - 68 envelopes uncompleted.

I noticed some areas in which the envelope format tended to be misleading, one of them is the "time of shooting" blank for which only "time" is specified. The late afternoon responses given by many hunters indicates they have not realized that "time" refers to time of shooting. There is also no specific request for the town of the hunters address. Frequently, only the street address was entered. Since the hunter's place of residence is considered a valuable part of the data being collected it seems worthwhile to request it.

I have enjoyed the two months I spent working for the Canadian Wildlife Service. With only some 1967-68 envelopes still to be done, the keypunching is now nearly completed. The interest and the friendliness of those with whom I worked made it a pleasure to work for the Canadian Wildlife Service - and lightened an otherwise tedious project!

Suzanne Robertson
August, 1971