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Field Notes on Mammals of the Chesterfield Inlet District of Keewatin

These notes are based on observations, and some collecting, during a stay at the village of Chesterfield Inlet (C) from 27 May to 21 July 1967; they include some information obtained from local white and native residents. Small mammal traps were set in the warehouse of the Hudson's Bay Company (hereafter referred to as the "Bay") at Chesterfield, at several points on the outskirts of the village, and on Promise Island. A few specimens were also secured during 4 days, 21 to 25 July, spent at Rankin Inlet (R), 4 days, 25 to 29 July, spent at Baker Lake (B). In the annotated list below trinomials are used only for those species of which specimens were collected; in the case of arctic foxes

the subspecies could be determined from several skulls that were found. The subspecific determinations were made by P. M. Youngman, curator of mammals at the National Museum of Canada, where the specimens were deposited. The localities referred to are shown on the sketch map, Fig. 1. The vernacular names of the species and the order of the list follows Burt and Grossenheider¹ whose guide was used in the field.

The Eskimo names given are those in use about Chesterfield Inlet. My orthography is essentially that of Thibert's dictionary² i.e., the words are sounded as if they were Latin (or for that matter German) with the following exceptions: the guttural sound which often follows *ak*, for which Thibert finds no true equivalent in French, is rendered *ch*, pronounced as in the Scots' word loch (or German *dach*); the sound which he renders as *s* is written *sh* to be pronounced as in English (equivalent to German *sch*); *s* is to be pronounced as in any of the West European languages. This simple system is the same as I have previously used for Amerind and Eskimo bird names^{3,4}. As far as I can judge it is in agreement with Greenlandic orthography.

My journey to Keewatin was supported by grants from the National Research Council of Canada and the Arctic Institute of North America.

ANNOTATED LIST

*Identifiable remains such as skulls or bones found and examined; **Specimen or specimens collected.

*POLAR BEAR: *Thalarchos maritimus*, Esk. nannuk.

The hunters of 3 native families who camped at Cape Silumiut from mid June to 18 July shot two polar bears. I saw the pelts of one of these as well as an old skull. Identifiable portions of recent skulls were also found on the outskirts of C.

SHORTTAIL WEASEL: *Mustela erminea*, Esk. tereak.

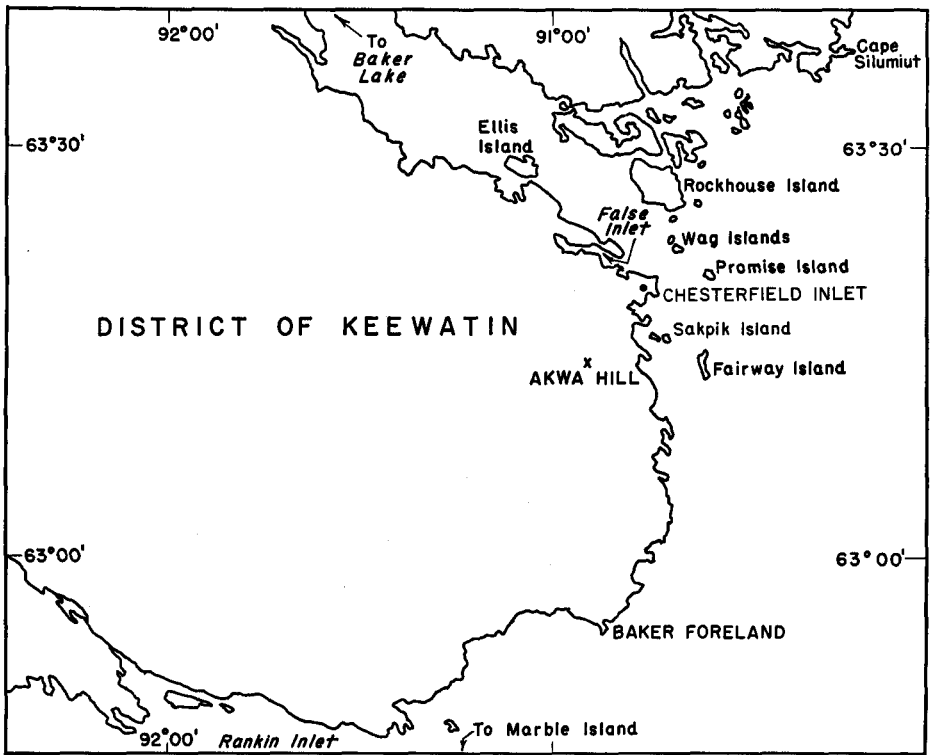
An adult seen on the outskirts of C on 24 June was in full summer pelage. On 14 July some boys at C reported having found one with young in the cemetery and having seen an adult near the "Bay" store.

RED FOX: *Vulpes fulva*, Esk. teriganiakdshuk (large terigania).

Two locally obtained skins were brought to the C "Bay" in the 1966-1967 season.

*ARCTIC FOX: *Alopex lagopus inuitus*, Esk. terigania or aopaluktok.

Sixty skins were brought to the C "Bay" in the 1966-1967 season. On 3 June a fresh track was seen at Baker Foreland following those of a hare. An old burrow, presumably of this



species, was found on Promise Island (off C), in June.

GRAY WOLF: *Canis lupus*, Esk. amarok.

One was seen 4 July by local natives near Ayaratulik Lake. A pack of about 20 were about C settlement for 2 to 3 weeks in February 1967, at times they were on the frozen harbour where the town's garbage is dumped, according to information from the "Bay" manager at C.

LYNX: *Lynx canadensis*.

