

recession took place immediately after deglaciation. It is uncertain to what extent the canyons were formed by subglacial meltwater erosion during the last glaciation.

Wherever there is a local relief of more than 100 feet the minor landforms can usually be resolved into a sequence of erosional or depositional forms or both, produced while the level of the ice surface and the water table within the ice were falling, and the ratio of water to ice was increasing. In very flat areas the till was laid down from stagnant or moving ice without widespread slumping or squeezing, and the forms produced by meltwater are relatively distinct.

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OBSERVATIONS OF MUSK OXEN ON BANKS ISLAND, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, CANADA

Little is known of the status of musk oxen (*Ovibos moschatus*) on Banks Island. Tener¹ has summarized the available information and estimated the population at approximately 100. Observations made in the summer of 1963 suggest that the animals are more abundant than previously supposed.

Between June 11 and August 12 eight flights were made between Sachs Harbour and a campsite on the Bernard River. The part of the island traversed during these flights is shaded in Fig. 1. On August 2 a reconnaissance flight was made over the northern part of the island (Fig. 1).

Approximately 60 musk oxen were seen. One was observed travelling west at the campsite on the Bernard River on July 17. Another was seen from the plane near Sachs Harbour on August 1. All others were seen on the reconnaissance of August 2. In the area between the campsite and Cape McClure (locality A, Fig. 1) two individuals and one group of 13 were observed. In the northeastern part of the island (locality B, Fig. 1) four groups were recorded, consisting of 5, 12 (including 2 young), 16, and about 10 animals, respectively. None were observed in the frequently travelled sector between Sachs Harbour and the Bernard River.

The largest number of musk oxen reported from the island in recent years was 30¹. Our observations of almost 60 animals on a single flight would suggest that the present population of musk oxen on Banks Island may be considerably larger than Tener's estimate in 1958. Furthermore, the observations suggest that the musk oxen tend to concentrate in the northern third of the island, at least during the summer months. This is also supported by personal reports from natives at Sachs Harbour, who see fewer animals in summer than in winter.

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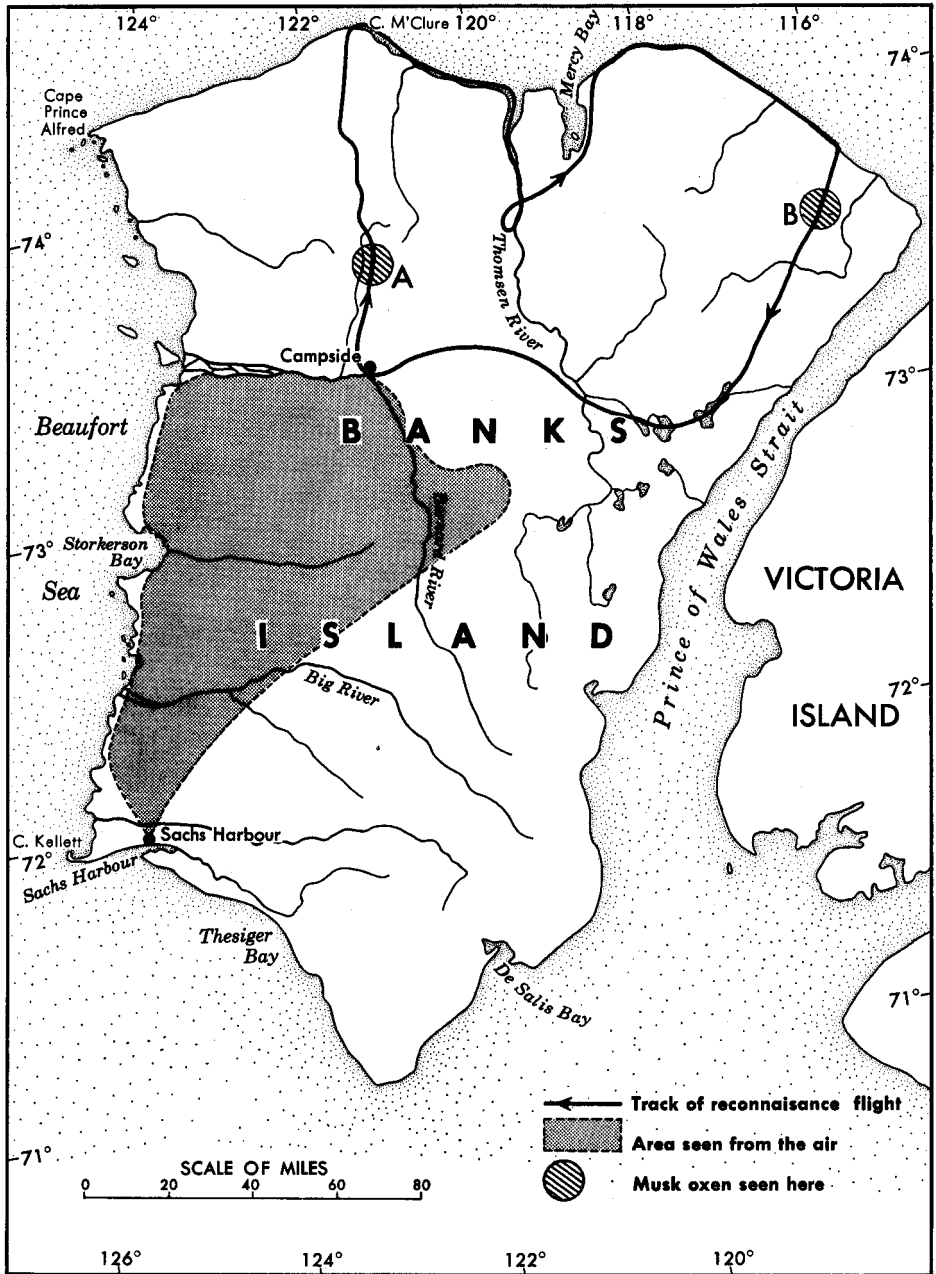


Fig. 1. Map of Banks Island, showing parts seen.