One reported killed or trapped by a native on Daly Bay, N. of Cape Silumiut, winter 1966-1967 or during the preceding winter.

HARBOR SEAL: *Phoca hispida*, Esk. Netshuk, (u = halfway between short German ö and short u).

Very common at C and relatively tame, hauled up seals often though not always allowed hunters who used no concealment—just walked up to them in a crouch—to get in range. While the ice was going out of the Inlet and drifting in large floes (some up to ½ mile in diameter), on the falling tide past Promise Island, one floe which passed the island on 9 July, carried 20 hauled up ringed seals and another on 10 July carried 32. Presumably once in a while there is a polar bear on one of these floes, hence, the island's native name

Nannuyuma (Polar bear, hope (of seeing one)). SADDLEBACK SEAL: *Phoca groenlandica*. Local name harp seal.

Said to be seen in summer off C in small herds, particularly near Ellis Island.

HOODED SEAL: *Cystophora cristata*, Esk. Puvinelik (said to mean puffed head).

The skin of one was brought to the C "Bay" in the 1966-1967 season.

*BEARDED SEAL: *Erignathus barbatus*, Esk. ugdshuk.

In a day's sealing with some C natives in a canoe with outboard motor on 10 June from C to about 5 miles south of Fairway Island, an adult male and an immature male were shot and one other was seen. The natives discarded the hearts and lungs of these. On the same day at least 4 ringed seals were seen and two were secured, indicating the ratio of the two species in the fragmented ice off the floe edge proper on that date.

*WALRUS: *Odobenus rosmarus*, Esk. Aiverk.

The hunters of 3 native families from C camped at Cape Silumiut mid June to 18 July saw 8 and shot 3.

**ARCTIC GROUND SQUIRREL: *Spermophilus undulatus parryi* (formerly *Citellus parryi*), Esk. Sik-sik.

Seen about C from 29 May onward but were probably "out" earlier than this. Fairly common about C and seen on those off shore islets which are near the mainland as Sarpik and Rockhouse, but not on Wag Island, Promise Island or Fairway Island. Youngs of the year were out in the open on 19 July. Seen also at R and B and collected in both these localities. (See *frontispiece, this issue*).

**BROWN LEMMING: *Lemmus t. trimucronatus*, Esk. Avingak.

This native name is used for all small rodents — lemmings and wolves. Fairly common about C and also seen on Promise Island. An immature was trapped 23 June. Though traps were set on Promise Island none were taken there probably because of the temporary abundance of rodent food in June and July. HUDSON BAY COLLARED LEMMING: *Dicrostonyx hudsonicus*.

According to a C native, lemmings which are white in winter occur there, but I trapped none about C or on Promise Island.

**NORTHERN REDBACK VOLE: *Clethrionomys rutilus washburni*.

Several were trapped in the C "Bay" in June and later on the outskirts of C.

ARCTIC HARE: *Lepus arcticus*, Esk. okalerk.

One was seen 19 June on Sarpik Island near C except for the ears it was still in winter pelage. Presumably uncommon as only one was seen in 8 weeks, fresh snow tracks were also seen near Baker Foreland on 3 June.

**BARREN-GROUND CARIBOU: *Rangifer arcticus*, Esk. tuktu.

Five were seen near Ayaraltulik Lake on 2 July, they were wandering towards the coast. Some of these seen at a distance looked almost white. An adult bull of this was shot — it had antlers in bast — only 31 inches long in a straight line from the base to the tip of the main branch. Natives saw a few in the same area one or two days later and shot one or two. Remains were found on Promise and Rockhouse Islands. The three native families who camped at Cape Silumiut mid June to 18 July said they had shot five some miles inland from the Cape. One tagged 30 August 1960 Duck Lake, Manitoba, was reported shot 40 miles south of C 12 November 1965.

*BOWHEAD WHALE: *Balaena mysticetus*, Esk. arvik.

Bony remains of several, quite old, were seen at Cape Silumiut.

*WHITE WHALE: *Delphinapterus leucas*, Esk. kinalugak.

Small pods twice entered the Harbor of C during my stay, on the second occasion, 21 July, 3 were killed by the natives. I saw the fresh corpses.

Following are the local Eskimo names of

mammals not seen or recently reported: BLACK BEAR: ahlak; WOLVERINE: kchavik; MUSKOX: omingmuk (u = half German ö half short u); KILLER WHALE: arluk; NARWHAL: kinalugaktugalik.

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Acclimatization of Cultivated Plants on the Northern Limit of Agriculture in The USSR*

These studies on the acclimatization of cultivated plants at the northern limit of agriculture in the USSR are based on observations and experiments that were completed in the northern part of the Krasnoyarski Krai, a region of Siberia, from 1951 to 1957, and supplemented with data from the literature concerning agriculture in the Far North.

The term *northern limit of agriculture* has variable meaning. It is a line on the map drawn through the most northerly points where plants are still cultivated in the open or under glass. These places are often separated by thousands of square kilometres of taiga, peat bogs and sparse forests on the edge of the tundra, because the only places of habitation are along the largest Siberian rivers. The main experimental stations are: Archangel on the Dvina, Nary'an Mar on the Pechora, Salekhard on the Ob', Igarka on the Yenisey, Tiksi on the delta of the Lena, Verkhoyansk on the Yana, Nizhne Kolymsk

*Based on a lecture given by Dr. Zofia Stanek at McGill University in 1967.



Arctic Ground Squirrel near Rankin Inlet. *Photo courtesy of B. Klewchuk and E. Otto Höhn.*